



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

***2023/2024 COHO AND CHUM
COMMERCIAL NET FISHING REGULATIONS
OF
THE SQUAXIN ISLAND INDIAN TRIBE
ANNUAL REGULATION NO. 23-02***

PREFACE

This regulation governing the treaty fishing activities of the Squaxin Island Tribe, herein referred to as the Tribe, in all usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations, is issued pursuant to the Fishing Ordinance of the Squaxin Island Indian Tribe.

This regulation supersedes all previous anadromous regulations issued by the Tribe promulgated for regulation of the 2023/2024 Coho and Chum fishery.

The said regulation becomes effective September 10, 2023.

The following sections and subsections from the **2023 Annual Commercial Net Fishing Regulations of the Squaxin Island Tribe with 2023 Fall Chinook Net Fishing Regulations (AR-23-01)** shall apply for the purpose of this regulation:

SECTION I	Emergency Regulations
SECTION II	Ceremonial/Subsistence/Test Fisheries
SECTION III	Responsibilities of Tribal Fishers
SECTION IV	All Marine Fishing Area Legal Descriptions

SECTION V: 2023/2024 Coho and Chum Commercial Net Fishing Regulations

A. General Information

1. The Tribe reserves the right to modify the Annual Regulations by issuance of Emergency Regulations, whenever biological evidence supports the need for such modification.
2. Emergency Regulations become effective twenty-four (24) hours after filing with the U.S. District Court approved Western Union TWX System and acknowledged receipt by Washington Department of Fisheries.
3. The **Official Emergency Regulations** will be posted at the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department Office. These posted official Emergency Regulations will contain all modifications from the Annual regulations that will occur in the described fishery opening. Any detail (such as a specific open or closed area) not reported in the official Emergency Regulations will fall under the jurisdiction of the Annual Regulations, where full descriptions of fishery openings are presented.
4. A **SUMMARY of Emergency Regulations** will be provided on a twenty-four (24) hour “Hotline” by calling **360-432-3899** and available on the **Squaxin Island Tribe website at: www.squaxinland.org**. This summary of Emergency Regulations provided on the “Hotline” or the website is designed as a convenience to the fishers and will therefore not always contain the entire text of the official Emergency Regulation. **AT NO TIME** will the “Hotline” or “Website” summary of **Emergency Regulations, supersede the official posted Emergency Regulations or the Annual Regulations**. It is the fishers’ responsibility to be informed of the official Emergency Regulations content, which are posted at the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department. Tribal Fisheries Manager assumes no responsibility for infractions incurred by fishers relying solely upon the “Hotline” or “Website” summary of Emergency Regulations for fishing during the season.
5. Approximate Fishery Dates Unless Otherwise Stated: **September 10th, 2023 through October 31st, 2023 for Coho and November 1st, 2023 through January 31st, 2024 for Chum.**
6. **General Area Restriction:** No gillnet shall extend more than 1/3 way across any boat channel, inlet, and cove or creek mouth.
7. **Cove Definition:** Any saltwater embayment which has a freshwater source.
8. **Identification of Catch Areas:** It shall be the responsibility of Tribal fishers to insure that the proper catch area with designated Squaxin Island sub-areas is recorded in the buyer’s fish ticket. See enclosed maps at the end of this regulation.
9. **Test Fisheries:** Test fisheries may be conducted for the entire season by specific fishers selected preseason by the Fisheries Manager. Criteria for selection of fishers to perform test fisheries in specific areas will be based upon the gear type possessed by the fisher and the submittal of the lowest bid by the fisher to perform the season’s test fisheries. Alternates will be selected to perform test fisheries in the event that the primary test fishers selected cannot participate.
10. **All nets must be set a minimum of one legal net length away from another unless agreed to by both parties.**
11. **Beach seines: must release all cutthroat trout captured unharmed in all fisheries.** Cutthroat populations in local streams are currently at very low levels. Conservation measures directed towards incidental catches in Tribal coho fisheries and local recreational fisheries are necessary to allow Area 13D-K cutthroat stocks to rebuild.

12. **Beach seines:** **Although release of wild (natural origin) coho is not a current fisheries restriction, please consider releasing all natural origin coho (see photo below for clarification.)**

Natural populations of coho in local streams appear to be at very low levels. This practice of selective fishing, where the release of incidental catches of wild coho in the Tribal fisheries and local recreational fisheries, is a conservation measure to potentially allow Area 13D-K coho stocks to begin to rebuild.

