

**From:** [Ogura, Christine](#)  
**To:** [Thorson, Robyn](#)  
**Cc:** [Johnston, Chanelle M](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Dungeness BP....  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:53:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-dqzbuuwh.png](#)

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Hi Robyn

Appreciate the reach out, especially knowing you are overly committed today. No need to call as it looks like it might have moved to the DO, but offer appreciated.

Yes absolutely realize no decisions will be made based on the BP and that likely more BPs will be produced or meetings required to fully explain. The BP set the stage though and the particular paragraph that got deleted explained the easement, a key point to the conversation of our authorities. Without this paragraph, readers of the BP may be confused about the lease mentioned in the document. It also explains how the easement allows the Service to place limitations on leases issued by the State and that the Tribe had this limitation on a lease previously about closures and Service approvals needed. Opportunities for clarification in later conversations I'm sure.

"Additionally, the Service holds a 1943 Use Easement Deed for the tidelands area, with the State of Washington owning the remainder of the property interest. The Deed allows the Service to assert reasonable limitations on aquaculture leases—including limitations that may make aquaculture unprofitable or impractical—so long as those limitations are tied to refuge purposes. A 2007 oyster farming lease issued to the Tribe by the State required the closure period and approval by the Service of the operations plan."

Thanks and please take care,  
Christine

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**From:** Thorson, Robyn <robyn\_thorson@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Ogura, Christine <christine\_ogura@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Johnston, Chanelle M <chanelle\_johnston@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Dungeness BP....

Chanelle asked me if I had discussed Hugh's edits to the BP, and I hadn't (so I'm not able to address your inquiry on his behalf). But here's my perspective: we were rushed to submit this and it needed to be a "here's the issue" BP. Hugh was editing for clarity/cohesion, to frame the issue for the Director. That BP isn't the full "explanation" of the matter and comments raised in your paragraph+ (that was deleted) remains part of the perspective/discussion/briefings/explanations ahead. Decisions will not be based on that single BP, as your extensive info for Cynthia illustrates (and SOL's engagement as well). I hope that assuages any worries!

Give me a call if you want to discuss. All good.

Robyn

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*I live and work in the traditional homelands of the Chinook, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, and Wasco people who have made their homes along the lower Columbia River for thousands of years.*



# NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

