

**Jefferson County
Parks & Recreation District No.2**
PO Box 643
Brinnon, WA. 98320
www.brinnonparksandrec.org

March 11, 2015

State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attention: Mr. Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Reference: Letter to Alan Ostenson, August 25, 2014 from Tami Lininger

Dear Mr. Burley:

The purpose of this letter is three fold:

- To establish myself (George Sickel) as the primary contact to the Jefferson County Parks & Recreation District No. 2;
- To respond to your request for comments on a proposal to open fishing for flatfish in Quilcene and Dabob bays;
- To transmit 141 pages of signed petitions referenced in the letter sent to Alan Ostenson from Tami Lininger.

Alan Ostenson passed away on September 29th, 2014 and the Commissioners of Jefferson County Parks & Recreation District No. 2 (Brinnon Parks and Recreation District) have assigned me as the focal to work with the State of Washington, Department of Fish and Wildlife on our request to open bottom fishing in Northern Hood Canal. I have reviewed the following; all known correspondence between your organization and Alan which occurred before September 29th, the agenda and meeting minutes of the Fish and Wildlife Commission Conference Call on October 17, 2014 as well as the summary sheet you provided for the meeting and the audio recording of the 30 minute discussion proposed bottom fishing change in Quilcene and Dabob Bay. My compliments to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission for making all this information available on the web. It sure made my job a lot easier in coming up to speed on our initial request for your consideration.

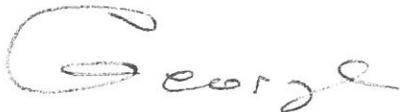
As it relates to your request for comments to open fishing for flatfish in Quilcene and Dabob bays, I would submit that as Commissioner Wecker commented at your October meeting, only opening Quilcene and Dabob bays to just flatfish would have little or no impact on the additional license sales or saltwater endorsements. As a current resident and active sport fisherman, the time and effort for your staff to study, plan, and draft the rules for adoption by the Commission is not worth the effort to add these limited selected species to an already

complex set of Washington State Sport Fishing Rules. As we used to say at Boeing, this is "mouse milking" – A task requiring a great deal of effort resulting in very little return. I would submit that a much more productive use of your staffs' time would be to look at the bigger picture for all North Hood Canal regarding for the possibility of limited bottom fishing rule changes. Changes of this sort would effect a much larger population of residents and visitors to both Jefferson and Kitsap Counties.

Please find attached 141 pages of signed petitions. These signatures were collect in the Brinnon and Quilcene communities between July and October of 2014. I did not count the number of signatures on these petitions, but I would guess they amount to well over 1000. You will note that many of the signatures are from out of town visitors or part time residents that were here for our summer crabbing season and would have liked to have been able to fish for bottom fish during their visit. These are the people that may well have added a saltwater endorsement to their shellfish/seaweed and crab only license.

In addition, I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss in more detail our Park and Recreation Districts goals in addressing our desire to open some limited bottom fishing in North Hood Canal. This would enable us to be more responsive to additional input you might require and coordinate with local resources that could aid in data gathering requirements.

On behalf of the Brinnon Park and Recreation District, I would like to personally thank you for your time in reviewing this information and I look forward to hearing from you in the next several months.



George Sickel
Jefferson County Parks & Recreation District No. 2
Bottom Fishing Representative

Cosigned By:



Bud Schindler, Chair
Jefferson County Parks & Recreation District No. 2

cc: Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant
Fish and Wildlife Commission
Jim Unsworth, Director
Jim Scott, Assistant Director, Fish Program