Wild (Natural Origin, Unmarked)/Hatchery Salmon Identification



- **Hatchery coho:** Adipose fin has been clipped - leaving a healed scar in its place.
- **Natural Origin/Unmarked coho:** Intact adipose fin

SECTION VI: Area, Species, Season and Weekly Opening Descriptions

A. DANA PASSAGE - 13D-Dana (13D-1)

1. Species.....Coho/chum
2. Season.....September 10-December 31
3. Weekly Openings.....will be set by emergency regulation.

a. Set Nets

1. Maximum length 300 feet
2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches

- b. Drift nets
 - 1. Maximum length 900 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
- c. Beach Seines
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

B. PEALE PASSAGE - 13D-3 (On Reservation)

- 1. Species.....Coho/chum
- 2. Season.....September 10-December 31
- 3. Weekly Openings...will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Set nets
 - 1. Maximum length 300 feet coho season/600 feet chum season, November 2023
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Drift nets
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - c. Beach seines
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum
- 4. **Comments: Closed for set nets; refer to zone map identifying the above areas**
 - a. **CLOSED AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL SET NET FISHING:**
Hartstene Oyster Company/Hartstene Island: Areas H1, H2, and H3
 - b. No set nets may be attached to any part of the Tribal net-pen complexes situated in Peale Passage. This restriction includes any floats, barges and anchor lines associated with the Tribal delayed release coho and aquaculture programs.

C. PICKERING PASSAGE - 13D-Pickering (On Reservation) (13D-2)

- 1. Species.....Coho/chum
- 2. Season.....September 10-December 31
- 3. Weekly Openings...will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Set nets
 - 1. Maximum length 300 feet coho season/600 feet chum season, November 2023
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Drift nets
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - c. Beach seines
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum
- 4. **Comments:**
 - a. Set nets on reservation 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. have priority to fish over beach seines.
 - b. The On-Reservation drift net fishery will be to target chum salmon destined for adjacent inlets. The 13D On-Reservation drift net fishery will be managed according to escapement requirements of the chum stocks intercepted.

- c. All fish caught in area 13D-Pickering within ½ mile of Squaxin Island shall be reported on Treaty Fish Receiving Tickets as On-Reservation.

D. PICKERING PASSAGE - 13D-2 (Off Reservation)

1. Species.....Coho/chum
2. Season.....September 10-December 31
3. Weekly openings.... will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Set nets
 1. Maximum length 300 feet coho season/600 feet chum season, November 2023
 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Drift nets
 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - c. Beach seines
 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

E. SOUTHERN CASE INLET - 13D-4

1. Species.....Coho
2. Season.....September 10-October 12
3. Weekly Openings... will be set by emergency regulations.
 - a. Set nets
 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Drift nets
 1. Maximum length 900 feet
 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - c. Beach seines
 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum
4. Comments: All waters of 13D south and east of a line extending from Johnson Point light to Devils head light are closed unless otherwise stated.

F. HENDERSON INLET - 13E

1. Species.....Coho/chum
2. Season.....September 10-December 31
3. Weekly Openings.....**CLOSED**

G. BUDD INLET - 13F

1. Species.....Coho
2. Season.....September 10-November 6
3. Weekly Openings.....will be set by emergency regulations.
 - a. Set or Drift nets
 1. Maximum length 600 feet Set nets/900 feet Drift nets
 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches

- b. Beach seines
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Allowable stretch 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum
- 4. **Comments:** All waters south of a line running true east to west from **Squaxin Point** (formerly known as Priest Point) to the opposite shore are closed.

H. ELD INLET - 13G

- 1. Species.....Chum
- 2. Season.....November 7-December 25
- 3. Weekly Openings....will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Set or Drift nets: In those waters north of a line extending northeast from J.M. Peters dock to the point on the opposite shore and south of a line extending southeast from Flapjack Point to the northernmost point of land at the entrance to Green Cove:
 - 1. Maximum length 300 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Set or Drift nets: In those waters north of the aforementioned Flapjack Point Green Cove boundary to the northern 13G boundary:
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
- 4. **Comments:**
 - a. Nets may not be set over private oyster beds.
 - b. All waters south of a line extending northeast from J.M. Peters dock to the point of land on the opposite shore are closed.

