

From: [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)
To: [Greg Ballard](#)
Cc: [Hansi Hals](#); [Sissi Bruch](#); [Elizabeth Tobin](#)
Subject: Re: MOU for the Jamestown Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:36:30 AM
Attachments: [Mori 2001.pdf](#)
[Owens1977.pdf](#)
[Smit and Visser 1993_reduced.pdf](#)

Greg,

In April 2021, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe requested US Fish and Wildlife Service coordination and feedback on their draft Avian Monitoring Plan. To ensure monitoring efforts resulted in statistically sound data that could be used to draw scientifically valid conclusions regarding wildlife impact, the Service recommended a BACI survey design (see email below). BACI survey methodology would require data collection prior to (i.e., baseline), during and after implementing farm activities; both on the aquaculture site and within control plots. The submitted plan does not follow the Service's recommended survey design or incorporate several of the Service's other recommendations.

The monitoring approach in Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's submitted plan was discussed during our meetings, and limitations on data analysis and interpretation were identified.

Hope you are having a wonderful week,
Jennifer

Jennifer Brown-Scott
Project Leader
Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
715 Holgerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 457-8451

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

From: BrownScott, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Sissi Bruch <sbruch@jamestowntribe.org>; Elizabeth Tobin <etobin@jamestowntribe.org>; Hansi Hals <hhals@jamestowntribe.org>
Cc: Kilbride, kilb <kevin_kilbride@fws.gov>; Loverti, Vanessa <vanessa_loverti@fws.gov>
Subject: Draft Avian Monitoring Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments/recommendations related to monitoring

impacts from commercial aquaculture operations proposed on the DNR Use Easement tidelands within the boundary of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. To reduce duplication, we have consolidated WA Maritime NWRC, Region 1 Inventory and Monitoring Program and R1 Migratory Bird Program comments/recommendations related to the JST draft avian monitoring plan below:

Given the uncertainty of disturbance outcomes, importance of the area for migrating and wintering shorebirds and waterfowl, and the high interest in understanding potential impacts, a robust sampling scheme providing data for statistical analysis would be the most appropriate monitoring/study design. During meetings with your team we discussed how the lack of baseline data and difficulty in identifying adequate replicate/control plots renders many monitoring approaches ineffectual. We continue to recommend a BACI design assessing effects (disturbance) to migratory birds at the level of the lease area itself (rather than within small sampling units) as the appropriate monitoring method to generate statistically defensible conclusions. It is our understanding from group discussion that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's intent to initiate oyster farming operations this summer, and other management constraints, have resulted in selection of a non-BACI designed monitoring plan. Although not recommended due to data analysis and interpretation limitations, we would provide the following comments/suggestions if a non-BACI design is chosen:

The monitoring approach detailed in the draft avian monitoring plan is not likely to provide data appropriate for statistical analysis or allow scientifically defensible conclusions related to shorebird and waterfowl disturbance from commercial aquaculture activities in this location. The statistical approach identified in the draft plan (ANOVA) requires independence of treatment plots, and homogeneous and normally distributed variance for control and treatment data. Given all treatment plots need to be located within a distance of farming activities where disturbance effects may occur, we are concerned there may not be the ability to create the independence required for ANOVA. Control plots would not be comparable to treatment plots given the unique, transitional nature of the lease area. Additionally, many zero data points are likely to be collected (no birds seen) due to the small size of the sampling units (approximately 150 ft in width), which would not provide a normal distribution. Given these site and study design limitations, it is unlikely that ANOVA could be used to analyze collected data.

Assessment of disturbance effects to all migratory birds in and around the lease (e.g., within flushing distance of the lease) would provide an anecdotal representation of potential effects on and adjacent to the lease are compared with focusing on focal species within small sampling units. These effects should include changes to foraging behavior (e.g., pause in feeding, gear avoidance) in addition to those listed in the monitoring plan. Consider conducting area counting of birds (shorebirds and waterfowl), where these counts would be partitioned by strata (eelgrass, mudflats, and 5-acre farmed plot) in the 50-acre lease area with a buffer based upon flight disturbance distance.

