EXHIBIT A

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED GEODUCK HARVEST
ALONG THE EASTERN SHORELINE OF PUGET SOUND
AT THE DASH POINT GEODUCK TRACT (#10430)

Commercial geoduck harvest is jointly managed by the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR) and is coordinated with treaty tribes through harvest management plans. Harvest is conducted by divers from subtidal beds between the -18 foot and -70 foot water depth contours (corrected to mean lower low water, hereafter MLLW). Harvest is rotated throughout Puget Sound in six geoduck management regions. The fishery, its management, and its environmental impacts are presented in the Puget Sound Commercial Geoduck Fishery Management Plan (DNR & WDFW, 2008) and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (WDFW & DNR, 2001). The proposed harvest along the eastern shoreline of Puget Sound, in the vicinity of the City of Des Moines, and is described below.

Proposed Harvest Dates: 2016-2017

Tract name: Dash Point geoduck tract (Tract #10430)

Description: (Figure 1, Tract vicinity map)

The Dash Point geoduck tract is a subtidal area with a proposed harvest area of approximately 60 acres (Table 1) along the eastern shoreline of Puget Sound in the South Puget Sound Geoduck Management Region. The western boundary of the tract is at the geographic landmark of Dash Point and the tract extends easterly along the shoreline for approximately 1930 yards (Figure 1). The commercial tract area lies between the -18 ft. and the -70 ft. (MLLW) water depth contours.

The tract harvest area is bounded by a line projected westerly from a point on the -18 foot (MLLW) water depth contour in the most easterly portion of the tract at 47°19.422' N. latitude, 122°24.271' W. longitude along the -18 foot (MLLW) water depth contour to a point at 47°19.215' N. latitude, 122°25.616' W. longitude; then true north to a point on the -70 foot (MLLW) water depth contour at 47°19.255' N. latitude, 122°25.616' W. longitude; then easterly along the -70 foot (MLLW) water depth contour to a point at 47°19.496' N. latitude, 122°24.311' W. longitude; then southerly to the point of origin (Figure 2).

This estimate of the tract boundary is made using Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers that were generated from NOAA soundings. All contours are corrected to mean lower low water (MLLW). The shoreline data is from DNR, digitized at 1:24,000 scale in 1999. The -70 ft. (MLLW) water depth contour is used for the deep water boundary, and the shallow water boundary is defined by the -18 ft. contour (MLLW). The

latitude and longitude positions are reported in decimal minutes to the closest thousandth of a minute. Corner latitude and longitude positions are generated using GIS, and have not been field verified to determine consistency with area estimates, landmark alignments, or water depth contours. The delineation of the tract boundary will be field verified by DNR prior to any geoduck harvest. Any variance to the stated boundary will be coordinated between WDFW and DNR prior to geoduck harvest.

Substrate:

Geoducks are found in a wide variety of sediments ranging from soft mud to gravel. The most common sediments where geoducks are harvested are sand with varying amounts of mud and/or gravel. The specific sediment type of a bed is primarily determined by water current velocity. Coarse sediments are generally found in areas of fast currents and finer (muddier) sediments in areas of weak currents. The major impact of harvest will be the creation of small holes where the geoducks are removed. The holes fill in within a few days to several weeks and have no known long-term effects. The substrate holes refill in areas with strong water currents much faster than in areas with weak water currents. Water currents tend to be weak in the vicinity of the Dash Point tract. Currents reach a projected maximum flood velocity of 0.6 knots per hour and maximum ebb velocity of 0.5 knots (Tides and Currents software; station #1746; approach, Quartermaster Harbor entrance; projected time frame from February1, 2016 to February 1, 2017).

The subsurface substrates were not recorded during the 2010 survey (Table 2). The surface substrates were noted as predominately sand on a 2013 WDFW supplemental survey (Table 3). Wood debris was also noted during the survey in 2013.

Water Quality:

Water quality is considered acceptable for shellfish harvest at the Dash Point geoduck tract. The Dash Point tract was classified by the Washington Department of Health (DOH) as "Approved" in 2009 (Scott Berbells, DOH, pers. comm., 7/3/14). This area was evaluated for inorganic arsenic levels and this tract is currently on the list of approved tracts to export geoducks to China, (list found at http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/CommercialShellfish/ExportoChina). Additional information regarding arsenic can be found at the DOH web site, including a fact sheet found at http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4400/332-146-Arsenic-in-Shellfish.pdf. DNR will verify the health status of the Dash Point tract prior to any geoduck harvest.

The following data on water quality has been provided by the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) for the Puget Sound Main Basin - East Passage SW of Three Tree Point

(EAP001) at 47.4167° North latitude; 122.3800° West longitude. The DOE latitude and longitude positions are reported by DOE in decimal degrees. For 2010 (most recently completed data year available) at water depths between 10 to 15 meters, the mean reported dissolved oxygen concentration is 8.5 mg/l with a range from 6.8 to 11.5 mg/l. The mean salinity at this station was 29.5 ppt with a range from 28.8 to 30.2 ppt. The mean water temperature at this station was 10.3°C with a range from 8.8 to 13.2°C.

Biota:

Geoduck:

The Dash Point geoduck tract is approximately 60 acres. The abundance of geoducks in this harvest area is moderate with an average density estimate of 0.13 geoducks/sq.ft. This area contains an estimated 705,961 pounds of geoducks (Table 1). This biomass estimate is made using 2013 WDFW geoduck transect data, a 2010 Puyallup Tribe weight sample, and the tract area estimate. There has been 270,023 pounds of commercial geoduck harvest on this tract. The commercial quality of geoducks sampled was not noted (Table 2). Geoduck dig stations were not rated for digging difficulty.

The average density from the 2013 pre-fishing survey ranged from 0.061 geoducks/sq.ft. on transect #6 to 0.351 geoducks/sq.ft. on transect #16 (Figure 3; Table 3). The geoducks at the Dash Point tract, at 2.16 pounds, approach the average weight for Puget Sound of 2.1 pounds. The lowest average whole weight is 1.17 pounds at station #9 and the highest average whole weight is 3.10 pounds at station #3 (Table 4). Station locations and pre-fishing geoduck counts, corrected with siphon "show factors," are listed in Table 5.

The Dash Point geoduck tract was previously part of the Dumas Bay tract, which was segmented by DOH Prohibited areas. The DOH "Prohibited" areas within this tract have been upgraded, and the current Dash Point geoduck tract configuration is "Approved" for shellfish harvest by DOH. This tract was surveyed in 2010 by the Puyallup Tribe. In 2013 a supplemental survey was done by WDFW (19 transects). The results of the 2013 survey are used in the preparation of this environmental assessment, along with geoduck weight information collected in 2010.

Geoducks are managed for long-term sustainable harvest. No more than 2.7% of the fishable stocks are harvested (total fishing mortality) each year in each management region throughout Puget Sound. The fishable portion of the total Puget Sound population includes geoducks that are found between the -18 ft. and -70 ft. (corrected to mean lower low water - MLLW) water depth contours. Other geoducks which are not harvestable are found inshore and offshore of the harvest areas. Observations in south Puget Sound show

that major geoduck populations continue to depths of 360 feet. Additional geoducks exist in polluted areas and are also unavailable for harvest, but continue to spawn and contribute to the total population.

The low rate of harvest is due primarily to geoduck's low rate of natural recruitment. WDFW has studied the regeneration rate of geoducks on certain previously harvested tracts scattered throughout Puget Sound. The estimated average time to regenerate a new crop of geoducks after removal of 100 percent of the original geoducks on a tract is 39 years. The longest regeneration time is 73 years, and the shortest regeneration time is 11 years. In actual fishing 100 percent of the geoducks are never removed from a tract. The average percentage removal of the tracts in the regeneration study was 69 percent. The regeneration research to empirically analyze tract recovery rates is continuing. Over the last decade, regeneration of geoduck tracts may have been affected by illegal harvest or other causes of geoduck mortality.

Fish:

Geoduck beds are generally devoid of rocky outcroppings and other relief features that attract and support many fish species, such as rockfish and lingcod. The bottoms are relatively flat and composed of soft sediments, which provide few attachments for macroalgae that are often associated with rockfish and lingcod. The fish observed during the surveys at the Dash Point tract were various species of flatfish, sculpins and an unspecified gadid (Table 6).

WDFW marine fish managers were asked of their concerns of any possible impacts on groundfish and baitfish that geoduck fishing would have. Greg Bargmann of WDFW stated that geoduck fishing would have no long-term detrimental impacts and may have some short-term benefits to groundfish populations by increasing the availability of food. Dan Penttila of the WDFW Fish Management Program recommended that eelgrass beds within the harvest tract should be preserved for any spawning herring. There are no Pacific herring spawning grounds along the shoreline in the vicinity of the Dash Point tract. A Pacific herring spawner-holding-area is identified about 1.6 miles westerly of the southern boundary line of the Dash Point tract. As a precautionary measure, the Dash Point nearshore tract boundary will be along the -18 ft. (MLLW) water depth contour to provide year-round protection and a vertical buffer (at least 2 vertical feet) between potential herring spawning habitat (eelgrass beds) and geoduck harvest.

Surf smelt spawning habitat has been identified along shoreline near the central portion of the Dash Point geoduck tract (Figure 4). Surf smelt deposit adhesive, semitransparent eggs on beaches that have a specific mixture of coarse sand and pea gravel. Inside Puget Sound, surf smelt spawning is thought to be associated with freshwater seepage, where

the water keeps the spawning gravel moist. Eggs are deposited near the water's edge in water a few inches deep, around the time of the high water slack. There is vertical separation between surf smelt spawning (slack high tide) and geoduck harvest activity (-18 ft. to -70 ft., MLLW).

Sand lance spawning area has been documented along the shoreline near the southern portion of the Dash Point geoduck tract (Figure 4) and they were observed on the tract during the 2013 WDFW survey. Sand lance populations are widespread within Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the coastal estuaries of Washington. They are commonly noted in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Admiralty Inlet. However, WDFW plankton surveys and ongoing exploratory spawning habitat surveys suggest that there are very few if any bays and inlets in the Puget Sound basin that will not be found to support sand lance spawning activity. Spawning of sand lance occurs at tidal elevations ranging from +5 feet to about the mean higher high water line. After deposition, sand lance eggs may be scattered over a wider range of the intertidal zone by wave action. The incubation period is about four weeks. Sand lances are an important part of the trophic link between zooplanktons and larger predators in the local marine food webs. Like all forage fish, sand lance are a significant component in the diet of many economically important resources in Washington. On average, 35 percent of juvenile salmon diets are comprised of sand lance. Sand lance are particularly important to juvenile chinook salmon, where 60 percent of their diet is comprised of sand lance. Other economically important species, such as Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus)*, Pacific hake (*Merluccius productus*) and dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) feed heavily on juvenile and adult sand lance. There is vertical separation between sand lance spawning (+5 feet to mean higher high water) and geoduck harvest activity (-18 ft. to -70 ft., MLLW). Due to vertical separation, geoduck fishing on the Dash Point tract should have no detrimental impacts on sand lance spawning.

NOAA Fisheries Service announced on April 27, 2010 that it was listing canary and yelloweye rockfish as "threatened" and bocaccio as "endangered" under ESA (federal Endangered Species Act). The listing became effective on July 27, 2010. Historic high levels of fishing and water quality are cited as reasons that these rockfish populations are in peril and have been slow to recover. Geoduck fishery managers are tracking this process and will take actions necessary to reduce the risk of "take" of any listed rockfish species that could potentially result from geoduck harvest activity.

Two salmon populations, Puget Sound chinook salmon and Hood Canal summer run chum salmon, were listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on March 16, 1999 as "threatened" species under the federal ESA. Critical habitat for summer run chum salmon populations include all marine, estuarine, and river reaches accessible to the listed chum salmon between Dungeness Bay and Hood Canal and within Hood Canal. The

timing for summer run chum spawning is late August to late October. Out-migration of juveniles has been observed in Hood Canal during February and March, though out-migration may be as late as mid-April. Recent recovery and supplementation efforts have reversed the trend of decline in Hood Canal summer run chum salmon stocks. Total escapement for Hood Canal summer run chum salmon has reached historic high levels and risk of extinction has decreased for all stocks (Adicks, K. *et al.*, 2007). The Dash Point tract is outside of the critical habitat range for Hood Canal summer run chum salmon.

Critical habitat for Puget Sound chinook salmon includes all marine, estuarine and river reaches accessible to listed chinook salmon in Puget Sound. WDFW recognizes 27 distinct stocks of chinook salmon; 8 spring-run, 4 summer-run, and 15 summer/fall and fall-run stocks. The existence of an additional five spring-run stocks is in dispute. The majority of Puget Sound chinook salmon emigrate to the ocean as subyearlings.

Major tributaries in the general vicinity of the Dash Point geoduck tract, which support chinook salmon runs, are the Duwamish Waterway/Green River basin and the Lake Washington basin (mouth at Shilshole Bay; with Cedar River, Issaquah Creek, and north Lake Washington tributaries sub-basins). Three viable runs of chinook salmon have been identified in the Duwamish Waterway/Green River basin. The status of the Spring run of chinook salmon in the Duwamish Waterway/Green River basin is extinct. The status of the natural Summer/Fall run of chinook salmon in the Duwamish Waterway/Green River basin is mixed native and non-native origin; a composite of wild, cultured, or unknown/unresolved production; and healthy with a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 4,889 fish. The timing of the Duwamish River run is uncertain and has a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 5,216 fish. The status of the Summer/Fall run in Newaukum Creek is mixed native and non-native origin; wild production; and healthy (NMFS, Appendix E, TM-35, Chinook Status Review).

The production of the Lake Washington Summer/Fall run of chinook salmon is natural with a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 557 fish. The status of the natural Cedar River Summer/Fall run of chinook salmon is native origin; wild production; with a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 377 fish. The status of the mixed Summer/Fall run of chinook salmon in Issaquah Creek is non-native origin; a composite of wild, cultured, or unknown/unresolved production; and healthy. The status of the natural Summer/Fall run of chinook salmon in the North Lake Washington tributaries is native origin; wild production; with a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 145 fish (NMFS, Appendix E, TM-35, Chinook Status Review).

Three Chinook salmon runs have been identified in the Puyallup River. The status of the

Spring run of Chinook salmon in the Puyallup River is extinct (NMFS, Appendix E, TM-35, Chinook Status Review). The status of the natural Summer/Fall run of Chinook salmon in the Puyallup River is undetermined with a 5-year geometric mean for total estimated escapement at 2,518 fish (NMFS, Appendix E, TM-35, Chinook Status Review). The Fall run of Chinook salmon in the Puyallup River is a mixed or composite production of special concern with an unknown origin and run size (NMFS, Appendix E, TM-35, Chinook Status Review).

