

Shellfish Gardener vs. Commercial Farmer Guidance



Taylor Shellfish is proud to be able to provide you with seed, gear and information to help you start and grow a recreational shellfish garden. Growing your own shellfish on your private tidelands is an excellent way to not only feed your family more sustainably – eating lower in the food chain with a

minimal carbon footprint, it is also an opportunity to improve local stewardship.

Shellfish are filter feeders, removing algae from the water column to develop delicious flavors and heavy meats. You'll want to make sure that before you plan the summer BBQ, you and your neighbors take steps to ensure the waters your shellfish are filtering is safe, including managing your septic, picking up after pets, discouraging wildlife and participating in local efforts to monitor and improve water quality in your area.

While growing safe and healthy animals for personal consumption is satisfying and fun to share with friends and family, shellfish gardeners should be cognizant that recreational and commercial growers are regulated very differently. The *Transfer Permit* you receive with your shellfish at the Taylor Shellfish Seed Sale is your document which identifies the seed came from Taylor Shellfish's nursery and assurance that the seed you are planting was tested as free from disease, pathogens and pests. It also authorizes you to plant the seed on your tidelands in Washington State. This permit does not apply to commercial farms. The WDFW permit also only allows transfer to the tidelands parcel you identify in the information you are required to provide at the time of purchase. Moving animals from beach to beach can lead to infestations of invasive species or outbreaks of disease and may result in potential significant negative impacts to our productive shellfish growing areas. Commercial growers and the farms they manage are heavily regulated and require significant permitting from Federal, Tribal, State and Local jurisdictions. If you sell harvested shellfish, either personally, or through a contract with a commercial grower or other entity, your farm is now considered commercial and it is extremely important to move forward with all the permits and licenses required in order to protect human health and the environment, as well as avoid possible legal consequences or confiscation of your crop.

As a service to you, we have provided this resource of links for shellfish gardeners, as well as details to consider should you decide to pursue commercial growing.

Recreational

- **WA DOH Shellfish Safety Map:**
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html>
- **Shellfish Gardening:** <https://www.healthysouthsound.org/strategy-shellfish/>
- **Washington SeaGrant, Shellfish:** <https://wsg.washington.edu/our-northwest/shellfish/>
- **Pacific Shellfish Institute / Water Quality:** <http://www.pacshell.org/water-quality.asp>
- **WA Dept of Ecology / Get Involved in your area:**
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-involved/What-you-can-do/Washington-Waters-ours-to-protect>

Commercial: General Information

- **Commercial Aquaculture in Washington State:**
<https://ecology.wa.gov/DOE/files/78/78fc7d5a-c802-4191-86a1-5032c804851a.pdf>
- **WA Dept. of Ecology: Permitting overview** <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Shoreline-coastal-management/Shoreline-coastal-planning/Aquaculture/Shellfish-aquaculture>
- **WA DOH Permitting Overview:**
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/332-109.pdf>
- **Indian Fisheries Permitting overview:** <https://nwifc.org/about-us/shellfish/resources/>
- **Commercial seed and gear resources:**
<https://www.taylorshellfishfarms.com/form/commercial-seed-inquiry>

Commercial: Permitting

- **Tribal 6.3 Notification:** (<https://nwifc.org/downloads/section-6-3-form/>) – Mail to tribes through USPS using delivery receipt.

- **WA Dept. of Health, permitting summary:** (For Questions, Contact 360-236-3330)
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/CommercialShellfish/ApplyforaLicense>
- **Harvest License:** <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4400/332-001-Application-for-Shellfish-License.doc>
- **Harvest Site Application:**
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4400/332-078-hsc-app.doc>
- **Vibrio Plan:** <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/332-161.pdf>
- **NSSP:**
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/CommercialShellfish/Training/ShellfishHarvester>
- **JARPA (Includes Army Corps) -**
(https://www.epermitting.wa.gov/site/alias_resourcecenter/jarpa_jarpa_form/9984/jarpa_form.aspx)
- **WDFW Transfer Permit:** https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/shellfish_import_transfer/
- **WDFW Aquatic Farm Permit:**
https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/commercial/misc_additional_permits.html