We do not recommend monitoring only target species due to the difficulty in identifying birds to species, especially at night. Targeting a limited number of species could create a zero data point, even if disturbance to birds was occurring at the site. If an approach is approved that allows only monitoring of target species, then western sandpiper and dunlin are more appropriate species than

least sandpiper.

Observation should be performed by an experienced neutral third party at frequencies adequately representing the possible impact of aquaculture activities that likely vary by season, throughout individual months, and over time. More frequent data collection is needed to better capture this variability and cumulative impacts of human disturbance. Information collection should also capture disturbance from predators (e.g., eagles) or other sources (e.g., refuge visitors). Feasibility and accuracy of performing observations at night using different approaches should be examined to determine the monitoring limitations. This is particularly important because farm operations during the most sensitive time periods will likely take place at night, due to the association with low tide cycles.

The monitoring plan should describe key assumptions associated with the sampling design, the level of accuracy and precision of the data collected, and sources of error (sampling and non-sampling) associated with the methodology for data collection. One or more sampling objectives describing the bias and precision for the survey would provide transparency regarding limitations of data interpretation and use. results mean and how they can be interpreted and used.

The attached references (Mori et al., 2001; Owens 1977; and Smit & Visser 1993) appear to provide greater maximum flushing/disturbance distances than those listed in the draft plan.

If we can provide any further assistance or clarification of our comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Jennifer Brown-Scott
Project Leader
Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
715 Holgerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 457-8451

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

From: Ballard, Greg <gballard@co.clallam.wa.us>

Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:59 PM

To: BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer_brownScott@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: MOU for the Jamestown Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Jenifer, we just received this Avian Monitoring Plan from the JST for their oyster farm.

I have attached the Reconsidered Condition 9 of the Hearing Examiner decision.

Let me know what you think & either let me know the contact for the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society or forward this to them.

I'll be off tomorrow but will be back in the office on Friday.

Thanks

Greg Ballard
Senior Planner
Clallam County Department of Community Development
223 E. 4th Street, Suite 5, Port Angeles, WA 98362
Direct Phone# (360) 565-2616 Fax# (360) 417-2443
Email: gballard@co.clallam.wa.us

From: Elizabeth Tobin <etobin@jamestowntribe.org>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Ballard, Greg <gballard@co.clallam.wa.us>
Subject: RE: MOU for the Jamestown Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm

Hi Greg,

Per our conversation today, attached is the USACE Standard Permit (see special condition h) and the referenced Avian Monitoring Plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Liz

Elizabeth Tobin
Shellfish Program Manager
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
office: 360-681-4656
cell: 360-912-2961
email: etobin@jamestowntribe.org

From: Ballard, Greg <gballard@co.clallam.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Elizabeth Tobin <etobin@jamestowntribe.org>
Subject: RE: MOU for the Jamestown Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm

Hi Elizabeth, hope you are doing well.

How about a zoom meeting on September 17th any time after 2 p.m. (works for Mary Ellen & me).

Greg Ballard

From: Elizabeth Tobin <etobin@jamestowntribe.org>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Ballard, Greg <gballard@co.clallam.wa.us>
Cc: Hansi Hals <hhals@jamestowntribe.org>
Subject: MOU for the Jamestown Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm

Hi Greg,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are doing well.

I wanted to provide an update that the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has secured all requisite state and federal permits for the Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm and has executed a finalized lease agreement with DNR which has been recorded with the Clallam County Auditor's office. The Tribe anticipates commencing farming operations this fall, 2021.

Hansi and myself would like to request a virtual meeting with you and Mary Ellen, if possible, to discuss the MOU concerning the monitoring of shorebirds and waterfowl required per condition of the Shoreline Conditional Use Permit. Both Hansi and myself are available anytime this Friday September 17th. Alternatively, Hansi is available to meet on Thursday September 16th but I would not be able to join that day.

Please let me know what day/time would work best for you and Mary Ellen to meet with us. I'd be happy to set up a virtual meeting line via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Thank you,
Liz

Elizabeth Tobin
Shellfish Program Manager
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
office: 360-681-4656
cell: 360-912-2961
email: etobin@jamestowntribe.org