The geographic separation (horizontal) of this tract from known spawning tributaries and vertical separation of geoduck harvest (deeper and seaward of the -18 ft. MLLW contour) from juvenile salmon rearing areas and migration corridors (upper few meters of the water column) reduces or eliminates potential impacts to salmon populations. Charles Simenstad of the University of Washington School of Fisheries stated that the exclusionary principle of not allowing leasing/harvesting in water shallower than -18 ft. MLLW, the 2+ ft. vertically from elevation of the lower eelgrass margin, and within any regions of documented herring or forage fish spawning should under most conditions remove the influences of harvest induced sediment plumes from migrating salmon. Geoduck harvest should have no impact on salmon populations.

On May 7, 2007 NOAA Fisheries Service announced listing of Puget Sound steelhead as "threatened" under ESA. This listing includes more than 50 stocks of summer- and winter-run steelhead. In NOAA's 2011 5-Year Review, it was reported that for all but a few demographically independent populations of steelhead in Puget Sound, estimates of mean population growth rates obtained from observed spawner or red counts are declining, typically 3 to 10% annually. Steelhead share many of the same waters as Puget Sound chinook salmon, which are already protected by ESA, and will benefit from shared conservation strategies. There is a winter run of steelhead in the Green-Duwamish watershed that is rated "healthy." This rating was made because spawner escapements have generally varied within a range of +/- 25% of the escapement goal of 2000 wild spawners. Spawning for this stock generally occurs between early March to mid-June. This is a native stock with wild production. The horizontal separation between the tributaries that support a steelhead run and the Dash Point tract supports a conclusion that geoduck harvest will likely have no impact on steelhead populations.

Green sturgeon have undergone ESA review in recent years, due to depressed populations. NOAA Fisheries Service produced an updated status review on February 22, 2005 and reaffirmed that the northern green sturgeon Distinct Population Segment (DPS) warranted listing as a "species of concern", however proposed that the Southern DPS should be listed as "threatened" under the ESA. NMFS published a final rule on April 7, 2006 listing the Southern DPS as "threatened" [pdf] (71 FR 17757), which took effect June 6, 2006. The green sturgeon critical habitat proposed for designation includes the

outer coast of Washington within 110 meters (m) depth (including Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor) to Cape Flattery and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to its United States boundary. Puget Sound proper has been excluded from this critical habitat designation. The Dash Point geoduck tract is outside of the critical habitat range of green sturgeon and geoduck harvest at this location will have no adverse effects on ESA recovery efforts for green sturgeon populations.

Invertebrates:

Many different kinds of marine invertebrates, which are frequently found on geoduck beds, were observed on this tract. The most common and obvious groups include cnidarians, ascidians, mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, and various species of marine worms (Table 6). Geoduck harvest has not been shown to have long-term adverse effects on these invertebrates. Geoduck harvest can depress some local populations of benthic invertebrates, however most of these populations recover within one year.

WDFW and DNR have studied the effects of geoduck harvest on the population of Dungeness crab at Thorndyke Bay in Hood Canal. The results of 4.6 years of study have shown no adverse effects on crab populations due to geoduck fishing. Dungeness crab are found on this tract in low to moderate numbers. Dungeness crab were observed on 8 of 19 total transects (900 sq. ft./transect) during the 2013 biological survey of this harvest area, or 42% of these transects done in this area.

To determine the potential impacts to Dungeness crab, the percentage of substrate disturbed during fishing was calculated and compared to the entire crab habitat within the tract and shoreward of the tract to the +1 ft. level and seaward out to -360 ft.(MLLW) water depth contour (Figure 5). Dr. Dave Armstrong at the University of Washington has determined that Dungeness crab utilize Puget Sound bottoms from the +1 ft. level out to the -330 ft. level. The entire crab habitat along this tract is approximately 514 acres. There were about 451,799 harvestable geoducks in the entire 60 acre tract harvest area, from the 2013 pre-fishing survey estimate. With a harvest of 85 percent, the total number harvested would be 384,029 geoducks. Approximately 1.18 square feet of substrate is disturbed for every geoduck harvested, so 384,029 x 1.18 = 453,154 square feet of substrate. This equals about 10.4 acres. This is about 2.0 percent of the total available crab habitat in the vicinity of this tract. Based on the low amount of disturbance, plus the lack of effects observed at the Thorndyke Bay study, we conclude that any effects on Dungeness crab populations will be very minor, if they occur at all.

Aquatic Plants:

Large attached aquatic plants are not generally found in geoduck beds in large quantities.

Light restriction often limits plant growth to areas shallower than where most geoduck harvest occurs. Soft sediment substrates, as is generally found on geoduck tracts, provide poor attachment and anchorage for large algae. Aquatic plants observed during geoduck survey include: red algae, foliose green algae (*Ulva* spp.), and brown algae (*Laminaria* spp., *Desmarestia* spp.), (Table 7).

John Boettner and Tim Flint, from the WDFW Habitat Division, have stated that as long as geoduck fishing was restricted seaward of the eelgrass beds they have no concerns about the fishing. This was confirmed by WDFW Habitat Division who stated that the existing conditions in the fishery SEIS are sufficient to protect fish and wildlife habitat and natural resources. The shallow boundary of geoduck harvest is set at least two vertical feet seaward of the deepest occurrence of eelgrass, to protect all eelgrass along the tract from harvest activities. An eelgrass survey was conducted at the Dash Point geoduck tract on May 1, 2013 by the Puyallup Tribe. It was reported that no eelgrass was observed deeper than -8 ft. (MLLW). WDFW conducted an eelgrass survey on November 14, 2013 and confirmed that no eelgrass was observed deeper than -16 ft. (MLLW). The shoreward boundary of this tract will be no shallower than the -18 ft. water depth contour (MLLW), which should provide sufficient buffer for any eelgrass beds in the vicinity of the tract.

Marine Mammals:

Several species of marine mammals, including seals, sea lions, and river otters may be observed in the vicinity of this geoduck tract. There have also been sporadic reports of gray whales feeding near Bainbridge Island and rare reports of humpback whales near Vashon Island. Killer whales may also be observed in the vicinity of this tract, particularly between November and March. The Southern Resident stock of killer whales resides mainly in the San Juan Islands throughout spring and summer, but incursions south into Puget Sound occur more frequently during winter months (Brent Norberg, NOAA, pers. comm. 5/15/06). The Southern Resident stock of killer whales was listed as "endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) by the National Marine Fisheries Service on November 15, 2005. This is in addition to the designation of this stock in May 2003 as "depleted" under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. More information and a draft conservation plan for this stock can be found at the NOAA website (http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/ESA-Act-Status/Listing-Final.cfm). Hand pick shellfish fisheries, like geoduck harvesting, are considered Category III under the Marine Mammal Authorization Program for Commercial Fisheries. This means that there is a "rare or remote" likelihood of marine mammal "take," (Brent Norberg, NOAA, pers. comm. 5/15/06). Precautions should be taken by commercial divers, when marine mammals are in the area, to be aware of marine mammal movements and behavior to eliminate the remote risk of

entanglement with diver hoses and lines.

Birds:

A variety of marine birds are common in Puget Sound and the general vicinity of this tract. The most significant of these are guillemots, murres, murrelets, grebes, loons, scoters, dabbing ducks, black brant, mergansers, buffleheads, cormorants, gulls, and terns. Blue heron, bald eagles, and osprey are also regularly observed. Geoduck harvest does not appear to have any significant effect on these birds or their use of the waters where harvest occurs. A study by DNR and the WDFW was conducted at northern Hood Canal to learn the effects of geoduck fishing on bald eagles (Watson *et al.*, 1995). A significant conclusion of this study is that commercial geoduck clam harvest is unlikely to have any adverse impacts on bald eagle productivity.

Other uses:

Adjacent Upland Use:

The shoreline waters seaward of the Ordinary High Water mark are designated as "Aquatic Shoreline" throughout King County. Upland properties immediately adjacent to the Dash Point tract are designated as "Incorporated" shoreline area (Final King County Comprehensive Plan, 2013).

To minimize possible disturbance to adjacent residents, harvest vessels are not allowed shoreward of the 200 yards seaward of the ordinary high tide line (OHT). Harvest is allowed only during daylight hours and no harvest is allowed on Saturday, Sunday, or state holidays.

The only visual effect of harvest is the presence of the harvest vessels on the tract. These boats (normally 35-40 feet long) are anchored during harvest and divers conduct all harvest out of sight. Noise from boats, compressors and pumps may not exceed 50 dB measured 200 yards from the noise source, which is 5 dBA below the state noise standard.

Fishing:

The waters in the vicinity of this geoduck tract (in Marine Area 11) are not prime sport fishing areas, however, some recreational salmon fishing for blackmouth, silver and pink salmon could occur seasonally in proximity to this tract. Sport fishing is open year round for surfperch. Rockfish fishing is closed. Lingcod can only be taken May 1-June 15 by hook and line or May 21 to June 15 by spearfishing. The WDFW 2015/2016 Sport

Fishing Rules pamphlet describes additional seasons, size limits, daily limits, specific closed areas, and additional rules for salmon and other marine fish species. The fishing which does occur should not create any problems for the geoduck harvesting effort in the area.

Geoduck fishing on this tract is managed in coordination with the South Puget Sound treaty tribes through state/tribal geoduck harvest management plans. The non-Indian geoduck fishery should not be in conflict with any concurrent tribal fisheries.

Navigation:

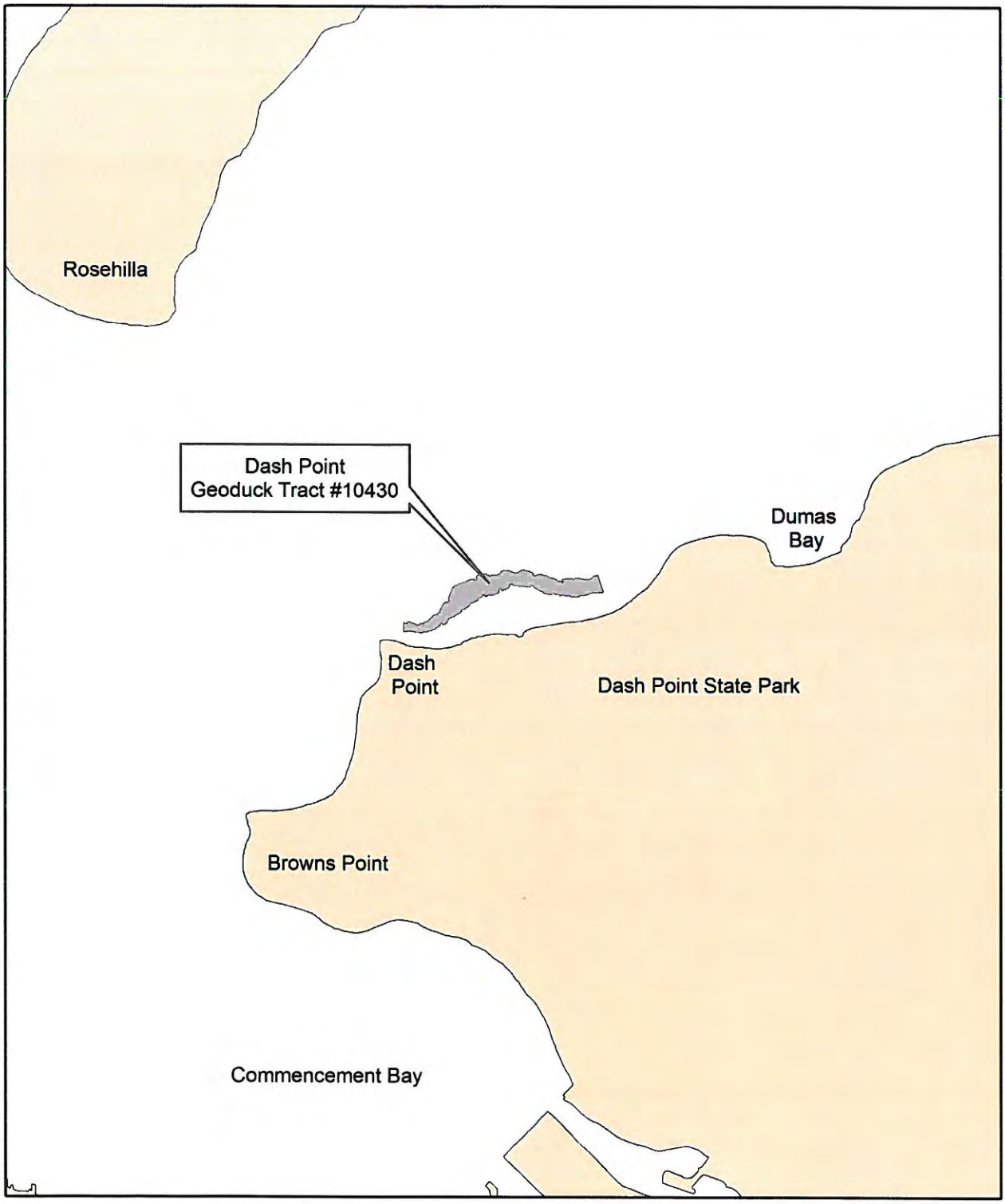
The Dash Point area is used by recreational and commercial vessels traveling in South Puget Sound. Geoduck harvesting at this site should not result in any significant navigational conflicts. The Washington Department of Natural Resources will notify the local boating community prior to any harvest.

Summary:

The proposed commercial geoduck harvest is for one tract along the eastern shoreline of Puget Sound. The tract was recently surveyed in 2010 by the Puyallup Tribe and in 2013 by WDFW. The current biomass estimate for the 60 acre harvest area is 705,961 pounds. The commercial tract is classified by DOH as "Approved." The anticipated environmental impacts of this harvest are within the range of conditions discussed in the 2001 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. To reduce the possible impacts to forage fish and eelgrass, the harvest will be seaward of the -18 ft. water depth contour (MLLW) along the tract. No significant impacts are expected from this harvest.

File: 16February1_Dash Point_EA_10430.doc

Figure 1. Vicinity Map, Dash Point Commercial Geoduck Tract #10430



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1:50,000
1 inch = 0.79 miles

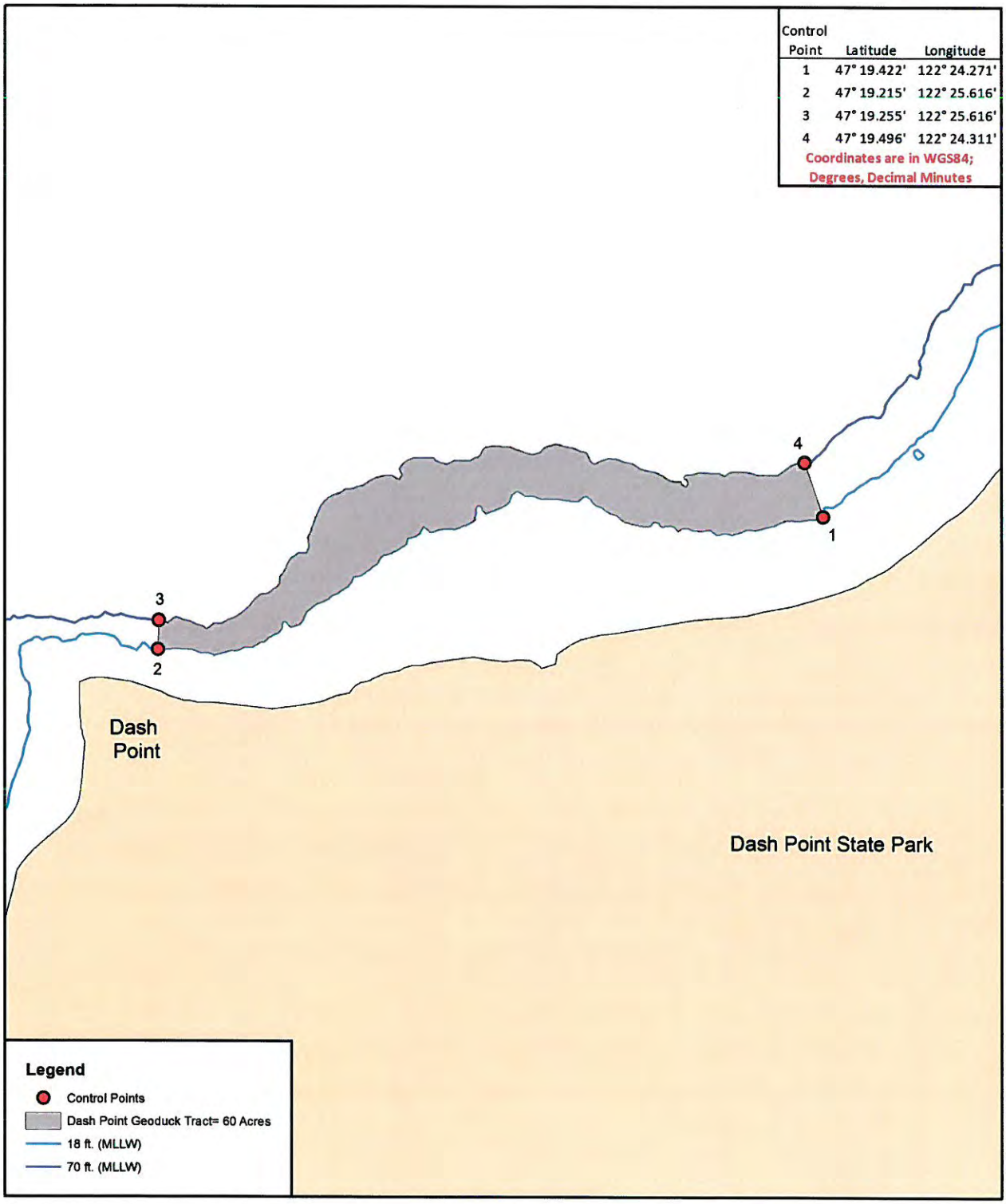
Data Sources:
Projection for data is GCS_Washington Geographic System 1984, Units: Meters. Coastline layer is from DNR, 1: 24,000 scale, created 09-20-99. Contours are from NOAA soundings.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Map Date: June 27, 2014
Map Author: O. Eveningsong
File: Data\Ocean\Geoduck

Figure 2. Control Points Map, Dash Point Commercial Geoduck Tract #10430



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1 inch = 0.24 miles

Data Sources:
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0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 Miles

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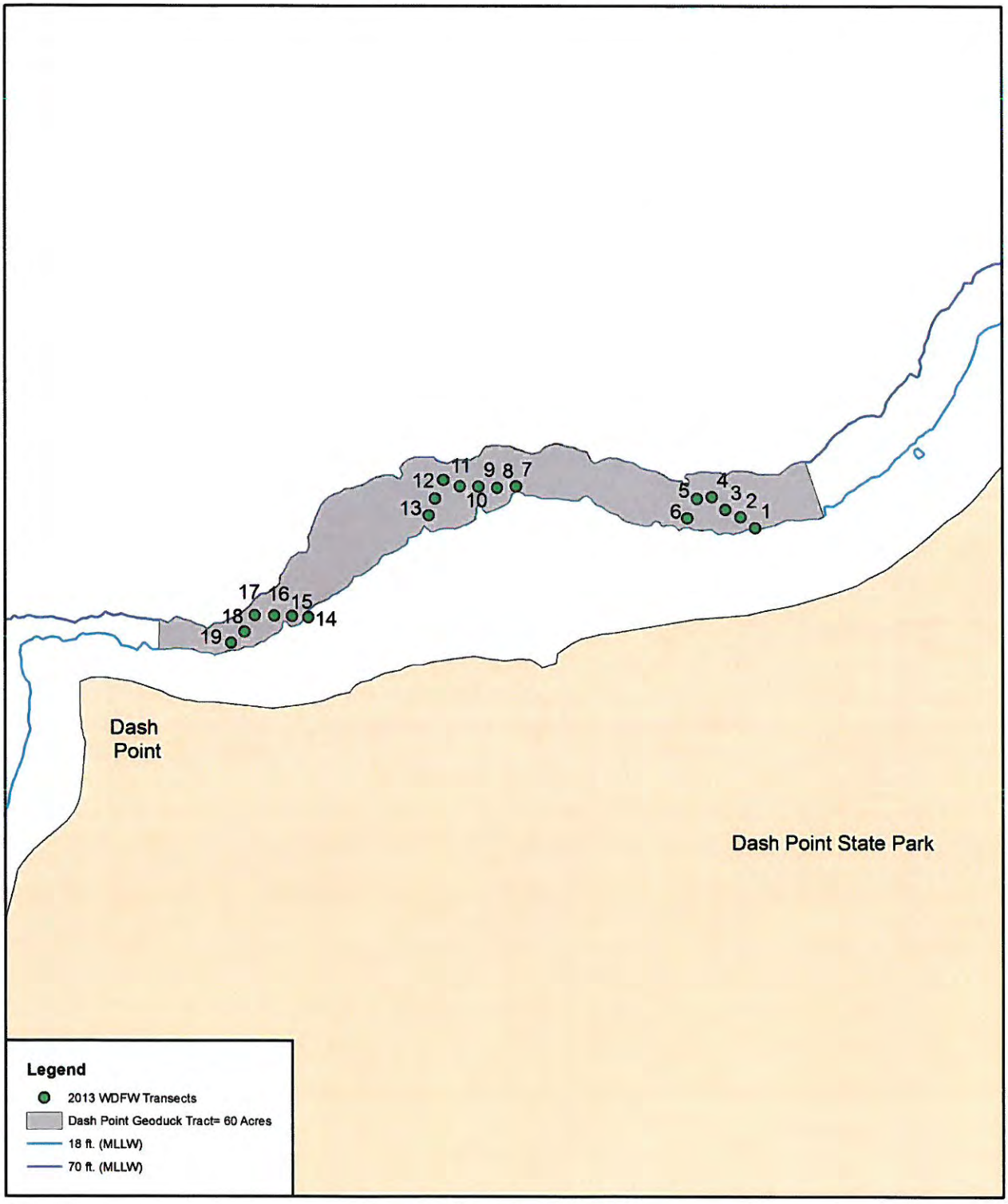
Map Date: June 27, 2014
Map Author: O. Eveningsong
File: Data\Ocean\Geoduck

