

**From:** [Thomas, Sue](#)  
**To:** [Evenson, Joseph R \(DFW\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Hamer, Matthew D \(DFW\)](#); [Spragens, Kyle A \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 1:54:53 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Yes. My thanks to all of you!

Sue

Sue Thomas  
Wildlife Biologist  
Washington Maritime NWRC  
715 Holgerson Rd  
Sequim, WA 98382  
360-457-8451

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 1:52 PM, Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)  
<[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)> wrote:

Perfect Matt, Thanks - Joe

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**From:** Hamer, Matthew D (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 1:46 PM  
**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>; Thomas, Sue  
<[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Hi Sue,

I have updated the data set to include more habitat offshore of the Gray's Marsh area. The new data set is attached and will be coming in two emails.

This is the second of two emails.

-Matt Hamer

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**From:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 12:17 PM  
**To:** Hamer, Matthew D (DFW) <[Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov)>; Thomas, Sue <[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Hi Sue-

I am having Matt modify the boundaries just a little to represent the habitat off of Grays Marsh, he is working on that now, so there will be an updated data set for you to use. Also, as you can see from our tracklines, we only sample the shoreline inside the enclosed bay inside the spit, thus we do not get a representative sample of the diving and sea ducks in that area.

The transects that appear parallel are because those are the actual transect strips sampled on both sides of the aircraft (the aircraft flew in between with a left and right observer viewing those transect strips).

Cheers,

-Joe

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**From:** Hamer, Matthew D (DFW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 5:30 PM  
**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>; Thomas, Sue <[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Hi Sue,

This is the second of two emails.

I have compiled some observational data for you from our 2010 to 2016 PSAMP surveys.

In the attached Excel file you'll find survey count data within the Three Crabs and Grays Marsh areas you specified. I also included the area surveyed and the total available area within the boundaries.

I also attached a few map exports showing the observation locations of brant, dabbling ducks, marbled murrelets, and scoters. As well as a map showing the total area surveyed between 2010 and 2016 and a typical single year's (2013) transect coverage. The attachments will come through in two emails due to attachment size limits.

Hope this helps,

Matt Hamer

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**From:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:24 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Sue <[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>; Hamer, Matthew D (DFW) <[Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Scoters would be Nov-May 20th for Winter and Spring staging. The molt period would be late July through early October with peaks in August and September.

**From:** Thomas, Sue [[mailto:sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>; Hamer, Matthew D (DFW) <[Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Perfect. I'm building a chart to show which months are most critical to wildlife and therefore times to minimize disturbance. What would you recommend for scoters? I had Nov through May for Brant and dabblers.

Sue Thomas

Wildlife Biologist

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On Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 2:49 PM, Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)

<[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks – Matt is working on something for you. The area between three crabs and Grays Marsh hosts one of the largest concentrations of molting scoters in Fall as well. -Joe

**From:** Thomas, Sue [mailto:[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:47 PM

**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>; Hamer, Matthew D (DFW) <[Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hamer@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

It would be Pacific Oyster in bags and on bottom. The area is actually on state land managed by DNR that we hold under a perpetual lease/easement. All we can do is comment. I'm pretty sure it will go through since it is a commercial request by a tribe, so I'm just trying to recommend conservation measures to lessen the impact. I don't want to ask you to spend any additional time, just looking for anything you had readily to hand, like that info on the haul out. Never knew. Is there any way I can qualify that? Say one of top 5 in state or? Attached is my Mid-winter data summary if it helps to have concrete #s for the smaller area. The proposed project area falls between mm (mile marker 2 & 3).

MM 3 and Graveyard Lagoon are the areas of highest use on the refuge by the dabblers and Brant.

Thanks again,

Sue

Sue Thomas

Wildlife Biologist

Washington Maritime NWRC

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On Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 2:16 PM, Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)  
<[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Sue-

What type of aquaculture is it? It seems the parcel buffer overlaps one of the big Brant haul-out areas. Brant can be selective on where they haul out and I would think that increased vessel activity there could affect their use of that haul out site, or at least be a source of disturbance. Regarding Scoters, it will take me some time to put together observations within the spit. I doubt I have time to map them over the next day.

I have CC'd Matt Hamer to this email – Matt would you have time to quantify scoter observations from within the spit at Dungeness? Perhaps a map of scoter observations and if we have counts over the past 5-10 years. If you don't have time that is OK too.

I would think that creating a conflict within a NWR that would result in depredation permits would be counter to the mission of the NWR's.

Thanks,

-Joe

**From:** Thomas, Sue [mailto:[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:04 PM

**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Cc:** Spragens, Kyle A (DFW) <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Hi Joe and Kyle,

The aquaculture area is in the attached map - 75-150,000 bags in 34 ac. The larger area would extend to either Three Crabs or Grays Marsh in the second clip. Anita and I spoke about 3 Crabs, but Ulrich used the Gray's Marsh extent in his paper on Brant abundance. I thought midwinter totals from your flights would sum it up best, but if you are short on time, I really need any info you can give on the Western High Arctic stock. I remember seeing somewhere that a small portion of Brant on the refuge were from that stock, but there is just no way I'll be able to track that down in a day... I'm also addressing scoters because I'm concerned that they will be hazed or shot for depredation and are on the SWAP as SGCN. I usually see ~20-100 on any given Mid-Winter survey, but if you have info that I can use to justify not granting a depredation permit, that would help.

Thanks!

Sue

Sue Thomas

Wildlife Biologist

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On Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 12:57 PM, Evenson, Joseph R (DFW)  
<[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Sue-

Do you have a map of the location? I don't have any reports documenting Brant use of the refuge or surrounding area myself. We do have data though from the PSEMP winter flights as well as they aerial survey conducted this year of the area for Brant. Were you interested in data for other species as well? I have CC'd Kyle to this so he could chime in.

Thanks,

-Joe

*Joe Evenson*

**Waterfowl Survey and Sea Duck Specialist**

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

360-790-8691

[Joseph.evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.evenson@dfw.wa.gov)

**From:** Thomas, Sue [mailto:[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2018 4:44 PM

**To:** Evenson, Joseph R (DFW) <[Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Evenson@dfw.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Aquaculture permit on Dungeness NWR - ? W High Arctic Brant

Hi Joe,

We are responding to an aquaculture permit managed by Clallam Co and the State (DNR) on ~34 acres within the highest Brant foraging area on the refuge. Since 2010, I've only counted up to 3,000 Brant on the refuge, but that was all that I could really see with a scope from the spit. Do you have any reports that could help document use of the larger area? Also, I have not tried to sort out the proportion of Western High Arctic Brant in Dungeness Bay. Have you?

Sorry, if I had time, I could try to ferret this out for myself, but I have two days to compile info for all sp and I know that you are a good go-to guy for this type of info if you are around. .. Anything you might have would help (e.g. a report already submitted?)...

Thanks for anything you can share,

Sue

Sue Thomas

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