

## Dungeness Refuge Now



## Dungeness Refuge After



Representation as presented in Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe April 3, 2018 Power Point

### THE DUNGENESS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FACES DAMAGE

**Sequim's Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge is a preserve and breeding ground for more than 250 species of birds and 41 species of land animals. Its dense eelgrass beds attract Black Brant, shorebirds feed on the mudflats, and ducks find sanctuary.**

**This special place will soon be lost if a commercial 50-acre oyster operation by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is implemented.**

There is no reason to destroy a national wildlife refuge. The Tribe already grows shellfish at four other sites and should withdraw its Dungeness Refuge application. While we respect the Tribe's many good examples of caring for our watershed, we question and contest, on sound science, a 50-acre industrial oyster operation for private financial gain in the nation's Dungeness Refuge. It is incompatible with the Refuge mission.

We are not alone in expressing our concern. The U.S. Corps of Engineers predicted harm to the Refuge birds, salmon, forage fish and other wildlife. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the USEPA recommended that "an alternative site be identified in a location that results in less potential impacts to wildlife."

#### Here are specific issues:

• **Plastic:** The Tribe plans to introduce 80,000 toxic, on-bottom plastic bags in the birds' primary feeding area. The bags will smother the marine-sediment life and can entangle animals.

Wave action can break the plastic into small particles which can be ingested by the wildlife. The plastic creates a poison pill for wildlife.

• **Climate Change:** Heat waves have resulted in thousands of dead oysters in industrial shellfish operations. As the climate continues to warm, and for longer periods, such losses will ruin the Dungeness Refuge.

• **Eelgrass:** Studies find a negative correlation between shellfish aquaculture and eelgrass density and extent. Continuous "farming" makes eelgrass recovery impossible.

• **Nutrients:** Industrially-grown shellfish consume nutrients relied on by wild species, while depositing waste in the seabed and changing the physiology of the environment.

• **Public Values:** Instead of beautiful sand and a primary mud bay nourishing birds, the public will see acres of plastic, and potentially trapped salmon and birds.

In sum, industrial shellfish aquaculture changes can degrade aquatic ecosystems, the feeding grounds of birds and other wildlife, and the quality of our experience of being able to appreciate a natural Dungeness Refuge.

For more information, please go to:  
[www.protectpeninsulafuture.org/category/marine/shellfish/](http://www.protectpeninsulafuture.org/category/marine/shellfish/)  
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