



The Public Trust Doctrine¹ obligates us to protect our natural resources for future generations. Therefore, the Sierra Club has created the following policy:

Sierra Club Aquaculture Policy

General Aquaculture Policy: We oppose the rearing of carnivorous finfish in open cages and expansion of other industrial aquaculture activities that:

- threaten native species and regional biodiversity,
- cause habitat loss through shoreline modification and pollution, or
- utilize PVC tubes, rebar, oyster bags or predator prevention materials (such as netting) that harm or deter native species from using areas necessary for their survival.

Aquaculture on Public Lands: We request a moratorium on Public Aquatic Lands leases for aquaculture until a comprehensive Department of Natural Resources policy for aquaculture leasing is established based on sound science. We also request a comprehensive policy for aquaculture leases to include:

- a baseline that is established before leasing of each potential lease site,
- resources assessment at each site, and
- harvest rates for native animals and planting densities for aquaculture be based on minimal ecological impacts.

Species of concern listed on the U.S. Ecological Society invasive species database should be included on individual state Watch Lists. Cumulative impact analysis and public hearings should be required prior to future issuance of permits. Independent, peer-reviewed research must be required by county, state, federal, and elected officials to help ensure quality and integrity in environmental policy and regulations. The wild geoduck subtidal harvest policy should be sustainable; the geoduck intertidal leasing program should be canceled; and efforts should work toward terminating finfish leases on state lands.

¹ *Public Trust Doctrine:* www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/laws_rules/public_trust.html