



*"Promoting Birding and Conservation as Community Educators,
Volunteers, and Stewards"*

P.O Box 502 Sequim, WA 98382

January 10, 2018

Hilary Franz
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands
MS 47001, Olympia, WA 98504-7001
Email: cpl@dnr.wa.gov

Regarding: Support for DNR decisions

Dear Commissioner Franz,

As the representative of over 350 Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) members in Clallam County, I express my thanks and appreciation to you for two of your recent decisions made to benefit the citizens of our great State.

First, on 17 December 2017, you announced that your department was terminating Cooke Aquaculture Pacific's Port Angeles Atlantic salmon net pen lease. Your department's findings and analysis of Cooke's obvious violations of their lease agreement more than justifies the termination. OPAS applauds that decision and we are in hopes that the current statewide moratorium will lead to a permanent ban on new net pen leasing for Atlantic salmon rearing in our State waters. Please see the attached resolution that we drafted and attained unanimous support of Audubon Chapters in Washington during the Audubon meeting you spoke to last October.

Second, on 22 December 2017, you sent a letter to Secretary Zinke opposing the national park entrance fee increases proposed by his Department. We support your keen rationale and analysis of why we should be in opposition to this unwarranted increase that will have economic consequences to our State and our north Olympic Peninsula. OPAS also communicated directly to Secretary Zinke our opposition to the proposed increases by signing onto a letter from multiple other local, state and national conservation organizations.

In addition, we take this opportunity to affirm our support for your formation of a Solutions Table to bring stakeholders together to formulate and propose ways to aid in the long-term recovery of the Marbled Murrelet. As you know, Audubon has been an advocate of a strong, science-based Marbled Murrelet conservation strategy and we are in hopes that you and your department will continue to make progress toward this goal. Your statement that "environments and economies, wildlife and people, belong side by side, thriving together" is

spot-on, and refreshing to hear from our Commissioner of Public Lands. You recently received a copy of our letter to Senator Van De Wege and Representative Chapman supporting your approach to setting policy toward the goal of sustaining the revenues to rural counties and junior taxing districts without the sole reliance on timber harvest revenue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Phreaner".

Robert Phreaner
President

Attachment: Resolution to Cease Permitting Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture In
Washington's Marine Waters