

**From:** [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Stenvall, Charlie](#)  
**Subject:** JST Aquaculture Update: Gear Management Plan  
**Date:** Friday, September 6, 2019 12:05:39 PM

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Just discussed the following with Hansi Hals (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resource Manager) re: Gear Management Plan for commercial aquaculture on Dungeness NWR tidelands:

- Thanked Hansi for asking us to be involved in the gear management discussion and let her know that we are very interested in working with them as they create a plan.
- To reduce the potential for misunderstanding regarding our role in the process (as occurred previously), ensure that we have all the pertinent information necessary to make informed suggestions, and get a better understanding of the overall process, we asked that the discussion occur with the Federal lead (ACE) present.

Hansi questioned my request for a meeting with ACE and provided the following information:

- The Gear Management Plan would be developed as part of their Section 7 consultation
- None of the Alternatives have yet been selected by ACE to move forward to Section 7 consultation
- Consultation would begin only on the selected alternative after alternatives analysis is complete
- If the alternative that this plan is based on is not selected, the plan would not be used.

Hansi said that she would characterize our discussion as, "US Fish and Wildlife is "withholding" comments related to their plan". I clearly stated that we are not withholding comments and are available to meet with the Tribe and ACE to discuss this Gear Management Plan now (if a meeting can be scheduled), or after an alternative has been selected (if that made more sense in the overall process).

Since Section 7 consultation would not begin until after an alternative is selected, waiting until that time to discuss a Gear Management Plan (if ACE decides that it is premature to have these discussions now) should not slow down the process . Waiting until an alternative is clearly identified should actually increase efficiency and effectiveness of conversations and reduce the potential for discussing a plan that will be altered or potentially not used.

If you need any additional information/clarification related to this discussion please do not hesitate to give me a call.

-jennifer

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Jennifer Brown-Scott  
Refuge Manager  
Washington Maritime NWRC  
715 Holgerson Rd  
Sequim, WA 98382  
office: (360) 457-8451 ext.22  
fax: (360) 457-9778

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