Kilisut Passage
Jefferson County - New Name

Township: 29N
Range: 1E
Section: 8

USGS Quad: Nordland

Location Description: Channel; approx. 400 ft. wide; located between Marrowstone Island and Indian Island, 7.2 mi. SE of the City of Port Townsend at 48°1’6.002”N, 122°42’0.069”W in Jefferson County.

Proposal Summary: Kilisut Passage: Channel; approx. 400 ft. wide; located between Marrowstone Island and Indian Island, 7.2 mi. SE of the City of Port Townsend at 48°1’6.002”N, 122°42’0.069”W; the name references Kilisut Harbor and how Native Americans and fish would use the feature for "passage" during high tide; Jefferson County, Washington; Sec 8 T29N R1E, Willamette Meridian; 48°1’6.002”N, 122°42’0.069”W USGS map - Nordland 1:24,000.

The feature was used as passage for Tribal canoes and fish before being filled in to allow land access between Indian Island and Marrowstone Island. The proponent chose the name in reference to Kilisut Harbor and that fact that the feature was used for "passage".

In 2019, the passage was opened after having been blocked for almost 100 years to allow water to mix with the southern waters of Kilisut Harbor.

Proponent:
Janet Welch
178 Baldwin
Nordland, WA 98358

Proposal Received: 3/14/2022
Initial Consideration: 4/26/2022
Final Consideration:

WA Committee Decision:
WA Board Decision:
US Board Decision:

Opinions:
Proposed Name: **Kilisut Passage**

County: **Jefferson**

Township: **29 N**  Range: **1E**  Section(s): **8**

Lat. **48.0206 N**, Long. **122.6993 W** (Begin)

Lat. **48.0179 N**, Long. **122.7045 W** (End)

**Description**

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): **Saltwater Passage**

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): A 2000 foot long waterway connecting Kilisut Harbor (to the north) and Oak Bay (to the south). The width of the flow varies from 100 to 400 feet, and depth varies from negligible to 8 feet depending on tidal level.

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: **N/A**

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: the passage had been blocked for almost 100 years and was opened in 2019 to re-establish fish passage. Thus it is a new, unnamed feature.

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? **No**

**History**

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings. This might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.); 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name: **Native American name “Sctag” translates to “Passage through”**. Passage was used to access Kilisut Harbor at high tide and to voyage to Port Townsend Bay or elsewhere. It was a key feature for migrating juvenile salmon to access protected rearing areas in Kilisut Harbor. Restoration of the flow has allowed cold, clean saltwater to mix with once stagnant waters off at the South end of Kilisut Harbor.

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: **NA**

**Note:**

As signage in the region begins to reflect original names, the use of the term “Passage” in Kilisut Passage would provide the opportunity to include the translation “Sctag” in the signage, thereby commemorating the original Residents of this area.
Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? It had been a high tide passage for fish, tribal canoes and early commerce before being blocked to provide land passage from Indian Island to Marrowstone Island. Restoration of the passage allows juvenile salmon migrating north to access Kilisut Harbor.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest.

Kilisut Passage honors the tribal name “sc̓t̓elqót” which translates to “passage through” while referencing Kilisut Harbor which it provides passage to. It would allow for additional signage of sc̓t̓elqót beneath the English version.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom?

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name, “sc̓t̓elqót” described by Stormy Purer of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (email 8/4/21) and by Nikki Venneman, also PGT (email 4/3/21). “Kilisut” chinook term coined by Lt. Wilkes in 1841, meaning “protected waters.”

What type of support is there for the proposal?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Kevin Long (project manager) @ 360.301.9251

US Navy, William H. Kelima2.civ@us.navy.mil

WA State Dept of Transportation (project partner) Dan McKernan, McKern@us.dot.gov

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Neil Harrington nharrington@jamestowntribe.org

Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Paul McCollum paulm@pgt.org

Application submitted by:

Name: Janet Welci
Address: 178 Baldwin
City: Normandy
State: WA
Zip: 98358
Phone #: 360.385.6709
Email: alpha@olympus.net

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: Janet Welci
Signature: Janet Welci

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

WA State Board on Geographic Names
PO Box 47030
Olympia, WA 98504-7030

(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: bogn@dnr.wa.gov)
Kilisut Passage - JEFFERSON COUNTY

Channel; approx. 400 ft. wide; located between Marrowstone Island and Indian Island, 7.2 mi. SE of the City of Port Townsend at 48°16.002′N, 122°42′0.069″W in Jefferson County.

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