I. TOTTEN INLET - 13H

- 1. Species.....Chum
- 2. Season.....October 13-January 31
- 3. Weekly Openings.....will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Drift nets
 - 1. Maximum length 900 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Set Nets Only
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
- 4. **Comments:** All waters of Totten Inlet southwest of a line running northwest from the northern tip of Burns Point through the double pilings north of the Olympia Oyster Co. to the shore are closed (Kennedy Creek closure).

J. SKOOKUM INLET - 13I

- 1. Species.....Chum
- 2. Season.....November 7-January 31
- 3. Weekly Openings..... will be set by emergency regulations
 - a. Set nets
 - 1. Maximum length 100 feet
 - 2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches
 - b. Beach seines
 - 1. Maximum length 600 feet
 - 2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

4. **Comments:**

- a. Specific open and closed areas announced by emergency regulations.
- b. Nets cannot be joined.

K. HAMMERSLEY INLET - 13J

1. Species.....Coho/Chum
2. Season.....September 10-December 31
3. Weekly Openings.....will be set by emergency regulations

a. Set or Drift nets

1. Maximum length 300 feet
2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches

b. Beach seines

1. Maximum length 600 feet
2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

4. **Comments:**

- a. Those waters of Hammersley Inlet southeast of a line drawn north from Skookum Point to the opposite shore and west of a line drawn south from Libby Point to the opposite shore will be closed to protect coho salmon destined for Mill Creek (Mill Creek closure).
- b. Those waters west of a line projected north to south between the radio tower and Eagle Point are closed (Goldsborough Creek closure).
- c. Those waters within a 100 yard radius of the mouth of Johns Creek (defined by the last house on the southwestern most side of the creek) are closed (Johns Creek closure).
- d. Those waters northeast of a line drawn from the new Lake Limerick Road southeast to the opposite shore are closed (Cranberry - Deer Creek closure).

L. NORTHERN CASE INLET - 13K

1. Species.....Coho/chum
2. Season.....September 10-December 31
3. Weekly Openings..... will be set by emergency regulations

a. Set or Drift nets

1. Maximum length 600 feet
2. Minimum stretch mesh 5 inches

b. Beach seines

1. Maximum length 600 feet
2. Allowable stretch mesh 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

4. **Comments:**

- a. All waters west of a line running north to south from the northernmost portion of the concrete bulkhead fronting the Allyn Inn to the big rock on the easternmost shoreline on the point of land directly east of the Sherwood Creek mouth are closed to all fishing (Sherwood Creek closure).
- b. All waters north of the transmission tower line are closed to all fishing (Coulter Creek closure).
- c. All waters of Case Inlet east of a line drawn southeast from Rocky Point to the southernmost base of the spit in front of Vaughn Bay are closed to all fishing (Rocky Bay-Vaughn Bay closure).

M. Nisqually Reach - 13-1, 13-2, Sequalitchew ,Marine Pass & Areas 10, 10A, 11&11A

1. Species.....Coho/chum
2. Season.....CLOSED
3. **Comments: At this time, the Squaxin Island Tribe anticipates no commercial fisheries in Marine Areas of the Nisqually Reach 13-1, 13-2, Sequalitchew, Marine Pass & 10, 10A, 11 or 11A. However, if interceptory fisheries occur in these areas beyond those agreed upon informally or in allocation agreements, the Squaxin Island Tribe is prepared to open fisheries in these areas.**

SECTION VII: 2023 Medicine Creek Treaty In-Common Area Coho and Chum Regulations

The waters of Carr Inlet (13A), Chambers Bay (13C), and Fox Island (13) are co-managed under joint Medicine Creek Treaty Council regulations and are thus dependent upon agreement by the Squaxin, Nisqually and Puyallup Tribes. Below are a summary of the preseason final draft regulations for Coho and Chum seasons, but may be subject to change. All involved Tribes must ratify any fisheries or modifications of the fisheries in these in-common areas. Medicine Creek Treaty In-Common Area openings will be announced by emergency regulation. Medicine Creek in-common area fisheries will be open by in season emergency regulation.

CARR INLET(Carr Inlet, Area 13A):

Coho **September 17-October 28, 2023**

Chum **October 29-December 2, 2023**

Carr Inlet Weekly fishing schedule:

Coho

Beginning: 12:00 noon, Sunday, September 17, 2023.

All gears: **OPEN 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.**

Ending: 12:00 noon, Saturday, October 28, 2023.