Figure 3. Transect Map, Dash Point Commercial Geoduck Tract #10430



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1 inch = 0.24 miles

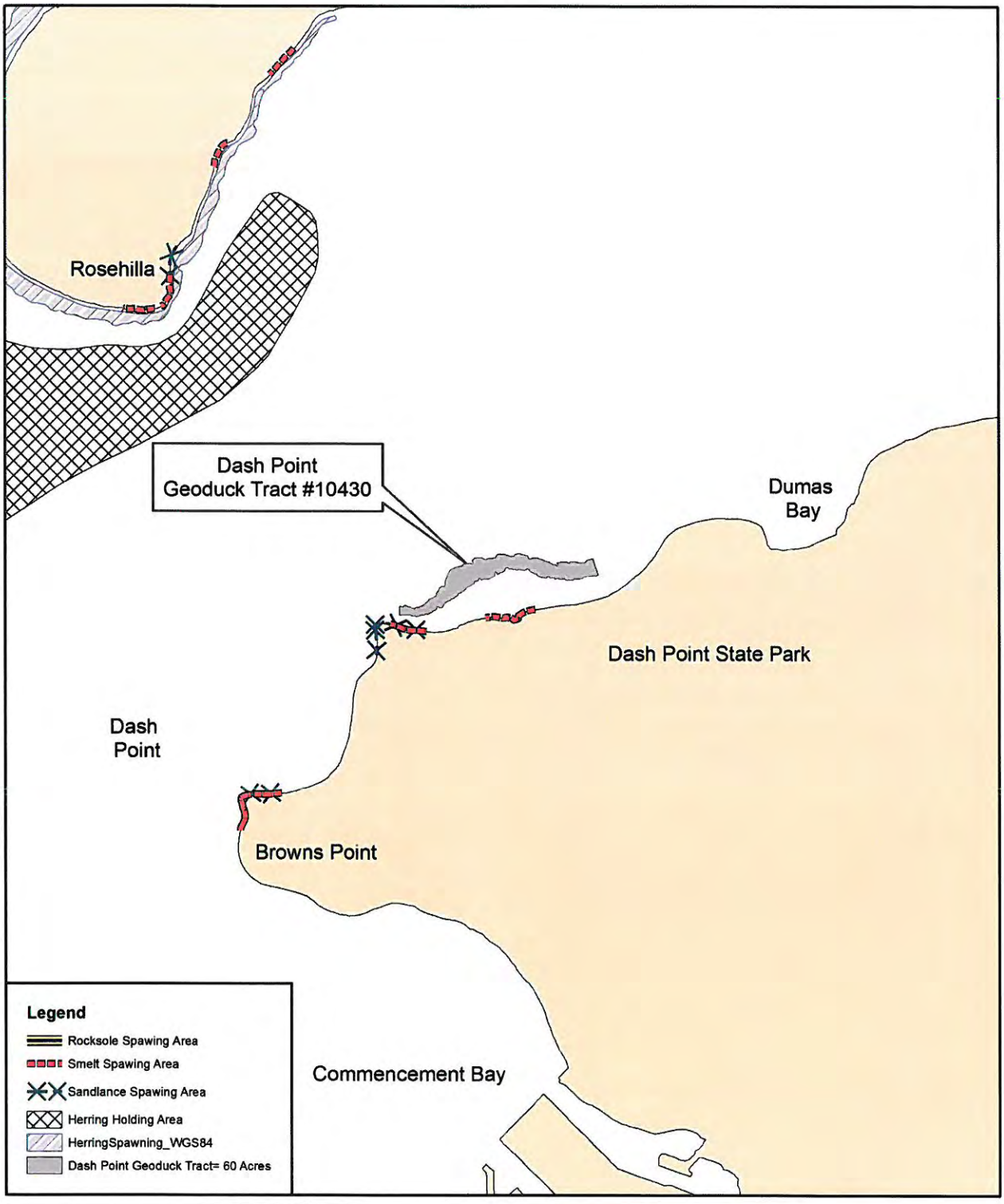
Data Sources:
Projection for data is GCS_Washington Geographic System 1984, Units: Meters. Coastline layer is from DNR, 1: 24,000 scale, created 09-20-99. Contours are from NOAA soundings.

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 Miles

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Map Date: July 7, 2014
Map Author: O. Eveningsong
File: Data\Ocean\Geoduck

Figure 4. Fish Spawning Areas Near the Dash Point Commercial Geoduck Tract #10430



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1:50,000
1 inch = 0.79 miles

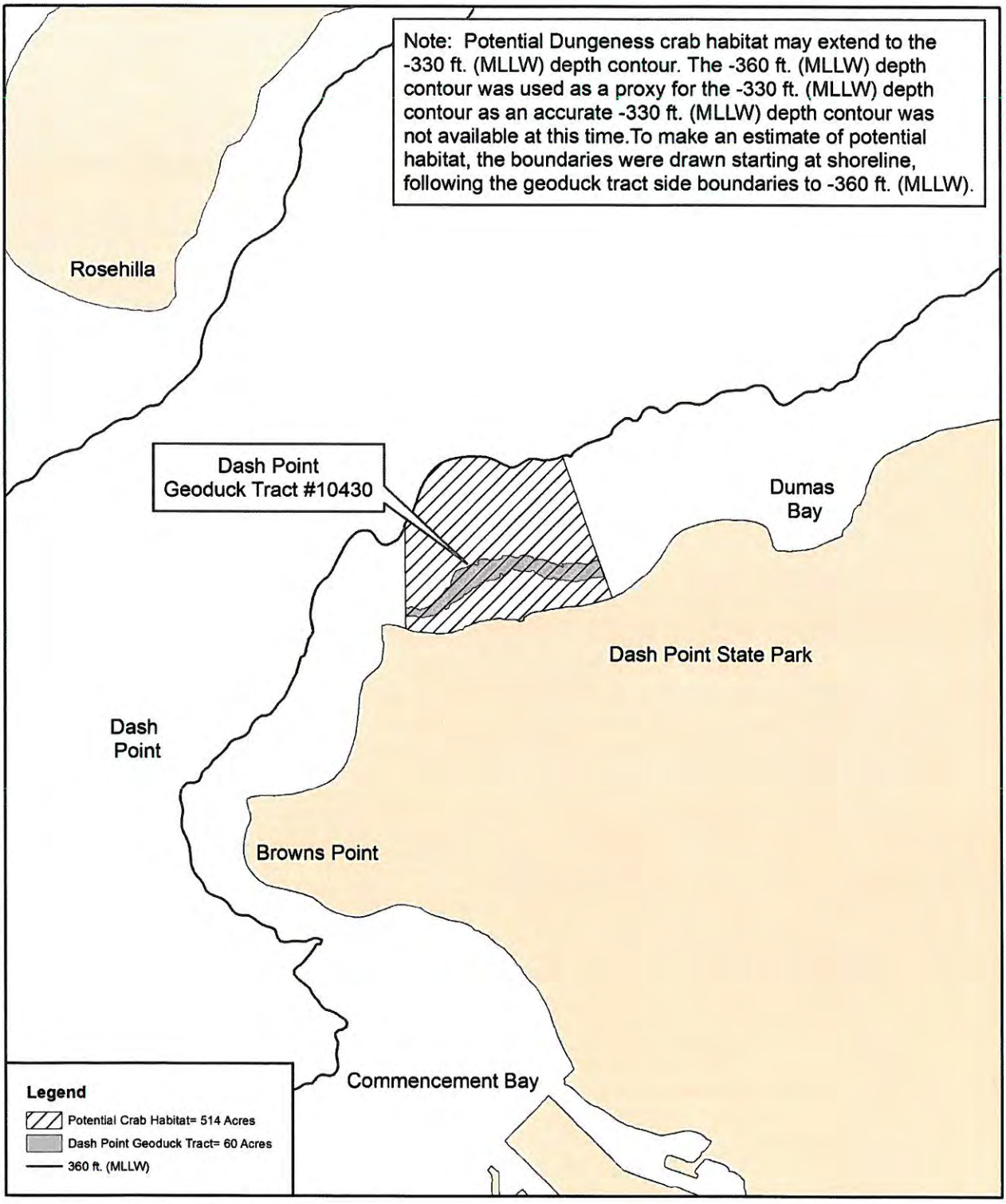
Data Sources:
Projection for data is GCS_Washington Geographic System 1984, Units: Meters. Coastline layer is from DNR, 1: 24,000 scale, created 09-20-99. Contours are from NOAA soundings.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Map Date: July 7, 2014
Map Author: O. Eveningsong
File: Data\Ocean\Geoduck

