**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

*Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

*Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

*Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: WDFW Authorized Net Pen Projects

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

   Contact Person: Joshua Nicholas
   Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
   Phone: 360-902-2685

4. Date checklist prepared: May 25, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist: WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

This is a programmatic proposal designed to cover routine net pen installation and removal, for projects authorized by WDFW, in various freshwater and marine locations statewide. The majority of net pen projects will receive fish from October-January and release fish from April-May. Net pen removal and installation would typically take place between those periods.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No, this programmatic proposal only covers routine net pen installation and removal for the projects listed in #12 (below).

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Programmatic JARPA will be prepared.

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.

None known.

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

Hydraulic Project Approval (5-year general), County Shoreline Permit (to be obtained by cooperators), Aquatic Land Use Authorization (DNR)

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.)

This proposal is intended to cover the installation and removal of fish net pens (both WDFW operated and cooperator operated) at various locations throughout Washington. This would include 25 net pen projects. This proposal does not include any commercially operated net pen projects.

This proposal covers the installation and removal of net pens only and not any associated fish rearing activities. For cooperator (non-WDFW) operated net pens projects, those fish rearing activities are covered under separate agreements with the WDFW. Cooperators are responsible for installation and removal of net pens, maintenance and obtaining all other necessary permits.

Net pens are non-permanent floating structures used to hold fish for several months, for feeding and monitoring, until they reach sufficient size and are released to enhance public fishing in lakes, rivers and marine areas.

Most net pen structures to be included in our programmatic HPA consist of a narrow wood or metal frame that rests on floats on the surface of the water with a mesh net extending into the water. There is minimal shading of the water surface below ***(see pages at the end of this document for net pen photographs/diagrams)***. Some net pens have net covers to reduce avian predation of juvenile fish. While it's possible that wildlife could get entangled in the netting, current operations and past experience suggest this rarely occurs. Net pens are secured by attaching directly to a dock or other floating structure, by cables attached near the shore or, in a few cases, by anchoring directly to the bed of the water body. Most net pens are incorporated into an existing dock structures so any additional navigational or safety hazards would be minimal.

The majority of these net pen projects are located in freshwater lakes. A few are located in marine environments; however, there is not substantial difference between freshwater and saltwater net pens so both will be included in this proposal.

An individual net pen that would be covered under our programmatic HPA would encompass no more than 1600 $ft^2$ (40' x 40') of surface area with a net no deeper than 20 ft.

Projects that are included in this proposal have previously been reviewed by WDFW and Tribal/Federal co-managers and have been established in the Future Brood Document as approved projects. During the review process, project suitability (location, size, number etc.) for a given site is considered.

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

This is a statewide programmatic and will include lakes, streams and marine waters in the following locations:

| Project Name | Location | Contact Person | Phone # |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Army Net Pen** | American LK (Pierce County) | Larry Green | (253) 967-2510 |
| **Bill's Boathouse Net Pen** | American LK (Pierce County) | David Anderson | (253) 988-2536 |
| **Coulee City Net Pen** | Banks LK (Grant County) | Allan Fox | (360) 632-5722 |
| **Electric City Net Pen** | Banks LK (Grant County) | Carl Russel | (509) 633-0648 |
| **Carlisle Lake Net Pen** | Carlisle LK (Lewis County) | Jim Tyner | (360) 974-8111 x 2 |
| **Friends Landing Net Pen** | Chehalis R. (Grays Harbor County) | John Lewis | (360) 533-6463 |
| **Friends of Cowlitz** | Cowlitz R. --> Columbia R. | Don Glaser | (360) 985-2495, (360) 748-7293 |
| **Curlew Lake Net Pen** | Curlew LK (Ferris County) | Gordon McIntyre | (509) 775-3939 |
| **Deep River Net Pen** | Deep R. -> Columbia R | Pat Frazier (WDFW) | (360) 696-6211 ex 6711 |
| **Deer Lake Net Pen** | Deer LK (Stevens County) | Jim Santora | (509) 233-8300 |
| **NWSSC – Des Moines** | Des Moines Marina (Puget Sound) | Russell Welker | (206) 824-2044 |
| **Diamond Lake Net Pen** | Diamond LK (Pend Oreille County) | Robert Quaintance | (509) 999-8269 |
| **NWSSC - Laebugten** | Edmonds Marina (Puget Sound) | Walt Thompson | (206) 522-1660 |
| **Lake Lawrence Net Pen** | Lake Lawrence (Thurston County) | Nic Loch | (360) 894-5811 |
| **Fish First Net Pen** | Lewis R. (Echo Bay slough) | Gary Loomis | (360) 225-6516 |
| **Chelan River Net Pen** | LK Chelan (Chelan County) | Jeff Korth (WDFW) | (509) 754-4624 Ext 39 |
| **Speelyai Bay Net Pen** | LK Merwin (Cowlitz County) | Pat Frazier (WDFW) | (360) 696-6211 ex 6711 |
| **Lake Wenatchee Net Pen** | LK Wenatchee (Chelan County) | Jeff Korth (WDFW) | (509) 754-4624 Ext 39 |
| **Loon Lake Net Pen** | Loon Lake (Stevens County) | Richard Davies | (509) 233-2403 |
| **NWSSC - Everett Net Pen** | Mulkiteo Marina (Puget Sound) | John Wayne | (425) 357-8219 |
| **Oak Harbor Net Pen** | Oak Harbor Marina (Puget Sound) | Mack Funk | (360) 679-2628 |
| **Offut Lake Net Pen** | Offutt LK (Thurston County) | Rebecca Pogue | (360) 264-2438 |
| **Aberdeen Net Pen** | Port of Aberdeen (Grays Harbor County) | Steve Rowe | (360)-532-9284 |
| **Waitts Lake Net Pen** | Waitts LK (Stevens County) | Dale Magart/Dennis Kotlan | (509) 276-5586/(509) 937-2231 |
| **Westport Net Pen** | Westport Boat Basin (Grays Harbor County) | Herman Oldhe | (360) 482-2305 |

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other. . . . . .

N/A – Net Pens are located on the water surface

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 prime farmland.

Various.

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

Unknown.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

None needed.

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

No.

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

0%.

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

N/A.

**2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

None.

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

No

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

None needed.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

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.

Net pens are located on the surface of freshwater and marine water bodies throughout Washington.

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.

Yes - installation and removal of the net pens takes place on or near the water. Underwater inspection of net pen components and minor maintenance may occur while the net pens are in water.

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.

None.

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.

N/A.

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.

Fish waste. Volume varies depending on the number of fish reared at a particular net pen. NPDES wastewater discharge permits will be required for any facility with more than 20,000 pounds of net production or more than 5,000 pounds.

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b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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.

N/A.

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.

N/A.

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

Yes, fish waste will enter surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

None, fish waste is expected to be below levels which would require control measures.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site: Many of these are likely to be found in the surrounding area, but will not be affected by the project.

x_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

x_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

x_____ shrubs

x_____ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

x_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

x_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

x_____ other types of vegetation

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

None

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

None known.

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

None

5. **Animals**

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

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

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

None known, but listed species may be in the vicinity and listed fish may swim by some of the net pens. Each site will be evaluated against the WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species database with appropriate modifications made.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

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.

Some net pen operations use solar-powered automatic fish feeders. Other than that just volunteer labor is used to hand-feed fish and perform maintenance.

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

No.

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:

None.

7. **Environmental health**

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.

None could be expected to reasonably occur.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

b. **Noise**

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

None that would affect the project.

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.

Very low levels of noise, on a short-term basis, may be created when net pen installation/maintenance occurs. The noise would be generated during daylight hours.

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

None.

**8. Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Fishing and other water related recreation activities. Net pens abut to docks in many cases and/or are not in areas that preclude use for recreational activities and do not inhibit landowners.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Some net pen cooperators own docks (privately owned) that a net pen may be connected to.

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

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Unknown.

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

Unknown.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Unknown.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Net pens would not endanger an environmentally sensitive site and none are known be in the vicinity of the project areas.

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:

N/A.

9. **Housing**

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

10. **Aesthetics**

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

(See pictures) Some net pens have predator control netting with PVC or other type supports that may be up to 10 feet.

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

Views of the water surface would be minimally altered. Many net pens are incorporated into existing dock structures so there would be little additional alteration or obstruction of existing views. Net pen placement is in coordination with owners of docks.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None , many net pens are incorporated into existing dock structures

11. **Light and glare**

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:

None needed.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Fishing, boating, swimming are typical activities at several sites. Net pens are typically in operation during mid-fall, through winter to early spring when recreational use of lakes is at a minimum (relative to summer use).

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
None. Projects purpose is to provide enhanced recreational fishing opportunity. Any impact to recreational uses is mitigated by the fishing opportunity provided.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
None known. County permitting processes would provide that information. If one was identified, structures are non-permanent and could be removed or precluded from installation.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None known.

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

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
N/A.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
N/A.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
N/A.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No.

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

Project occurs on the water, but will not use water.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Unknown, but likely very few.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

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

None.

16. **Utilities**

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.

None proposed.

C. SIGNATURE

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: Josh Nicholas .....

Date Submitted: 6/3/10.....

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not 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?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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?

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

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

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

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