SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [HELP]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Pinto Abalone Recovery Plan

2. Name of applicant: Henry Carson

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 (360) 902-2846

4. Date checklist prepared: 8/31/2021

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): The final recovery plan will likely be adopted in early 2022. Actions prescribed in the plan will be ongoing annually, often in the February – May seasonal window, until criteria (described in the plan) for delisting as endangered or threatened have been met.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. It is likely that at some point in the future, the recovery plan will be modified to reflect the status of the pinto abalone population or the latest research on conservation biology. At that time, the draft modified plan will also be made available for public comment.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
The plan resulted from a 2019 status review of pinto abalone, available at https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02031 .

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

I am not aware of any such applications.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

As WDFW has the regulatory authority for endangered wildlife, and the species is not ESA-listed, no additional permits are needed to my knowledge.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The pinto abalone recovery plan outlines the criteria that will be used to evaluate the status of the population in Washington, for eventual upgrades to threatened or sensitive status. It also details the steps that the department and its partners will take to achieve that status. It does not including any rule making. In the current draft plan, those steps are:

1) Captive breeding and propagation of pinto abalone for the enhancement of the wild population, including:
    a) Maintenance of current pinto abalone hatchery at Manchester, WA
    b) Increase in hatchery capacity through satellite facitlies

c) Continuation of research regarding best captive abalone husbandry methods and juvenile rearing methods
d) Rotation of hatchery broodstock into wild spawning aggregations in the San Juan Islands or Strait of Juan de Fuca.
e) Develop quarantine protocols for possible importation of out-of-state broodstock

2) Expansion of outplant program
a) Large-scale juvenile abalone outplanting to restoration sites in the San Juan Island and Strait of Juan de Fuca, contined monitoring of established sites, and continued research into favorable site characteristics.
b) Further research into the efficacy of larval and post-larval abalone outplants

3) Continuous and expanded identification and monitoring of remnant wild aggregations
a) Continuous index site monitoring through the use of agency and partner divers
b) Addition of new index sites or identified wild aggregations
c) Exploratory dives to find new aggregations, singleton broodstock, and outplant friendly habitat in the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca

4) Continued relations with partners and the public
a) Build partnerships and secure financial support for outplant and monitoring program
b) Maintenance of fishery closures and diligent enforcement
c) Education and public outreach

5) Close additional knowledge gaps in pinto abalone life history and ecology
a) Ocean acidification impact on pinto abalone
b) Barriers to recruitment and survival including water quality and sedimentation
c) Genetic diversity of remnant wild population and hatchery-origin population
d) Baseline monitoring of kelp forest ecosystem shifts
e) Relationship between adult density and fertilization efficiency
f) Basic life history information for pinto abalone in Washington waters.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Field activites will take place on rocky reef and kelp forest habitat in the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Pinto abalone inhabitat shallow (<15 m depth) areas often immediate adjacent to shoreline, where the substrate is bedrock, boulder or large cobble. To protect current and future restoration sites from poaching and human disturbance, neither WDFW nor

our collaborators release geospatial information regarding the location of these sites. This geospatial information is protected from public disclosure per RCW 42.56.430.

Activities will also take place within existing facilities (i.e. no significant construction) at the conservation hatchery currently located at NOAA's Manchester Research Station (7305 Beach Dr E, Manchester, WA 98353) and satellite facilities currently located at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center (532 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368) and the Seattle Aquarium (1483 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98101).

Counties effected by this plan in the natural environment are Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam. Counties effected by this plan in that they contain upland hatchery facilities are Jefferson (again), Kitsap, and King.

B. Environmental Elements [HELP]

1. *Earth* [help]

a. General description of the site: Shallow rocky reef habitat in the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Because the project sites occur beneath the surface of marine waters, we have marked this section N/A.

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other subtidal

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? N/A

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. N/A

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. N/A

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. N/A

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. N/A

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? N/A

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: N/A

2. Air [help]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The project will use standard marine vessels, often powered with gasoline outboard engines, but occasionally diesel inboard engines.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: N/A

3. Water [help]

a. Surface Water: [help]

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The sites are all underneath saltwater in the San Juan Islands or Strait of Juan de Fuca.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

All work will take place in the water, using scuba divers.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge material will be used.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground Water: [help]

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This project does not involve fresh water.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: N/A

4. Plants [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

____deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
____evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
____shrubs
____grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

__x__water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
____other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No marine algae or eelgrass will be removed or altered at restoration sites, as these species provide habitat and food for pinto abalone.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: N/A

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

None.

