



**PUMPING WATER** into the liquid sand as they dig up geoducks are "Dirty Jobs" host Mike Rowe, left, and Brian Phipps, geoduck division manager for Taylor Shellfish Farms. A camera crew records the action for an episode of the show which will air on the Discovery Channel.

## Discovery Channel films 'Dirty Job' of geoducking

By REBECCA WELLS

Watch out, Hollywood. Mason County's headed to national television. What has drawn the camera crews to this corner of Western Washington? Seafood. No, not OysterFest, geoduck harvesting.

Mike Rowe, host of the Discovery Channel's show "Dirty Jobs," recently paid a visit to Taylor Shellfish Farms, where he followed the whole process of harvesting geoduck. From seeing how they spawn in the hatchery to seeding the baby bivalves and then digging the extra-large creatures up from chest-deep mud during low tides, Rowe captured the essence of this very mucky work.

He even jumped in and worked

beside the employees as an "apprentice," which he does in every episode of the show. Shooting took place in late March and the program is tentatively expected to air July 11, said Bill Dewey, who works on project development and public affairs for Taylor Shellfish. The show has not yet scheduled when it will air the segment on mussel harvesting.

Dewey, who doesn't have cable TV, said he had never heard of the Discovery Channel show "Dirty Jobs" until just a few months ago. Ironically, the first time he heard about it was when a friend recommended contacting the producers and suggesting they feature his company, since

shellfish farming can be a very dirty job.

**A WEEK LATER**, he received a phone call out of the blue from "Dirty Jobs" producers, asking if Taylor Shellfish would be interested in being on the show. "I was excited," Dewey said. "It was a great opportunity."

He said he had to chuckle at the coincidental timing. As it turns out, the producers had heard about Taylor Shellfish while they were researching a segment on horseclams in Oregon. That's when they heard about geoduck, a larger and more visually arresting shellfish in the clam

(Please turn to page 9.)



**DARE TO take a gulp?** Taylor Shellfish Farms employee Jumroon Wrongmuang shows "Dirty Jobs" host Mike Rowe how to slurp down a raw mussel.

## TV digs for dirt

(Continued from page 1.)

family, and they also discovered that Taylor Shellfish produces them.

Though the crew had originally been interested in geoducks in the waters off Mason County, they also shot segments of mussel harvesting and oyster shucking for three different segments which could potentially appear on as many as three different shows, Dewey explained.

After watching the geoduck harvest, the crew followed the delicacy to its final destination: the kitchen of Xinh's Clam & Oyster House in downtown Shelton. Geoduck is offered on the menu and Xinh Dwelley, a retired champion oyster shucker who is chef and manager of the restaurant, happens to also be a fan of the show. "Xinh freaked out. She thought that was way cool," Dewey said. The Taylor corporation also owns the restaurant.

**DEWEY** accompanied the show crew throughout both days of shooting and enjoyed Rowe's sense of humor. He said he laughed so hard at the host's antics and one-liners, his stomach hurt for a few days afterward.

This is not Rowe's first gig as a host on a Discovery Channel program. He previously hosted "Deadliest Catch" and "Egypt Week Live!" on the channel as well as several shows for other networks and appearing as an actor in com-

mercials. Believe it or not, he also used to perform as a professional opera singer.

According to what Dave Barsky, one of the show's producers told him, Dewey said, the show hasn't completed its first contract yet, but has already accepted a new contract to air 30 more shows, or 90 different segments.

Dewey heard from Barsky that these days "Dirty Jobs" is the highest-rated show on the Discovery Channel. "It's really exciting," Dewey said.

As soon as employees at Taylor Shellfish found out the company was going to be on television, different crews began weighing in on the question of whose job was the dirtiest. Tune in to find out.