

**From:** [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Lawrence, Brent A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 12:11:43 PM

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In the second paragraph, should we say "...the agencies responsible for the permits and leases issued for the project. We defer any comment on the processes and monitoring requirements to those agencies." This focusses on the current permits and leaves room for any permit/monitoring we may need to require in the future.

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Jennifer Brown-Scott  
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~~[Dungeness NWR](#)~[Protection Island NWR](#)~[San Juan Islands NWR](#)~[Copalis NWR](#)~[Flattery Rocks NWR](#)~[Quillayute Needles NWR](#)~~

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**From:** Lawrence, Brent A <brent\_lawrence@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer\_brownScott@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

What do you think of this?

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently assessing the need for a compatibility determination for access to closed portions of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge by the Tribe for the aquaculture project. A compatibility determination may be issued when a refuge must determine if a use aligns with the purposes of the refuge. If issued, there would be a public comment period.*

*Washington DNR, the Army Corps of Engineers and Clallam County are the agencies responsible for the permits, leases and monitoring for the project. We defer any comment on the processes to those agencies. The Service will continue to work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and other agencies on the request.*

*The Service always has interest regarding impacts to plants and wildlife on the refuge.*

--

**Brent Lawrence**

Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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**From:** BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer\_brownScott@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Holm, Jason <Jason\_Holm@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Ogura, Christine <christine\_ogura@fws.gov>; Lawrence, Brent A <brent\_lawrence@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Here are my first thoughts on a response. I am available to discuss.

*The US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently assessing the need for a compatibility determination for access to closed portions of the Refuge. If a compatibility determination is issued, a public comment period will be provided. It would be best to contact WADNR, USACOE, and Clallam County to fully understand the processes and requirements related to permits/leases issued by those agencies.*

-Jennifer

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**From:** Holm, Jason <Jason\_Holm@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 2:57 PM  
**To:** BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer\_brownScott@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Foerster, Kevin <kevin\_foerster@fws.gov>; Lawrence, Brent A <brent\_lawrence@fws.gov>; Ogura, Christine <christine\_ogura@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Hi Jennifer,

Cc'd a few folks, to save time. Short answer, I will approve us answering this locally, but we

need to see your proposed answers first. Paper seems to allow receiving them in writing rather than an interview (which is a good thing), so can you please tell me how you would answer these questions. Kevin/Christine, your decision point is if you want the answers to come from Jennifer or your level...let me know.

Thanks,

Jason

Jason Holm  
Assistant Regional Director--External Affairs  
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(503) 231-2264

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**From:** BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer\_brownScott@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Holm, Jason <Jason\_Holm@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Is there someone in external affairs I should work with to respond to the media request received from Sequim Gazette re: Aquaculture? The email is below, but the main questions are summarized as follows:

- The Tribe received their permits in August, have they started the project?
- Is the Service completing a compatibility determination?
- Is it correct that they can move forward, since they have their permits?
- Who provides oversight and environmental safeguards for the project? How often is monitoring completed?
- Do Refuge officials or staff still have concerns about the project's impacts to the Refuge's eelgrass, birds and other wildlife?

I have also sent this media request to Kevin Foerster.

-jennifer

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**From:** Michael Dashiell <mdashiell@sequimgazette.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** Dietz, Kirk P <kirk\_dietz@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information



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Thanks for your help, Kirk.

Part of these questions is to clarify a letter and part for a general story to give folks an update on the project:

According to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the tribe's aquaculture project received (I believe) the last of its permits needed in August, from DNR in early August, and had planned to start the projects in October. Is the project now underway?

(<https://jamestowntribe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/September-2021-Tribal-Newsletter.pdf>)

We've received some letters of concern from local environmentalists about the project. One letter writer said "Refuge staff are currently conducting a determination of compatibility to decide if the aquaculture use is compatible with Refuge goals." However it's my understanding that with permitting in place, the tribe can move forward with the project. Can you help clarify?

In terms of oversight/environmental safeguards about the project, who/what entity provides that? How and how often does that entity monitor the project?

Lastly, do Refuge officials or staff still have concerns about the project's impacts to the Refuge's eelgrass, birds and other wildlife?

Thanks,

Mike

**Michael Dashiell**

Editor

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