5. Animals [help]

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

A diversity of animals co-occur with pinto abalone on rocky reefs in the marine waters of the state of Washington including marine inverbrates (e.g. sponges, cnidarians, bryozoans, annelids, crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms, and non-vertebrate chordates) and vertebrate chordates (e.g. bony and cartilaginous fishes, sea birds, and marine mammals).

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Any threatened or endangered species that inhabits Washington marine waters could potentially exist near pinto abalone habitat, although pinto abalone are generally found in shallow water only (≤ 15 meters depth). No endangered species (other than the endangered abalone themselves) have been observed on current restoration sites. Potential species include the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), orca (*Orcinus orca*), North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalis*), sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), tufted puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*), marbeled

murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria* albatrus), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentate*), coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*Onchorynchus keta*), sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*), steelhead (*Onchorynchus mykiss*), bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), and yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*).

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
The recovery plan is devoted to preserving and enhancing pinto abalone populations and their habitat.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None.

6. Energy and Natural Resources [help]

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. N/A

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. N/A

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: N/A

7. Environmental Health [help]

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
None.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.
None.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.
None.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
None.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: N/A

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? N/A

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. N/A

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: N/A

8. Land and Shoreline Use [help]

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. N/A

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? N/A

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: N/A

c. Describe any structures on the site. N/A

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? N/A

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? N/A

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? N/A

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
As this proposal involves nearshore areas of the six counties with known pinto abalone populations, the shoreline master program designations vary over the entire range from “Urban” to “Natural”.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
As a nearshore species, pinto abalone exist within critical habitat desingations from federal endangered species act listed species. For instance, the critical habitat map for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon encompasses all nearshore habitat in Puget Sound. Together with protections for orca habitat, forage fish spawning grounds, or bull kelp beds, nearly all pinto abalone habitat is classified as protected in one way or another.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: N/A

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Pinto abalone restoration is consistent with or specifically called for in shoreline master plans in all affected counties.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: N/A

9. Housing [help]

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: N/A

10. Aesthetics [help]

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? N/A

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? N/A

Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:N/A

11. Light and Glare [help]

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: N/A

12. Recreation [help]

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
As this proposal involves nearshore areas of the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca, there are myriad recreational opportunities in the vicinity of pinto abalone habitat, including boating, swimming, fishing, and diving.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
This proposal does not include any new restrictions on recreational use anywhere. Harvest of pinto abalone has been closed by department rule since 1994, and would remain closed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: N/A

13. Historic and cultural preservation [help]

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe.

No.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

No.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

N/A

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

N/A

14. Transportation [help]

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

None.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

N/A

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The project will be in the immediate vicinity of water transporation. Occasionally vessels transiting nearshore areas during project activities will need to detour slightly to avoid impacting the safety of project divers, per Coast Guard guidelines when a dive flag is displayed.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? N/A

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

15. Public Services [help]

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. N/A

16. Utilities [help]

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____
None.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
c. None.

C. Signature [HELP]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Name of signee Henry Carson

Position and Agency/Organization Research Scientist / Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlfie

Date Submitted: 9-21-2021

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [HELP]

(**IT IS NOT NECESSARY** to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

This project will not increase any of these things significantly.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: N/A

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

This proposal is likely to result in an increase in pinto abalone populations in the state, which may in turn have marine ecosystem impacts. Grazing activity of the abalone may reduce the abundance of drift kelp, but is also like to keep rock substrate clear and available for the recruitment of new kelp. Increased populations of pinto abalone may also serve as prey to a variety of fish, invertebrates, and marine mammals.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: N/A

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? N/A

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:N/A

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

This proposal is intended to enhance endangered species habitat for pinto abalone and kelp forest ecosystems in general.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: N/A

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Increased abundance of pinto abalone in some areas may result in the need to review subsurface marine construction projects in the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca to ensure that no net loss of endangered animals occurs as a result of those projects.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Most pinto abalone habitat overlaps with shoreline protections for bull kelp or other species such as salmon or orca, and therefore enhancement of pinto abalone population is not expected to increase regulatory burden on subsurface construction.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

N/A

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: N/A

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. N/A