



**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 (Revised DNS)

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has considered comments received on the original Threshold Determination for this project and is providing additional information that 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: 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.

**In addition the following clarifications have been made to the initial SEPA Checklist,
Dated- June 3, 2009:**

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 2, 2009. **Revised** June 22, 2009

7. Do you have any plans for future additions....

Development of a Hatchery ~~2020~~ Action Implementation Plan will form the basis of the hatchery reform implementation plan and associated schedule as referenced in Policy Guidelines #2 and #4. It is currently under development by geographic regions in the state, but it incomplete at this time. Upon completion, by region e.g. Puget Sound, Washington Coast, the Hatchery Action Implementation Plan will move through the SEPA process. In addition, the mark selective fishery plan and associated implementation schedule (policy guideline #10) may also require SEPA.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared....

~~Does not apply~~ A series of hatchery facility infrastructure reports were prepared by Bogden Engineering following the completion of the Hatchery Scientific Review Process in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington in 2004. In addition, reports developed by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) also include some environment information relative to the policy guidelines provided. For more information see: http://www.hatcheryreform.us/mfs/about/hsrg_show.action.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. Does not apply

A variety of both federal and state permits may be required to complete implementation, but given the overarching nature of the current DRAFT policy guideline under consideration in this checklist, it is too early to determine what permits will be required where to describe in any detail.

11. Give brief, complete description of your 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. Recognizing that as the policy is implemented there may be work products, such as that associated with policy guideline numbers 2 and 4 that would describe in more detail potential environmental impacts, government approvals and/or permits, as well as more descriptive effects related to activities or actions under consideration for full implementation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will initiate SEPA. See attached DRAFT policy for italicized notes reflecting this clarification.

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.

12. Location of the proposal...

Though 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, but as more defined information is developed associated with some of the identified work products within the DRAFT, additional SEPA would be initiated.

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, but as more defined information is developed associated with some of the identified work products within the DRAFT, additional SEPA would be initiated.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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..

There is no comment period for the Revised DNS.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
email: sepadesk2@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: June 23, 2009

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)



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**NOTICE OF FINAL DETERMINATION
PROPOSED HATCHERY AND FISHERY REFORM POLICY
DATE ISSUED-June 3, 2009, Revised June 23, 2009 DATE FINAL-June 23, 2009
SEPA NUMBER #09-054rev.**

Under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WAC 197-11-340(2), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) issued a

- Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)
- Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS)
- Revised Determination of Nonsignificance (RDNS)**

This threshold determination is hereby:

[X] Retained

Withdrawn. WDFW is considering making substantial changes to the proposal based upon an evaluation of new information that was brought to our attention during the comment period. A new threshold determination will be made upon completion of the proposal revision.

Extended. A final threshold determination has not been made. This SEPA proposal is under additional review. You will be notified when a final determination is made.

Any comments received for this proposal are attached. Comments received may affect future permits required for this proposal. Please review all comments and respond accordingly.

This document is a part of the official SEPA record; retain this with your original checklist and determination.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Eturaspe
SEPA/ NEPA Coordinator

TAE:tae

cc: Regions 1,2,3,4,5,6,