



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Washington State Habitat Office
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103
Lacey, WA 98503

RECEIVED

July 10, 2012

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DEPT OF ECOLOGY
BELLINGHAM FIELD OFFICE

Ann Wessel
Washington State Department of Ecology
1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Ms. Wessel:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is pleased to support the proposed water management rule for the Dungeness River by the Washington Department of Ecology. Undertaken with the assistance of a number of partners, including state agencies, Tribes, local government and water-users, the new rule will establish regulatory minimum instream flows for the Dungeness and nearby streams that support recovery of federally-listed species while providing for current and future water needs of local water users.

We believe this is a good example of a coordinated approach to a difficult issue. Congratulations on completing the proposed rule. We look forward to continued collaboration on this and other water management activities around the state.

The NMFS staff for Dungeness water discussions is Randy.Mcintosh@noaa.gov, 360-534-9309.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Lino
Washington State Director
for Habitat Conservation

