



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

ADDENDUM TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE DATED: OCTOBER 19, 2004

Name of DNS: PT. WHITNEY BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

Description of DNS: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to expand the existing public boat launch to better accommodate recreational boating access to Dabob Bay. The existing 10 foot wide ramp will be widened to 12 feet and extended 22 feet beyond the end of the existing ramp to a length of 132 feet. The existing ramp is 12 to 14 inches thick. The replacement ramp will be 6 inches thick.

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Engineering Division, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091 Contact: Leslie Durham 360-902-8422

Location of DNS, including street, if any: Pt. Whitney Shellfish Laboratory, 1000 Point Whitney Road, Brinnon, Washington, Jefferson County; Section 07, Township 26 North, Range 01 WestWM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency is providing updated information on this project which may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The updated information provided below does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.

The original environmental checklist dated October 19, 2004, should be modified to reflect the following mitigation for impacts to eel grass:

Description of DNS: *Include the following mitigation:*

Potential Project Impacts

The existing ramp extends out to the +1 tide line and is designed to launch as low as +5 tide. However, prop scour from occasional unauthorized launching at lower tides appears to have impacted the eelgrass zone off the end of the ramp, estimated to be approximately 485 ft². The current ramp extension proposal will extend the ramp out to the -2 tide line and is designed to launch as low as +3 tide. Existing eelgrass off the end of the ramp is at about -3 to -4 tide line. If ramp is used at tides it is designed for, there should be about 5 to 6 feet of water above the existing eelgrass. Assuming eelgrass is about 1 foot in height, there should be at least 4 feet of clearance above the top of the eelgrass.

However, it is possible that inappropriate use (launching at below +5 tide) of the new ramp may occur in the future, impacting the eelgrass zone further. This impact is estimated to be up to 290 ft². Although these impacts are not expected, WDFW is proposing to mitigate for these future potential impacts as well as for past impacts from existing ramp. This mitigation is described below.

Mitigation Goal

Mitigation activity is designed to make additional potential spawning habitat available to Pacific herring by enhancing an existing eelgrass area on WDFW owned tidelands at the head of Quilcene Bay. These tidelands include approximately eight acres of oyster longlines from a previous oyster operation that reside in an existing eelgrass meadow.

The proposal is to mitigate for the apparent impacts from the existing ramp (approximately 485 ft²) and the potential future impacts from ramp extension (290 ft²) for a total of 775 ft². The proposal will mitigate at a 2:1 ratio, removing oyster long lines (poly rope), PVC pipes and oyster shell from 1550 ft² of the Quilcene tidelands. Mitigation efforts will be directed to areas with the highest density of shell per square foot within or adjacent to areas of existing eelgrass turions.

The removal of the PVC pipes, poly rope and associated oyster shell from the marine substrate within these areas of high density of eelgrass will release more area for colonization of eelgrass.

Mitigation Activity

Mitigation activity will use methods that will minimize impacts to eelgrass. Contractor shall remove oyster shells, 1-inch PVC pipe and poly rope from a minimum of 1500 ft² contiguous area within the designated removal site, which will be staked prior to the work by a WDFW biologist. Removal work will include placing an adequate number of 4 ft. X 4 ft. plastic totes next to the staked removal area at high tide from a small barge. Under no circumstances will barge be allowed to ground. Once tide recedes, poly rope, PVC pipes, and oyster shell will be carefully removed by hand and placed in tubs. Although some eelgrass may be tread upon, care will be taken not to uproot eelgrass.

At high tide the barge will return and pick up the totes and transported to the designated planting site. Oyster and shell materials shall be spread in the planting site. The material shell will be dispersed and not laid in piles. The PVC pipe and poly rope shall be disposed of at a legal landfill.

Impacts of removing shell from eelgrass area include temporary disturbance of epibenthic organisms and infauna, the impacts of which will be mitigated for by restoring eelgrass area. Mitigation work will be done on a series of low tides in the spring or summer.

Based on the original environmental checklist and the updated information provided in this addendum, the lead agency has determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA environmental checklist addendum.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

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Please contact: Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or **e-mail:** eturatae@dfw.wa.gov if you have questions or comments about this determination.

DATE OF ISSUE: September 15, 2005 **SIGNATURE:**