Minter Bay will be open to beach seines, dip nets, cast nets, and hook-and-line gear types during daylight hours only, 3 days per week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Fishers are encouraged to release any unmarked Coho encountered in Minter Bay.

Burley Lagoon may open on, or after Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 12:00 noon for harvest of coho milling in the area. Any openings of Burley Lagoon will be of limited duration and structured to facilitate sampling. Any beach seine opening in the Burley Lagoon area will be a daylight hours selective coho fishery only. Beach seines fishing the Burley Lagoon area are required to release Chinook, chum and all non-adipose-clipped coho. The Lay Inlet closure will remain in effect throughout coho management.

Harvest will be regulated in-season with hatchery escapement needs prevailing.

Normal chum

Beginning: 12:00 noon, Sunday, October 29, 2023.

All gears: **OPEN 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, through Saturday, November 18, 2023, then Beach seines and shore-anchored Set nets only: after Saturday, November 18, 2023.**

Ending: 12:00 noon, Saturday, December 2, 2023, unless otherwise agreed.

Minter Bay will be open to beach seines, dip nets, cast nets, and hook-and-line gear types during daylight hours only, 7 days per week. Fishers are encouraged to release any unmarked Coho encountered in Minter Bay.

Glen Cove, Burley Lagoon, and Lay Inlet will be closed during the chum management period to protect native chum spawning locally.

Harvest will be regulated with hatchery escapement needs prevailing.

Gear types:

Marine drift gill nets - 1,800' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Each drift gill net shall be buoyed at the outer end with a buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. No drift gill net shall be left unattended.

Marine set gill nets - 900' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size.

Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored. No set net may extend more than 100' directly offshore (east) of the outermost oyster stakes at the mouth of Minter Bay.

Beach seines - 900' maximum length, with 3" minimum and 4" maximum mesh size.

Dip nets

Cast nets

Hook-and-line

Any gear not listed above is illegal.

FOX ISLAND PENS FISHING AREA (Fox Island, Area 13):

Coho **September 15-October 20, 2023**

Normal/late chum Closed unless agreed to be opened by MCTT

Fox Island Weekly fishing schedule:

Coho

All gears: OPEN 7 days/week, 24 hrs/day, beginning at 12:00 noon, Friday, September 15, 2023.

CLOSED as of 12:00 noon, Friday, October 20, 2023 to protect naturally spawning chum in deep South Puget Sound (Areas 13A-K)

Normal/late chum

CLOSED unless opened by Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes' agreement.

Gear types:

Marine drift gill nets - 1,800' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Each drift gill net shall be buoyed at the outer end with a buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and tribal name. No drift gill net shall be left unattended.

Marine set gill nets - 900' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and tribal name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored.

Beach seines - 900' maximum length, with a 3" minimum and a 4" maximum mesh size

Any gear not listed above is illegal.

CHAMBER'S BAY FISHING AREA (Chamber's Bay, Area 13C):

Coho **October 15-November 4, 2023**
Normal chum **November 5-December 2**
Late chum **CLOSED** for conservation purposes.

Chambers Bay Weekly fishing schedule:

Coho

Beginning: *Sunday, October 15, 2023:*

Beach seines: *OPEN 1 day per week, from Sunday 12:00 Noon to Monday 12:00 Noon.*

Set nets: *OPEN 1 days per week, from Monday 12:00 Noon to Tuesday 12:00 Noon.*

Ending: *Saturday, November 4, 2023.*

Normal chum

Beginning: *Saturday, November 05, 2023:*

Beach seines: *OPEN 2 days per week, from Sunday 12:00 Noon to Tuesday 12:00 Noon.*

Set nets: *OPEN 2 days per week, from Wednesday 12:00 Noon to Friday 12:00 Noon.*

Ending: *Saturday, December 2, 2023.*

Late chum

CLOSED to all gear types. CLOSED for conservation purposes.

Gear types:

Marine set gill nets - 100' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored.

Beach seines - 600' maximum length, with a 3" minimum and a 4" maximum mesh size. These rules must be followed, or enforcement will be called:

1. Be considerate of others waiting for an opportunity
2. Please limit hang time on the pocket to 15 minutes
3. Complete pull and allow others to have a turn
4. If no one is waiting, hang times can exceed 15 minutes until another fishermen is waiting.

Any gear not listed above is illegal.

Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes Fishing violations:

The following actions may be subject to penalties and/or fines, in accordance with tribal fishing ordinances adopted by the Medicine Creek Treaty tribes:

- Any gear not listed in the above Medicine Creek Regulations is illegal
- Wantonly wasting or destroying food fish
- Disposing of litter into the water or onto the shore while participating in the in-common fisheries of the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes.

Medicine Creek General Information

Unless otherwise agreed by all parties, the following procedure for opening and closing fisheries for all species will be implemented during the fishing season.

- In-common fisheries will close automatically when conservation concerns arise. The fishery biologists for the Medicine Creek Tribes (Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Puyallup) will be

responsible for monitoring the fisheries and making technical recommendations to the tribal representatives who will then vote on those recommendations.

- When the end of the management period for one species is reached, the fishery will close for that species and automatically reopen for the species whose management period immediately follows. No policy approval is needed under this situation.
- Substantive changes in regulations, i.e. changes in gear type, fishing time, etc., must be approved by the policy representatives and fish committees of all three Medicine Creek Tribes.

***IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SQUAXIN ISLAND FISHING ORDINANCE,
THIS REGULATION IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL***



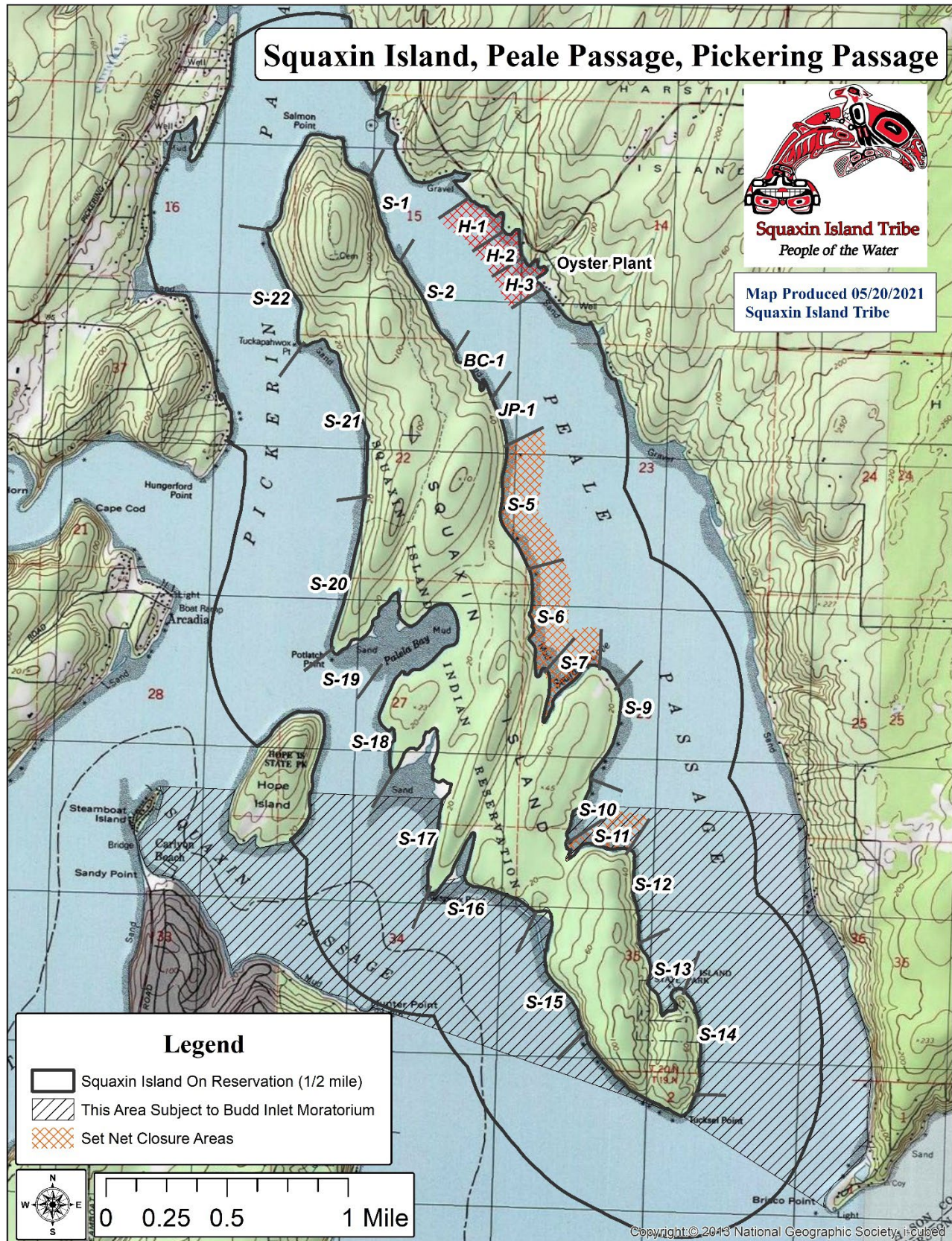
Squaxin Island Tribe
People of the Water

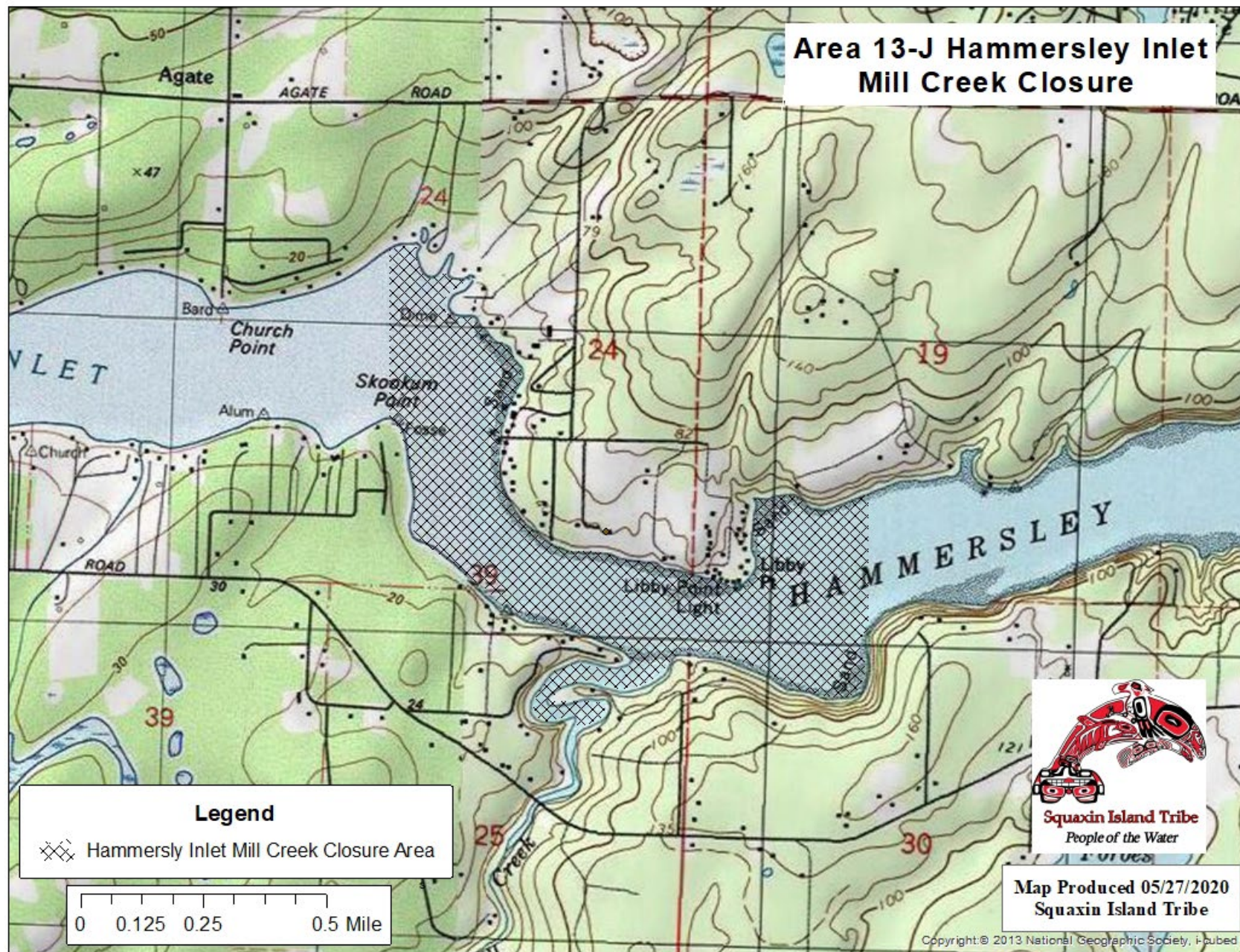
Kristopher K. Peters
Kristopher K. Peters (Jun 23, 2023 10:49 PDT)