Figure 5. Dungeness Crab Habitat Map, Dash Point Commercial Geoduck Tract #10430



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1:50,000
1 inch = 0.79 miles

Data Sources:
Projection for data is GCS_Washington Geographic System 1984, Units: Meters. Coastline layer is from DNR, 1: 24,000 scale, created 09-20-99. Contours are from NOAA soundings.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Map Date: July 7, 2014
Map Author: O. Eveningsong
File: Data\Ocean\Geoduck

EXPLANATION OF SURVEY DATA TABLES

The geoduck survey data for each tract is reported in seven computer-generated tables. These tables contain specific information gathered from transect and dig samples and diver observations. The following is an explanation of the headings and codes used in these tables.

Tract Summary

This table is a general summary of survey information for the geoduck tract including estimates of *Tract Size* in acres, average geoduck *Density* in animals per sq.ft., *Total Tract Biomass* in pounds with statistical confidence, and *Total Number of Geoducks*. Mass estimators are reported in average values for *Whole Weight* and *Siphon Weight* in pounds. Geoduck siphon weights are also reported in *Siphon Weight as a percentage of Whole Weight.* Biomass estimates are adjusted for any harvest that may occur subsequent to the pre-fishing survey.

Digging Difficulty

This table presents a station-by-station evaluation of the factors contributing to the difficulty of digging geoduck samples with a 5/8" inside nozzle diameter water jet. Codes for the overall subjective summary of the digging difficulty are given in the *Difficulty* column. An explanation of the codes for the dig difficulty follows:

Code	Degree of Difficulty	Description
0	Very Easy	Sediment conducive to quick harvest.
1	Easy	Significant barrier in substrate to inhibit digging.
2	Some difficulty	Substrate may be compact or contain gravel, shell or clay; most geoducks still easy to dig.
3	Difficult	Most geoducks were difficult to dig, but most attempts were successful.
4	Very Difficult	It was laborious to dig each geoduck. Unable to dig some geoducks.
5	Impossible	Divers could not remove geoducks from the substrate.

Abundance refers to the relative geoduck abundance; a zero (0) indicates that geoducks were very sparse, a one (1) indicates that they were moderately abundant and a two (2) indicates that they were very abundant. *Depth* refers to the depth that the geoducks were found in the substrate. A zero (0) indicates that they were shallow, a one (1) indicates that they were moderately deep and a two (2) indicates that they were very deep. The columns labeled *Compact*, *Gravel*, *Shell*, *Turbidity* and *Algae* refer to factors that contribute to digging difficulty by interfering with the digging process. A zero (0) in one of these columns indicates that the factor was not a problem, a one (1) indicates that the

factor caused moderate difficulty and a two (2) indicates that the factor caused a significant amount of difficulty when digging. *Compact* refers to the compact or sticky nature of a muddy substrate. *Gravel* and *Shell* refer to the difficulty caused by these substrate types. *Turbidity* refers to the turbidity within the water near the dig hole caused by the digging activity. High turbidity makes it difficult to find the geoduck siphon shows. The difficulty of digging associated with turbidity varies with the amount of tidal current present. Therefore, the turbidity rating refers only to the conditions occurring when the sample was collected. *Algae* refers to algal cover, which also makes it difficult for the diver to find geoduck siphon shows. Because algal cover varies seasonally, this value only applies to the conditions when the sample was collected. The *Commercial* column gives a subjective assessment of whether or not it would be feasible to harvest geoducks on a commercial basis at the given station.

Transect Water Depths, Geoduck Densities and Substrate Observations

This table reports findings for each transect. *Start Depth* and *End Depth* (corrected to MLLW) are given for each transect. *Geoduck Density* is reported as the average number of geoducks per square foot for each 900 square foot transect. *Substrate Type* and *Substrate Rating* refer to evaluations of the substrate surface. A two (2) rating indicates that the substrate type is predominant. A one (1) rating indicates the substrate type was present.

Geoduck Weights and Proportion Over 2 Pounds

This table summarizes the size and quality of the geoducks at each of the stations where dig samples were collected. Weight values for any geoduck dig samples that were damaged during sampling to the extent that water loss occurred, are excluded from calculations. The *Number Dug* column lists the number of geoducks collected. The *Avg. Whole Weight (lbs.)* column gives the average sample weight of whole geoduck clams for each dig station. The *Avg. Siphon Weight (lbs.)* column gives the average weight of the siphons of the geoducks for each dig station. The percentage of geoducks greater than two pounds is given in the *% Greater than 2 lbs.* column.

Transect - Corrected Geoduck Count and Position Table

This table reports the diver *Corrected Count*, the geoduck siphon *Show Factor* used to correct the count, and the *Latitude/Longitude* position of the start point of each survey transect. Raw (observed) siphon counts are "corrected" by dividing diver observed counts for each transect with a siphon "show" factor (See WDFW Tech. Report FPT00-01 for explanation of show factor) to estimate the sample population density. Transect positions are reported in degrees and decimal minutes to the thousandth of a minute, datum WGS84.

Most Common and Obvious Animals Observed

This table summarizes the animals, other than geoducks, that were observed during the geoduck survey, and reports the total number of transects on which they were present (*# of Transects Where Observed)*. This is qualitative presence/absence data only, and only animals that can be readily seen by divers at or near the surface of the substrate are noted. The *Group* designation allows for the organization of similar species together in the table. Whenever possible, the scientific name of the animal is listed in *Taxonomer*, and a generally accepted *Common Name* is also listed. Many variables may make it difficult for divers to notice other animals on the tract, including but not limited to poor visibility, diver skill, animals fleeing the divers, animal size, or cryptic appearance or behavior (in crevasses or under rocks).

