

Note to Reviewers
DCN: BP036328

This is a briefing paper to the Principal Deputy Director describing the background of commercial oyster farming at Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and interest by the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Tribe) to expand operations year-round. The refuge is currently closed for this commercial operation from October 1 to May 14 to allow for use by tens of thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Letters from Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Chair, dated October 1, 2021, expressed concern over the Service conclusion that a compatibility determination for access is required. They request the Tribe be allowed to initiate farming operations starting October 15, 2021.

Environmental non-profit organizations have indicated they will seek a legal remedy if the Tribe is allowed access to the area during the closed season.

A meeting will be held with the Tribal Chair to address concerns raised in their letters and identify a way forward that can meet the Tribe’s interest and in line with refuge purposes.

The incoming letters from the Tribe as well as the draft response from FWS are included in this package.

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