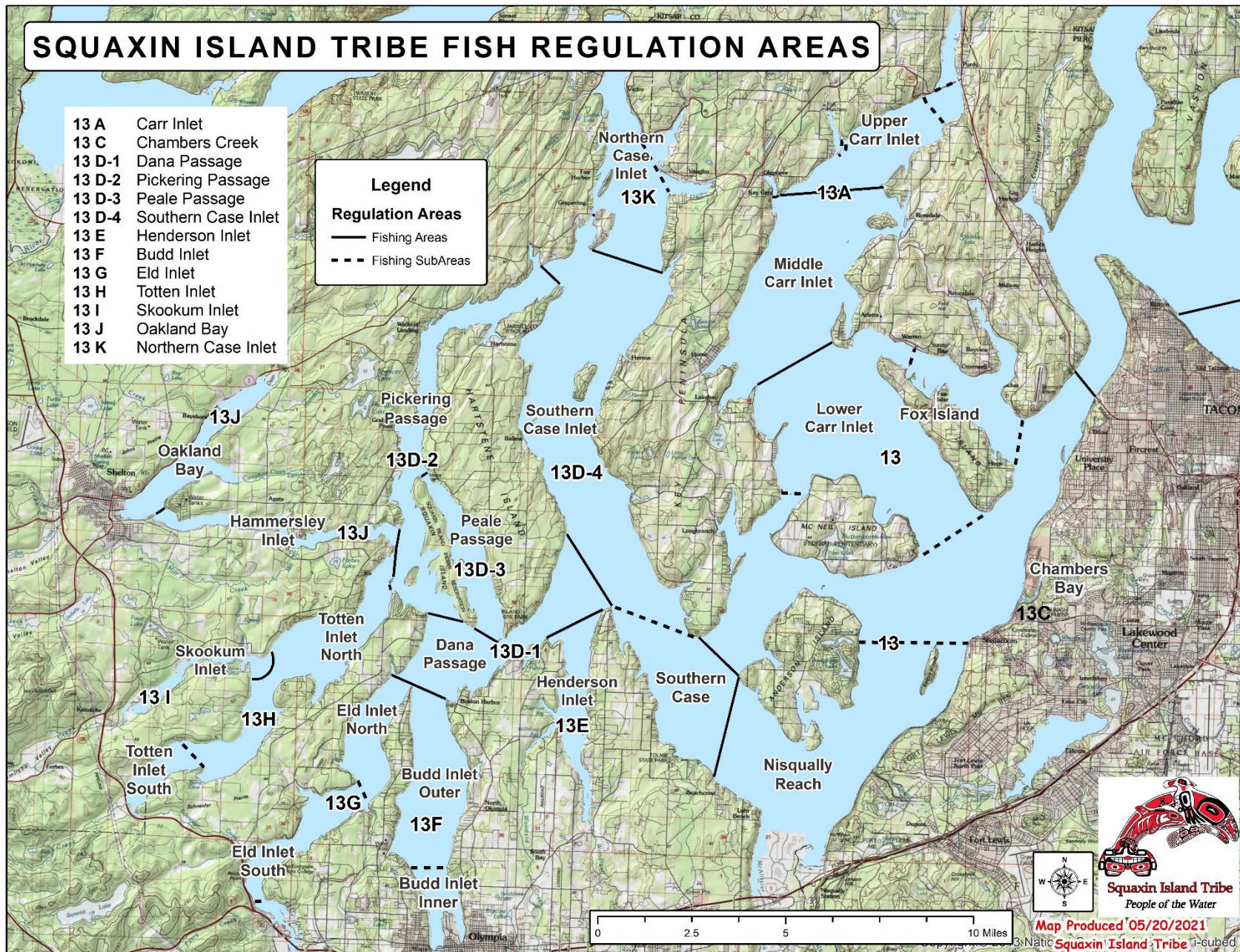
Squaxin Island Tribal Council Member Date

Andy Whitener
Andy Whitener (Jun 26, 2023 09:40 PDT)

