



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

May 14, 2025

Re: Informative- Updates to Tribal Shellfish Consent Decree and Attachments of Minimum Position Requirements – based on 2024 SHB2216

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are providing information regarding legislation that passed during the 2024 legislative session and scheduling a listening session shortly.

This legislation impacts state position requirements, including positions associated with the [1994 Shellfish Tribal Consent Decree Settlement Agreement](#) which was signed by 19 Washington Tribes. The 2024 legislation passed [Substitute House Bill 2216: An Act Relating to reducing barriers to state employment by eliminating two-year and four-year degree requirements that are unnecessary](#). Attachments F, G, and H of the Consent Decree, which outline minimum qualifications for Standardized Shellfish Inspectors, Water Quality Studies, and Shoreline Surveys, are now impacted. In accordance with the Consent Decree, we wish to address updating these attachments by mutual agreement.

Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) will be scheduling a listening session to discuss coordination with the 19 Tribes included in the Consent Decree to attain the agreement necessary to update the attachments. A Collaborative DTLL with listening session details to follow.

For additional information, please contact Scott Berbells, Manager Shellfish Growing Area Section, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, at scott.berbells@doh.wa.gov. Please contact Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Phillips R.S.", is written over the printed name.

Todd Phillips R.S.
Director, Office of Environmental Health and Safety

cc: Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Atousa Salehi, Chief Science Officer, OHS, WA-DOH
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary, EPH, OHS WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH