

From: [Foerster, Kevin](#)
To: [Lawrence, Brent A](#); [Holm, Jason](#)
Cc: [Ogura, Christine](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information
Date: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 1:04:19 PM

the second sentence is off - How about something like the following

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently assessing the need for a compatibility determination for access to closed portions of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge by the Tribe for the aquaculture project. The Service must determine if a proposed use is compatible with the purposes of the refuge. If developed, a written compatibility determination has a minimum 14 day public review period.

Washington DNR, the Army Corps of Engineers and Clallam County are the agencies responsible for the permits and leases issued for the project. We defer any comment on the processes and monitoring requirements to those agencies. The Service will continue to work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and other agencies on the request.

The Service always has interest regarding potential impacts to plants and wildlife on the refuge.

Kevin Foerster

Regional Chief, Interior Regions 9 and 12

(Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Western Montana, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and remote territories)

National Wildlife Refuge System

971-202-6722 (telework cell)

From: Lawrence, Brent A <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Holm, Jason <Jason_Holm@fws.gov>; Foerster, Kevin <kevin_foerster@fws.gov>
Cc: Ogura, Christine <christine_ogura@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Jason and Kevin -- Here's the statement that I have from Jennifer BrownScott at the refuge. She wrote it, I made some edits to clarify and she has approved it. The reporter said a written answer is fine and his deadline is COB Friday. (The final line may seem a bit out of place, but it is a specific response to the reporter asking if we have concerns about the plants and wildlife.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently assessing the need for a compatibility determination for access to closed portions of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge by the Tribe for the aquaculture project. A compatibility determination may be issued when a refuge must determine if a use aligns with the purposes of the refuge. If issued, there would be a public comment period.

Washington DNR, the Army Corps of Engineers and Clallam County are the agencies responsible for the permits and leases issued for the project. We defer any comment on the processes and monitoring requirements to those agencies. The Service will continue to work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and other agencies on the request.

The Service always has interest regarding potential impacts to plants and wildlife on the refuge.

Brent

--

Brent Lawrence

Public Affairs Officer

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From: Holm, Jason <Jason_Holm@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 2:57 PM

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

Cc: Foerster, Kevin <kevin_foerster@fws.gov>; Lawrence, Brent A <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>; Ogura, Christine <christine_ogura@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Hi Jennifer,

Cc'd a few folks, to save time. Short answer, I will approve us answering this locally, but we need to see your proposed answers first. Paper seems to allow receiving them in writing rather than an interview (which is a good thing), so can you please tell me how you would answer these questions. Kevin/Christine, your decision point is if you want the answers to come from Jennifer or your level...let me know.

Thanks,

Jason

Jason Holm

Assistant Regional Director--External Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Columbia Pacific Northwest & Pacific Island Regions

(503) 231-2264

From: BrownScott, Jennifer <jennifer_brownScott@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Holm, Jason <Jason_Holm@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

Is there someone in external affairs I should work with to respond to the media request received from Sequim Gazette re: Aquaculture? The email is below, but the main questions are summarized as follows:

- The Tribe received their permits in August, have they started the project?
- Is the Service completing a compatibility determination?
- Is it correct that they can move forward, since they have their permits?
- Who provides oversight and environmental safeguards for the project? How often is monitoring completed?
- Do Refuge officials or staff still have concerns about the project's impacts to the Refuge's eelgrass, birds and other wildlife?

I have also sent this media request to Kevin Foerster.

-jennifer

From: Michael Dashiell <mdashiell@sequimgazette.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Dietz, Kirk P <kirk_dietz@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dungeness Refuge aquaculture information

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Thanks for your help, Kirk.

Part of these questions is to clarify a letter and part for a general story to give folks an update on the project:

According to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the tribe's aquaculture project received (I believe) the last of its permits needed in August, from DNR in early August, and had planned to start the projects in October. Is the project now underway?

(<https://jamestowntribe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/September-2021-Tribal-Newsletter.pdf>)

We've received some letters of concern from local environmentalists about the project. One letter writer said "Refuge staff are currently conducting a determination of compatibility to decide if the aquaculture use is compatible with Refuge goals." However it's my understanding

that with permitting in place, the tribe can move forward with the project. Can you help clarify?

In terms of oversight/environmental safeguards about the project, who/what entity provides that? How and how often does that entity monitor the project?

Lastly, do Refuge officials or staff still have concerns about the project's impacts to the Refuge's eelgrass, birds and other wildlife?

Thanks,

Mike

Michael Dashiell

Editor

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