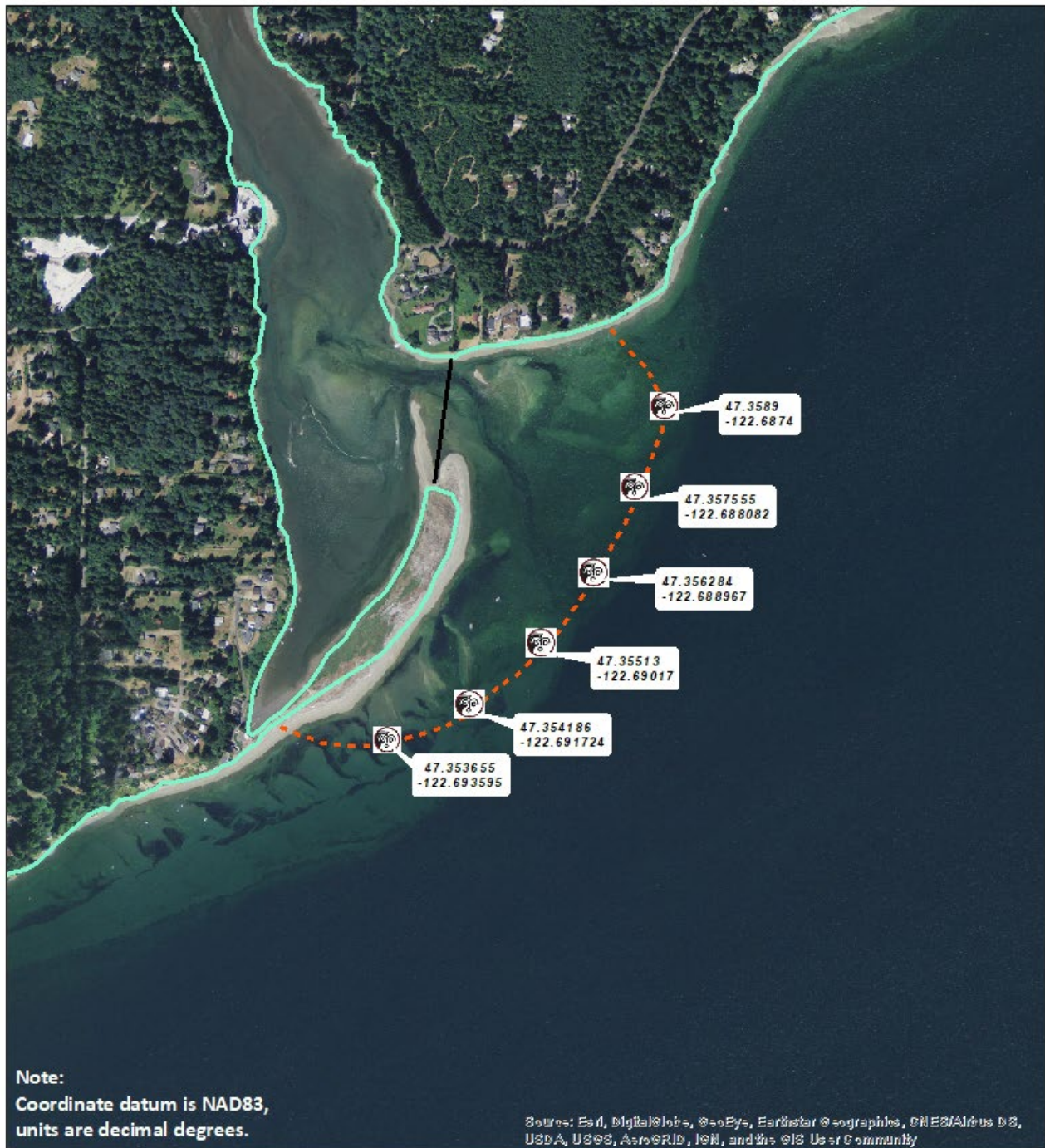
Squaxin Island Natural Resources Date











Minter Creek Mouth Closure Zone - Bouy Coordinates

Legend

- Bouy Locations (installed 7/24/2013)
 - Coastline
 - Mouth of Minter Creek
 - 1000' from mouth & outside of oyster stakes Closure Line
- 0 250 500 1,000
Feet



map produced 06/01/2020
Squaxin Island Tribe
Natural Resources Dept











Draft Annual CohoChum Regs2023

Final Audit Report

2023-06-26

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