

Geoduck Task Force Proviso

The task force must investigate opportunities to reduce negative impacts to tribal treaty and state geoduck harvest and promote long-term opportunities to expand or sustain geoduck harvest. The task force must provide a report to the commissioner of public lands and the legislature, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, by December 1, 2024, that includes analysis and recommendations related to the following elements:

- (i) The feasibility of intervention to enhance the wildstock of geoduck, including reseeding projects;*
- (ii) Factors that are preventing areas from being classified for commercial harvest of wildstock geoduck or factors that are leading to existing wildstock geoduck commercial tract classification downgrade, and recommendations to sustainably and cost-effectively increase the number and area of harvestable tracts, including:*
 - (A) Consideration of opportunities and recommendations presented in previous studies and reports;*
 - (B) An inventory of wastewater treatment plant and surface water runoff point sources impacting state and tribal geoduck harvesting opportunities within the classified commercial shellfish growing areas in Puget Sound;*
 - (C) A ranking of outfalls and point sources identified in (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection prioritized for future correction to mitigate downgraded classification of areas with commercial geoduck harvest opportunity;*
 - (D) An inventory of wildstock geoduck tracts that are most impacted by poor water quality or other factors impacting classification;*
 - (E) Consideration of the role of sediment load and urban runoff, and pathways to mitigate these impacts; and*
 - (F) Recommendations for future actions to improve the harvest quantity of wildstock geoduck and to prioritize areas that can attain improved classification most readily, while considering the influence of outfalls ranked pursuant to (b)(ii)(C) of this subsection.*