



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)

Name of Proposal: WDFW AUTHORIZED NET PEN PROJECTS in 25 SITES

Description of Proposal: 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. 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 ft² (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.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Phone: 360-902-2685
Contact Person: Joshua Nicholas

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Chelan, Cowlitz, Grant, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Puget Sound, Washington,

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 **July 1, 2010**

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 17, 2010 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 10 -040. dns

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
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle
Thurston County Planning Department, Olympia
State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Nisqually Tribe, Olympia
Squaxin Island Tribe, Shelton
Skokomish Tribe, Shelton
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 6, Montesano
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 6, Montesano
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 6, Montesano

Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services, Tacoma
Muckleshoot Tribe, Auburn
Puyallup Tribe, Tacoma
Yakima Tribe, Toppenish

Snohomish County Department of Planning and Community Development, Everett
Stillaguamish Tribe, Arlington
Tulalip Tribes, Marysville
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 4, Mill Creek
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 4, Mill Creek
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 4, Mill Creek

Skagit County Planning Department, Mount Vernon
Skagit County Public Works, Mount Vernon
Lummi Indian Natural Resources, Bellingham
Lummi Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Nooksack Tribe, Deming
Suquamish Tribe, Suquamish
Swinomish Tribe, La Conner
Skagit System Cooperative, La Conner
Upper Skagit Tribe, Sedro Wooley

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA)
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services, Bellingham

San Juan County Planning Department, Friday Harbor

Jefferson County Planning and Building Department, Port Townsend
Jamestown 'Klallam Tribes, Sequim
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Kingston

Clallam County Department of Community Development, Port Angeles
Hoh Tribe, Forks
Quileute Tribe, LaPush
Makah Tribe, Neah Bay
Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles

Chelan County Planning Department, Wenatchee
Yakima Nation, Toppenish

Colville Confederated Tribes, Nespelem
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 2, Ephrata
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 2, Ephrata
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 2, Ephrata

Cowlitz County Department of Community Development, Kelso
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 5, Vancouver
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 5, Vancouver
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 5, Vancouver

Grant County Planning Department, Ephrata
Colville Confederated Tribes, Nespelem

Lewis County Planning Department, Chehalis
Chehalis Tribe, Oakville
Nisqually Tribe, Olympia

Grays Harbor County Planning and Building Department, Montesano
Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah

Ferry County Planning Department, Republic
Spokane Tribe, Wellpinit
WDFW, Habitat Program; Region 1, Spokane
WDFW, Fish Program; Region 1, Spokane
WDFW, Wildlife Program; Region 1, Spokane

Stevens County Planning & Community Development, Colville

Pend Oreille County Planning Department, Newport
Kalispell Tribe, Usk