

**From:** [Thomas, Sue](#)  
**To:** [Spragens, Kyle A \(DFW\)](#)  
**Cc:** [BrownScott, Jennifer](#); [Sollmann, Lorenz](#); [Merluccio, Juliana](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Clallam Brant Count Results - Jan 9, 2020 - 1,325 brant  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 9:37:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thanks for keeping us in the loop Kyle!

By the way, do you know of any peer reviewed studies that have assessed disturbance to waterfowl from recreational or commercial activities such as aquaculture on the west coast? On that note, has anyone recently analyzed data collected from different survey platforms in the same area/time (i.e. aerial/boat/ground counts)? We're particularly interested in differences between boat and ground counts if anyone has assessed that recently.

Thanks again and hope you are doing well,  
Sue

Best,  
Sue

Sue Thomas  
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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Spragens, Kyle A (DFW)** <[Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Spragens@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Jan 10, 2020 at 9:30 AM  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Clallam Brant Count Results - Jan 9, 2020 - 1,325 brant  
**To:** McMillan, Anita K (DFW) <[Anita.McMillan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Anita.McMillan@dfw.wa.gov)>, Thomas, Sue <[sue\\_thomas@fws.gov](mailto:sue_thomas@fws.gov)>  
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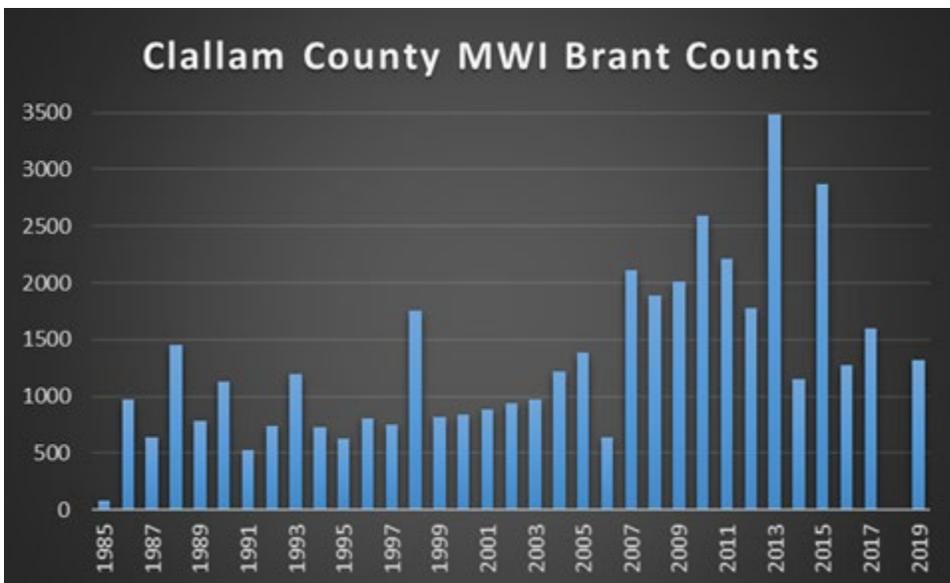
Hi all;

Well, after a very favorable weather window, the observer crew of Joe Evenson and Matt Hamer with a Kenmore craft were able to get in a count of Clallam brant!

The official direct visual count was **1,325 brant**, with approximately 500 of those birds were tucked up in the refuge spit, with the description of smaller flocks mixed in with dabbling duck flocks nearshore, but many scatter flocks further offshore feeding. The flight covered between Dungeness Bay, Sequim Bay and out to Protection Island.

That will be the number from Clallam submitted into the Pacific Flyway winter index for brant from Washington which feeds into the winter population estimate for Pacific Brant (including counts from Izembek NWR, BC, WA, OR, CA, and Mexico) that directly influences management actions; largely harvest strategy thresholds.

We are still working through means to process last year's photo inventory... but with the most recent three data points (Jan. 2017, 2018, 2020) this puts the most recent 3-year winter average at 1,400 brant in Clallam County.



Good news, indeed!

If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Kyle

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Kyle A. Spragens

Waterfowl Section Manager | Pacific Flyway Study Committee

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*Respect the resource. Enjoy the harvest.*

Waterfowl | Habitat | People = <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/waterfowl/stamp>

# Clallam County MWI Brant Counts

