



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

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) NON-PROJECT ACTION

Name of Proposal: PROPOSED HATCHERY AND FISHERY REFORM POLICY

Description of Proposal:

A Commission policy on hatchery and fishery reform will provide guidance and support for the Department's implementation of Hatchery Scientific Review Group recommendations by clearly stating the Commission's commitment to long-term hatchery and sustainable fishery strategies. Hatchery and harvest reform are critical to sustaining healthy fisheries and the future of fishing in the state of Washington.

Hatchery reform has been an ongoing initiative in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington state for several years. Hatchery Reform was initiated in the Columbia River in 2007. The Department has embraced hatchery reform as a means to achieving salmon recovery while maintaining economically important harvest opportunities. The Department believes that hatchery production at levels similar to today can be maintained at most facilities and at the same time provides protection for wild fish and the recovery of wild stocks. If properly-managed, hatcheries can provide significant benefits to the citizens of Washington. If managed improperly, they can confound efforts to rebuild wild salmon populations and undermine efforts to recover wild fish.

Proponent/Applicant:

Heather Bartlett
Salmon and Steelhead Division Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capital Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Statewide, Washington- the policy would be effective statewide, the scope or range for implementation will be done by geographic regions such as Puget Sound, Washington Coast, Lower Columbia River, Middle Columbia River, Upper Columbia River and Snake River that match or are similar to the federal ESA salmon recovery regions. More specific details about sites or locations are not relevant yet.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental

checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **June 17, 2009** .

You can submit your comments by email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov, through the WDFW SEPA website comment link at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>, fax to (360) 902-2946, or mail to the address below. When you send us your comments, please provide the name of the proposal in your comment letter.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: June 3, 2009

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 09 -046. dns