**Proposal Summary**

**scɬəqʷ**

*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:** scɬəqʷ: 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 scɬəqʷ is the traditional placename for the feature, and means "a passage through".; 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.

scɬəqʷ is the traditional placename for the feature and means "a passage through".

This was a significant travel route for S’Klallam and Chemacum people during the 18th and 19th centuries and presumably much earlier until development obstructed the tidal flow between Scow Bay and Oak Bay.

**Proponent:**
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
1033 Old Blyn Highway  
Sequim, WA 98382

**Proposal Received:** 8/3/2021  
**Initial Consideration:** 10/25/2022  
**Final Consideration:**

**WA Committee Decision:**

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**
WASHINGTON STATE
GEOGRAPHIC NAME APPLICATION

PORT GAMBLE S'KLLALLAM TRIBE
nexśl'áyəm
STRONG PEOPLE

Submittal for: NEW NAME

Proposed Name: scłeqʷ

Country: JEFFERSON COUNTY

Township: 29N           Range: R01E            Section: 8

Latitude: 48.018246 (N) Begin Longitude: -122.699516 (W) End

Type of feature: Waterway

Description: The terminus of Scow Bay that at high tide separates Indian Island from Marrowstone Island. This feature is not identified by any other names or spellings. It has not ever been signed, posted, or publicized.

History: scłeqʷ is the traditional place name. The term scłeqʷ literally means “a passage through” (Montler, 2012: 697). Port Gamble S’Klallam tribal members, Louis Butner and Cy Sparks, stated that “the reason why they called it this is that canoes used to wait till high tide and then go through” (Harrington, 1945, 16:434). This was the only place recorded by T.T. Waterman for Indian Island. Waterman’s citation is referenced as no 87. He defines the areas as a narrow isthmus connecting Marrowstone Island with the mainland. “Plowing through with reference to a canoe.” The term refers to the fact that the Indians used to shove their canoes over this peninsula to avoid paddling them around the large body of land. Waterman’s translation and identification for the use of the site is consistent with the information recorded by John Peabody Harrington in 1942.

Justification of Proposed Name:

For S’Klallam people, physical geographic landscapes provide historical and cultural significance. Places and landscapes are central to traditional knowledge, values, and cultural identity to S’Klallam lifeways. S’Klallam people’s unique ontological relationship with landscapes and places shape collective historical knowledge, individual experiences, and Treaty right harvest practices.

This was a significant travel route for S’Klallam and Chemakum people during the 18th and 19th centuries and presumably much earlier until non-Indian development obstructed the tidal flow between Scow Bay and Oak Bay. Existing ethnographic and ethnohistoric information demonstrates that S’Klallam and Chemakum people made direct use of Indian Island as well as the adjacent lands and marine waters.
The S’Klallam tribes procured $2 million dollars toward the North Olympic Salmon Coalition’s Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project that restored tidal connection between southern Kilisut Harbor (Scow Bay) and Oak Bay. The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe’s Cultural Committee supports effort made for officially naming the restored waterway as its original place name scléqw.

Information Used for Research:

*John Harrington* (1884-1961) In April of 1942, Harrington conducted S’Klallam place name research over working primarily with S’Klallam informants from Port Gamble. His principal informants spoke Chemakum, S’Klallam, Makah, and Chinook Jargon, and Quileute. Harrington’s work identified both S’Klallam and Chemakum place names in Port Townsend Bay and on Indian Island and Marrowstone Island.

*T.T. Waterman* (1885-1936) Waterman conducted limited place name research documenting some S’Klallam place names. His place name list includes a place name associated with Indian Island, Kilisut Harbor (Scow Bay) and Port Townsend, which provides critical insight into the relationship between people and place in this area.

Reference


Application submitted by: Stormy Purser, Port Gamble S’Klallam tribal member and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, THPO on behalf of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe on August 3, 2021.

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Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 297-6292
thpo@pgst.nsn.us

I am aware that all the information submitted is considered public information

Printed Name: Stormy Purser

Signature: [Signature Image]

Date: August 3, 2021
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.

scfǝqʷ is the traditional placename for the feature and means "a passage through".

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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.
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