
SENATE BILL 5410

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Stanford, Lovelett, Saldaña, and Shewmake; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Read first time 01/17/23. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a task force of the geoduck
2 comanagers to identify harvest opportunities to promote tribal treaty
3 rights to geoduck and enhance state geoduck harvest opportunities;
4 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of natural resources
7 administrator shall convene a geoduck comanagement task force to
8 investigate opportunities to reduce negative impacts to tribal treaty
9 and state geoduck harvest in Washington state and promote long-term
10 opportunities to expand or sustain geoduck harvest.

11 (2) The task force shall investigate the feasibility of
12 intervention to enhance the wildstock of geoduck, including reseeding
13 projects to improve native stocks of geoduck. An evaluation of
14 opportunities, challenges, and financial feasibility as well as joint
15 recommendations must be submitted as a report to the legislature and
16 the administrator of the department of natural resources by December
17 1, 2024.

18 (3) The task force shall identify and investigate the important
19 factors preventing classification of areas for commercial harvest of
20 wildstock geoduck or leading to existing wildstock geoduck commercial
21 tract downgrade in classification and develop recommendations to

1 sustainably increase the number and area of harvestable tracts. An
2 evaluation of drivers and recommendations for most cost-effective
3 improvements must be submitted as a report to the legislature and
4 administrator of the department of natural resources by December 1,
5 2024. This report must include:

6 (a) A consideration of opportunities identified and
7 recommendations presented in previous studies and reports;

8 (b) An inventory of wastewater treatment plant and surface water
9 runoff point sources impacting state and tribal geoduck harvesting
10 opportunities within the classified commercial shellfish growing
11 areas in Puget Sound;

12 (c) A ranking of these outfalls and point sources prioritized for
13 future correction to mitigate downgraded classification of areas with
14 commercial geoduck harvest opportunity;

15 (d) An inventory of wildstock geoduck tracts that are most
16 impacted by poor water quality or other factors impacting
17 classification;

18 (e) Consideration of the role of sediment load and urban runoff,
19 and pathways to mitigate these impacts; and

20 (f) Recommendations for future actions to improve the harvest
21 quantity of wildstock geoduck and to prioritize areas that can attain
22 improved classification most readily, while considering the influence
23 of outfalls as identified in (c) of this subsection.

24 (4) The task force shall convene at least quarterly and may
25 consult any necessary experts in development of these reports.

26 (5)(a) The department of natural resources administrator must
27 invite the following representatives to participate in the task
28 force:

29 (i) A representative of the department of natural resources who
30 shall serve as the chair of the task force;

31 (ii) Representatives of tribes with treaty or reserved rights to
32 geoduck harvest in Washington state;

33 (iii) A representative of the department of ecology;

34 (iv) A representative of the department of health;

35 (v) A representative of the department of fish and wildlife;

36 (vi) A representative of the Puget Sound partnership; and

37 (vii) A representative of the academic community.

38 (b) The department of natural resources administrator must
39 appoint each representative.

1 (c) The department of natural resources administrator has the
2 authority to invite other individuals to the task force; not to
3 exceed the number of seats of tribal entities.
4 (d) Members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel
5 expenses as authorized in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
6 (e) Representatives serve at the pleasure of the department of
7 natural resources administrator.
8 (f) The task force must be staffed by the department of natural
9 resources.
10 (6) This act expires January 15, 2025.

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