

From: [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)
To: [Ogura, Christine](#); [Stenvall, Charlie](#)
Cc: [Hubbard, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture
Date: Friday, June 10, 2022 3:07:40 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-oarnzk4g.png](#)

I don't know.

-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~Copolis NWR~Flattery Rocks NWR~Quillayute Needles NWR~~](#)

From: Ogura, Christine <christine_ogura@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Stenvall, Charlie <charlie_stenvall@fws.gov>; BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer_brownScott@fws.gov>
Cc: Hubbard, Kim <kim_hubbard@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture

FYI below from Hugh. Do we know what the trigger might be?

Thanks and please take care,
Christine

Christine Ogura
Acting Regional Chief, [National Wildlife Refuge System](#)
[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
[Pacific Region 1](#) (*American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Washington*)
911 NE 11th Avenue, 4E
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-231-6214
Cell: 503-913-8027
Email: christine_ogura@fws.gov



[A Beginner's Guide to the National Wildlife Refuge System](#)
[Why Visit National Wildlife Refuges?](#)

From: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Ogura, Christine <christine_ogura@fws.gov>
Cc: Seto, Nanette <nanette_seto@fws.gov>; Lawrence, Brent A <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>; Johnston, Chanelle M <chanelle_johnston@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture

Christine,

I hadn't looked in my "junk mail" box this week and when I did I found appears to be about 2000 emails like the below. We saw the early end of this letter campaign, but it clearly started in earnest on Monday and is still rolling. Working with Brent on how to appropriately handle these.

Thanks,

Hugh

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Interior Regions 9 & 12
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)

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.

From: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Lawrence, Brent A <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>
Cc: Johnston, Chanelle M <chanelle_johnston@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from Commercial Shellfish

Aquaculture

Brent,

This is an example of the message I am receiving en masse.

Hugh

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Interior Regions 9 & 12
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)

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.

From: jleitzell@everyactioncustom.com <jleitzell@everyactioncustom.com> on behalf of Gerald Leitzell <jleitzell@everyactioncustom.com>

Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:22 PM

To: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge from Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture

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

Dear Interim Regional Director Hugh Morrison,

I am writing to ask that your agency reinstate your opposition to establish oyster farming in Dungeness Bay.

In spite of demonstrated harm to birds, salmon, forage fish, and shellfish, and a recommendation by the National Marine Fisheries Service that “an alternative site be identified in a location that results in less potential impacts to wildlife that is more appropriate for aquaculture and meets the goals of the tribe,” permitting agencies approved a lease for an industrial oyster farm inside the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. This decision, which is in violation of the Clean Water Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, must be reversed.

The Dungeness Bay Wildlife Refuge was created by Executive Order in 1915 by Woodrow Wilson, directing the area to be set aside as a “refuge, preserve and breeding ground for native birds and prohibits any disturbance of the birds within the reserve.” The front page of the Refuge website

states: "Pets, bicycles, kite flying, Frisbees, ball-playing, camping, and fires are not permitted on the Refuge as they are a disturbance for the many migrating birds and other wildlife taking solitude on the Refuge." With this level of concern, it is counterintuitive to allow destructive industrial aquaculture.

Among the negative impacts of this project, as predicted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are: 50% reduction in bird primary feeding grounds; toxic plastic oyster bags that exclude the probing shorebird flocks from feeding deeply into the substrate, entrap fish and birds, add macro- and micro-plastic bits to the sediment throughout the refuge, and shift the benthic community composition; diminish the ecological benefits provided by eelgrass to threatened fish and birds, such as nourishment and cover from predators; and increased algal blooms that will leave a graveyard of dead oysters. These detrimental effects to the Dungeness Bay National Refuge are NOT minimal. Decision makers should not place financial benefits to the corporation above the long term and cumulative impacts to the refuge.

Your mission is to protect refuges. Please reinstate USFWS opposition to the lease and prevent damage to the wildlife refuge and the harm that would come to the wildlife that depend on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gerald Leitzell
212 N Main St Elizabethtown, KY 42701-1458
jleitzell@yahoo.com