



For Immediate Release

March 3, 2009

Shellfish Growers and Volunteers Clean South Sound Beaches

OLYMPIA –The 11th twice yearly Pacific Coast Shellfish Grower beach cleanup will be held next Thursday March 11th. Crews from up to 14 different shellfish farms and Squaxin Island Tribe will boat and walk the beaches of South Puget Sound, picking up any marine debris they find. It is expected that they will cover over 100 miles of beach in several inlets including Eld, Budd, Totten, Henderson, Hammersley, Case, Carr and Oakland Bay. There will also be crews on Squaxin, Harstine and Hope Islands.

In the past 11 clean ups the growers and volunteers have covered over 1000 miles of beach with about 860 people. The bulk of the debris tends to be Styrofoam and tires. The cleanups began 5 years ago and in that time the growers have gathered and disposed of 634 cubic yards of debris, which is equivalent to removing about 64 dump trucks of trash from South Puget Sound.

To report areas with marine debris please call 1-800-964-6532. If you are interested in participating or would not like growers to walk your beach please notify us at (360) 866-8059.

PCSGA

Founded in 1930, the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) represents growers in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii. Our members grow a wide variety of healthy, sustainable shellfish including oysters, clams, mussels, scallops and geoduck.

PCSGA works on behalf of its members on a broad spectrum of issues, including environmental protection, shellfish safety, regulations, technology, and marketing.

Beach Clean- up Contact: Linda Lentz, Chelsea Farms LLC. (360) 866-8059

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