

MOTION VOTED UPON BY THE
VASHON-MAURY ISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL (VMICC)

November 20, 2006

Recent changes in the methods used to raise geoducks and other shellfish in the Puget Sound Basin have led to the introduction of techniques that include covering large areas of the intertidal and nearshore subtidal zones with sheets of plastic mesh to exclude potential predators, the liquefaction of these areas during harvest, and the discharge of shellfish feces from large rafts of floating shellfish cages. At the present time, little is known about the potential impacts of these modifications and activities on herring, sand lance, surf smelt, eelgrass and other aquatic species known to be critical food items for orcas, salmon and other Federally protected biota--as well as on migratory birds, benthic invertebrates and other shoreline-dependent organisms.

Therefore, until a detailed environmental impact study is completed by a local, State or Federal public agency to elucidate the effects of such operations on the survival of herring, surf smelt, sand lance, moon snails, crabs, eelgrass and other shoreline-dependent species, the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council urges the State of Washington to impose a complete moratorium on the expansion of such operations along the shorelines and within the nearshore waters of Puget Sound.

Submitted to the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council VMICC by Dr. Jack Barbash, and seconded by Carl Sells, on 10/16/06.

Passed by the VMICC on 11/20/06 (25 in favor, 2 opposed).