



March 30, 2018

Kelly Susewind
Special Assistant – Water Policy
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Comments on the Water Quality Assessment: Draft Policy 1-11 Update

Dear Mr. Susewind:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment on the proposed draft 1-11 Policy. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe provided detailed comments during the pre-public comment period. The revised draft Policy 1-11 issued just prior to the public comment period, addresses a few of the Tribe's concerns but major issues remain. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with Ecology to address our concerns and ask that Policy 1-11 continue to be revised to protect and promote clean water.

The Primary purpose of Policy 1-11 is to ensure that we correctly identify and list all Washington waters that do not meet the Clean Water Act. The proposed changes compromise this fundamental activity by increasing the proof of burden to demonstrate impairment and changing definitions to provide loopholes. Increasing the required sample exceedances at a time when monitoring capacity is especially diminished is counterproductive and may abet worsened conditions before listing actually happens. The Tribes and Washington State share a common goal of life-sustaining clean water across the State. Washington State is required to meet the provisions of the Clean Water Act to preserve beneficial uses of water, including fishing and Policy 1-11 is integral to that responsibility. Ecology's Policy 1-11 should be directed towards accountability and attainment of water quality standards, not an allowance for impaired bodies to remain at status quo or to get substantially worse.

Please refer to the Jamestown Tribe's comment letter dated November 27, 2017 for details as well as the NWIFC comment letters.

Sincerely,

Hansi Hals
Natural Resources Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe