

**From:** [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Stenvall, Charlie](#)  
**Subject:** 2007 DNWR, WADNR, JST Letter  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 10:28:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [20070717 3-party ltr.pdf](#)

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you might find this letter (re:2007 lease) interesting. especially the end of paragraph 2 where the tribe and dnr acknowledge the refuge would prefer not to have aquaculture.

-jennifer

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



July 17, 2007

**REGION FILE**

20-A13012

**OLYMPIA FILE**

**FIELD FILE**

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (Tribe), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have retained a long history of close working relationships in Dungeness Bay. One aspect of this relationship has been through the commercial production of shellfish. Since 1990, the Tribe has leased tidelands in Dungeness Bay within the boundaries of the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for commercial production of shellfish. The Tribe is at a crossroads in phasing out their oyster farm but wishes to retain the opportunity to produce other bivalves such as geoducks.

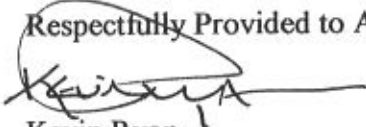
USFWS maintains a use deed from DNR for second class tidelands in the bay and manages them as part of the Refuge for wildlife and compatible recreational uses. The USFWS supports the July 2007 lease plan of operations and the study of shellfish culture techniques and their impact on wildlife species and its habitat on the Refuge and recognizes that having commercial shellfish operations in Dungeness Bay sets a high water quality standard that may also benefit wildlife. The DNR and the Tribes are aware that USFWS would prefer not to have aquaculture in the Refuge.

DNR's interests include revenue production by maintaining aquaculture leases and the protection of natural resources. All three parties seek to continue partnerships that will produce indicators of healthy, productive marine environments and improving health of waters feeding the bay. In this vein, all parties are willing to work and consult together regarding the aquaculture lease between the DNR and the Tribe.

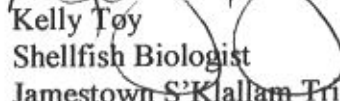
Numerous meetings, a site tour, and a workshop to discuss the special qualities of the Bay have occurred. At the workshop, DNR and the Tribe presented current nearshore aquaculture techniques for geoduck. The USFWS, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and others discussed their concerns on the impacts of geoduck culture and harvest to migratory birds, salmon and their habitat, specifically eel grass. The USFWS and Tribe agreed to study these impacts at Dungeness NWR during the next interim lease period if/when geoducks are cultered within the leased area. As a result of this consultation with USFWS and the commitment of the Tribe to continue to study shellfish productivity in the bay, a new lease and plan of operations have been developed (DNR Lease #20-A13012).

We feel that we have met the obligation to honor USFWS's consultative status in this continuation of a shellfish lease in Dungeness Bay.

Respectfully Provided to All Involved Parties,



Kevin Ryan  
Project Leader  
USFW



Kelly Toy  
Shellfish Biologist  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



Martha Hurd  
Aquatics District Manager  
DNR