

From: Jaisri.Lingappa
To: Robyn_Thorson@fws.gov
Subject: Please do not allow oyster farming on Dungeness Spit
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 10:43:19 AM

Robyn Thorson, Regional Director
Regional Director's Office-R1
USFWS Pacific Region
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR. 97232-4181

Dear Ms. Thorson,

I was shocked to hear that there are plans to permit commercial oyster farming at the Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge in Washington State. This project involves the use of thousands of plastic bags in the water and will have a major impact on food for wildlife including birds. Multiple agencies have agreed that significant harm will be done to the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, but nevertheless stepped aside to allow this project to proceed.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is mandated to protect our natural resources, not commercialize them for short term corporate gain. Our tax dollars support your agency and are meant to maintain these lands for wildlife protection, not wildlife destruction.

The effects of this project are well known - to name just a few: eelgrass will be diminished, a 50% reduction in bird feeding grounds is projected, oyster bags will entrap fish and birds and limit their feeding, and more micro and macro plastic will be added throughout the refuge.

These detrimental effects will cause significant harm. You must not allow degradation of a treasured and critical wildlife refuge to occur. As a long term resident of Washington State who is gravely concerned with the destruction of our natural environment, I urge you to rescind the leases!

Please confirm the receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Jaisri Lingappa

Resident of Port Townsend, WA