

**United States Department of the Interior**

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

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San Juan Islands NWR - Flattery Rocks NWR - Copalis NWR - Quillayute Needles NWR Dungeness NWR - Protection Island NWR

In Reply Refer To:

FWS/Rl /NWRS/FF01RWMT00

May x, 2019

Pamela Sanguinetti

P.O. Box 3755

Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Ms.Sanguinetti:

As of this letter, we are rescinding our comment letter dated February 27, 2019, regarding US Army Corps of Engineers and WA Department of Ecology permit application NWS-2007-1213 for commercial oyster operations within Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. It appears our previous comment may have created confusion for permitting agencies regarding our role in this process. Our previous comment was not meant to provide a permitting determination, as it is not our role to provide/deny permission for this commercial activity. We have recently met with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and have a better understanding to their proposed operation and any subsequent potential impacts on the Refuge and would like to submit this comment in lieu of the aforementioned letter.

We recognize the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s commitment to operating a commercial enterprise in a manner that is sensitive to environmental and cultural concerns. We remain concerned about potential impacts to the wildlife and habitats of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from a commercial oyster operation in this location (see attached). We hope another, less impactful site can be identified that will meet the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s goals, while reducing impacts to Refuge resources.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on this application. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at [jennifer brownscott@fws.gov](mailto:jenniferbrownscott@fws.gov) or (360) 457-8451.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown-Scott

Project Leader

Cc: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe