



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:** CATHLAMET CHANNEL SALMON REARING NET PENS

**Description of Proposal:**

This project involves rearing 250,000 juvenile hatchery spring Chinook in net pens on an annual basis from October to February, in the Cathlamet Channel, an off-channel area of the Columbia River. These fish would be reared and released to provide fishing harvest opportunity as discussed below. At a certain size (or life stage) the juveniles would be released from the net pens and migrate to the ocean to feed and grow into adults. By rearing the juvenile spring Chinook in a specific off-channel area (a body of water/side channel that is connected to the main river channel) they will become acclimated to that area and it is expected that they will home in on that location when they return as adults. Because they have been acclimated to this location as juveniles the returning adults will generally remain in the net pen area and be available for harvest through WDFW-managed fisheries. WDFW's main purpose is to find an area to raise and release hatchery fish so that, upon their return, commercial fishing seasons can be set to collect those adult hatchery fish without negatively impacting other salmon runs.

This DNS covers Net Pens in Cathlamet Channel specific impacts and supplements DNS #12-084: WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY ON COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN SALMON MANAGEMENT that stated in part: *"Also increased net pen production will come from additional acclimation sites, possibly Cathlamet Channel."*

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.  
600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
Contact: Cindy LeFleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager – 360-906-6708  
[Cindy.LeFleur@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Cindy.LeFleur@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** at the City Dock, at the end of Broadway Street, Cathlamet, WA 98612, Wahkiakum County; Southeast 1/4 of Section 02, Township 08 North, Range 06 West WM

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 **September 4, 2013**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Bob Zeigler

**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://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> 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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** August 19, 2013

**SIGNATURE:**



## Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 13 -064. dns