



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
FINAL DETERMINATION OF  
NON-SIGNIFICANCE  
June 29, 2000

State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

**REVISED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has considered comments received on the original Threshold Determination for this project and is providing additional information which may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The information provided does not substantially change the analysis of the significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.

**Name of Proposal:** LAKE MERWIN NET PEN PROJECT SITE RELOCATION

**Description of Proposal:** The proposed project will move eight net pens (six 20 feet by 20 feet and two 30 feet by 30 feet) from the Lake Merwin Dam site (per checklist dated 12/11/98, Determination dated 1/21/99) to Speelyai Bay, eight miles east. Only the structure of each pen will be transported by water using a tug. The pens will be anchored in an area that is 31 - 35 feet deep. The net will extend down from the surface 16 feet. Nets will be removed after final use at the end of the season and taken to the hatchery. During use, the nets will be cleaned by brooming.

The following modifications have been made to the Environmental Checklist:

A.11

We are planning to move the pens to a new location, from the site near the dam, to Speelyai Bay, located approximately 8 miles up Merwin Lake from the dam. The only structure that will need to be transported via water is the structure, or frames. The nets will not be attached to the frames and will be transported separately. We will have a tug push them up the lake in September. The location at the dam is no longer an option due to access issues at the dam. PacifiCorp, or PP&L (Pacific Power and Light), the operators of the dam, have done some new construction and our trucks are no longer able to get out on the dam to reach the fish. We will not be abandoning the old site permanently in the event that the access issue is remedied in the future. If the project can be relocated back at the dam site, the necessary review and permit application process will be initiated. Net pens will not be moved back and forth between the two locations. We will leave our anchors in place since the area is secure behind the dam log boom. The new location will have the exact same footprint as the Merwin Dam site. Sixty five thousand (65,000) Summer Steelhead and forty eight thousand (48,000) Kokanee Salmon will be raised in the pens from approximately November 15<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> annually. The steelhead will be released in the North Fork of the Lewis River and the Kokanee will be released in Lake Merwin. The steelhead will weigh 11/lb (5000 pounds) when placed in the nets and 4.9/lb when released. The Kokanee will weigh 12/lb (4000 pounds) when placed in the nets and released at 5.5/lb. Total fish weight will start at 9000 lb and grow to about 19,951 lb with a net gain in weight, or production, of 10,951 pounds. Fish will be fed with demand feeders.

**Proponent:** Fish First  
4311 Northeast 26<sup>th</sup> Court  
Vancouver, Washington 98663  
Contact Person: John DiVittorio

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Lewis River Hatchery  
111 Merwin Hatchery Court  
Ariel, Washington 98603  
Contact Person: Rob Nicolay

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Lake Merwin, in Speelyai Bay,  
Approximately 15 miles north of Yacolt, Washington, Cowlitz County; Section 22, Township 06  
North, Range 03 East WM

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

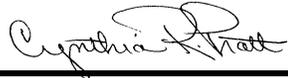
**There is no comment period for the Revised DNS.**

**Responsible Official:** Peter Birch

**Position/Title:** Environmental Services Division Manager

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

**PLEASE CONTACT:** Cynthia Pratt **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or  
**e-mail:** prattcrp@dfw.gov.com if you have questions or comments about this determination.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** June 29, 2000 **SIGNATURE:**  for Peter Birch

**Distribution of Environmental Document:**

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia

Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, Lacey

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland, OR/Lacey

Cowlitz County Department of Community Development, Kelso

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR

WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 5, Vancouver

WDFW, Fish Program, Region 5, Vancouver

WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 5, Vancouver