Most Common and Obvious Plants Observed

This table summarizes marine plants observed during the geoduck survey, and reports the total number of transects on which they were seen (*# of Transects Where Observed)*. This is qualitative presence/absence data only, and only for macro algae, with the exception of diatoms. At high densities diatoms form a "layer" on or above the substrate surface that is readily visible and obvious to divers. Other types of phytoplankton are not sampled and are rarely noted. Whenever possible, the scientific name or a general taxonomic grouping of each plant is listed in *Taxonomer*.

Last Updated: January 12, 2015
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Table 1. GEODUCK TRACT SUMMARY

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430.

Tract Name	Dash Point
Tract Number	10430
Tract Size (acres)[a]	60
Density of geoducks/sq.ft.[b]	0.13
Total Tract Biomass (lbs.)[b]	705,961
Total Number of Geoducks on Tract[b]	326,801
Confidence Interval (%)	21.2%
Mean Geoduck Whole Weight (lbs.)	2.16
Mean Geoduck Siphon Weight (lbs.)	n/a
Siphon Weight as a % of Whole Weight	n/a
Number of Transect Stations	19
Number of Geoducks Weighed	92

[a.] Tract area is between the -18 ft. and -70 ft. (MLLW) water depth contours

[b.] Biomass is based on the 2010 Puyallup Tribe Pre-fishing and 2013 WDFW Supplemental geoduck survey biomass of 975,984 pounds minus harvest of 270,023 pounds through January 29, 2016

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Table 2: DIGGING DIFFICULTY TABLE

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2010 Puyallup Tribe dig sample

Dig Station	Difficulty (0-5)	Abundance (0-2)	Depth (0-2)	Compact (0-2)	Gravel (0-2)	Shell (0-2)	Turbidity (0-2)	Algae (0-2)	Commercial (Y/N)
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

Note: Dig station difficulty ratings and substrates present were not documented on the 2010 survey.

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Table 3: TRANSECT WATER DEPTHS, GEODUCK DENSITIES, AND SUBSTRATE OBSERVATIONS

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2013 WDFW geoduck survey

Transect	Start Depth (ft) [a]	End Depth (ft) [a]	Geoduck Density (no. / sq ft) [b]	Substrate [c]	
				sand	wood debris
1	22	36	0.101	2	
2	36	51	0.138	2	
3	51	65	0.181	2	
4	65	63	0.126	2	
5	63	41	0.099	2	
6	41	24	0.061	2	
7	22	31	0.074	2	
8	31	44	0.156	2	
9	43	61	0.233	2	
10	61	66	0.145	2	
11	66	57	0.197	2	
12	57	43	0.119	2	
13	43	21	0.132	2	
14	22	36	0.200	2	1
15	36	53	0.256	2	1
16	53	68	0.351	2	
17	68	64	0.194	2	1
18	65	52	0.247	2	
19	52	23	0.273	2	

[a] All depths are corrected to mean lower low water (MLLW)

[b] Densities were calculated using a siphon show factor of 0.75

[c] Substrate codes: 1 = present ; 2 = dominant

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Table 4: GEODUCK SIZE AND QUALITY

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2010 Puyallup Tribe dig sample

Dig Station	Number Dug	Avg. Whole Weight (lbs.)	Avg. Siphon Weight (lbs.)[a]	% of geoducks on station greater than 2 lbs.
1	10	2.10	n/a	70%
2	10	1.78	n/a	40%
3	10	3.10	n/a	100%
4	10	1.89	n/a	30%
5	11	1.56	n/a	18%
6	11	2.85	n/a	91%
7	9	1.98	n/a	56%
8	10	3.10	n/a	80%
9	11	1.17	n/a	0%

[a.] Siphon weights were not taken for this sample.

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Table 5: TRANSECT CORRECTED GEODUCK COUNT AND POSITION TABLE

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2013 WDFW geoduck survey

Transect	Corrected Geoduck Count per 900 sq. ft. Transect	Geoduck Siphon Show Factor [a]	Latitude [b]		Longitude [b]	
1	91	0.75	47°	19.403	122°	24.412
2	124	0.75	47°	19.417	122°	24.442
3	163	0.75	47°	19.427	122°	24.473
4	113	0.75	47°	19.444	122°	24.501
5	89	0.75	47°	19.441	122°	24.531
6	55	0.75	47°	19.414	122°	24.550
7	67	0.75	47°	19.452	122°	24.900
8	140	0.75	47°	19.449	122°	24.938
9	209	0.75	47°	19.450	122°	24.976
10	131	0.75	47°	19.450	122°	25.014
11	177	0.75	47°	19.458	122°	25.047
12	107	0.75	47°	19.432	122°	25.063
13	119	0.75	47°	19.409	122°	25.075
14	180	0.75	47°	19.264	122°	25.313
15	231	0.75	47°	19.265	122°	25.346
16	316	0.75	47°	19.265	122°	25.382
17	175	0.75	47°	19.265	122°	25.422
18	223	0.75	47°	19.242	122°	25.443
19	245	0.75	47°	19.226	122°	25.469

[a.] A siphon show factor of 0.75 was used to correct combined geoduck counts

[b.] Latitude and longitude are in WGS84 datum, degrees and decimal minutes

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Table 6: MOST COMMON AND OBVIOUS ANIMALS OBSERVED

Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2013 WDFW geoduck survey

# of Transects where Observed	Group	Common Name	Taxonomer
1	ANEMONE	BURROWING ANEMONE	*Pachycerianthus fimbriatus*
19	ANEMONE	PLUMED ANEMONE	*Metridium spp.*
1	ANEMONE	STRIPED ANEMONE	*Urticina spp.*
6	ASCIDIAN	SESSILE TUNICATE	Unspecified Tunicate
2	BIVALVE	HORSE CLAM	*Tresus spp.*
2	BIVALVE	FALSE GEODUCK	*Panomya spp.*
8	CRAB	DUNGENESS CRAB	*Cancer magister*
8	CRAB	GRACEFUL CRAB	*Cancer gracilis*
18	CRAB	HERMIT CRAB	Unspecified hermit crab
5	CUCUMBER	SEA CUCUMBER	*Parastichopus californicus*
13	FISH	FLATFISH	Unspecified flatfish
5	FISH	SCULPIN	Unspecified Cottidae
1	FISH	ENGLISH SOLE	*Parophrys vetulus*
1	FISH	ROCK SOLE	*Lepidopsetta bilineata*
1	FISH	UNSPECIFIED GADIDAE	*Gadid spp.*
1	NUDIBRANCH	SPOTTED AGLAJA	*Aglaja ocelligera*
12	SEA STAR	SUNFLOWER STAR	*Pycnopodia helianthoides*
1	SEA STAR	SHORT-SPINED STAR	*Pisaster brevispinus*
5	SEA STAR	SUN STAR	*Solaster spp.*
5	SEA STAR	ROSE STAR	*Crossaster papposus*
7	SEA STAR	VERMILLION STAR	*Mediaster aequalis*
1	SEA STAR	BAT STAR	*Patira miniata*
2	SEA STAR	SPINY STAR	*Hippasteria spinosa*
6	WORM	ROOTS	Chaetopterid polychaete tubes
3	WORM	TEREBELLID TUBE WORM	*Terebellid spp.*

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Table 7: MOST COMMON AND OBVIOUS PLANTS OBSERVED
Dash Point geoduck tract # 10430, 2013 WDFW geoduck survey

# of Transects Where Observed	Taxonomer
16	Unspecified small red algae
13	*Ulva spp.*
4	Unspecified large red algae
4	*Desmarestia spp.*
2	*Laminaria spp.*

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