



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: DNS 14-050: SEA LION FLOATING TRAPS

Description of Proposal:

WDFW and NMFS propose to install two 16'x16' floats that serve as hauling platforms for sea lions in marine waters of Puget Sound anchored in place adjacent to the Port Security Barriers at Navy Bases in Everett and Bremerton. Traps will be installed on the floats that will allow the agencies to capture up to 50 adult male California sea lions and 30 of those males will be instrumented with satellite linked dive recorders to assess the proportion of time animals are hauled out of the water and the location of their foraging (feeding) grounds within Puget Sound. The floats will be in place from spring/summer 2014 through April 2015. The project is being conducted to provide sea lion behavioral data for the US Navy required by them for permitting of their training and testing activities at-sea and in Puget Sound.

Sea lions use these floats as haulout sites, entering and exiting traps at will via a vertically-sliding door which will be pad-locked open with a chain whenever capture events are not scheduled. When used by sea lions and we are in an active capture mode, traps will be unlocked and monitored hourly to be sure the doors remain open until staff chose to close them.

Monitoring the traps uses a combination of physical visits by WDFW and NMFS to the trapping site 1) by boat, 2) monitoring from the shoreline, and 3) by Navy port security personnel. We plan 2-4 day capture windows between November and January at each location to deploy instruments. 15 sea lions will be instrumented at Everett and 15 instrumented at Bremerton.

Floats will be temporary and removed when project completed.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington State Department of
Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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National Marine Fisheries Service
National Marine Mammal Laboratory

Contact: Robert DeLong
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

Float 1 will be anchored ~60 yards outside of Naval Station Everett's Port Security Barrier at 47.9834 N; 122.225 W. Naval Station Everett is located next to the marina area of the city of Everett, Snohomish County, Washington; 25 miles (40 km) north of Seattle.

Float 2 will be anchored ~30 yards outside Bremerton Naval Shipyard's Port Security Barrier at 47.5575N; 122.6284W. Bremerton Naval Shipyard is located in Bremerton, Kitsap County, Washington; 20 mi (34 km) west of Seattle.

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 rules². 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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 6, 2014**.

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
- 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: Lisa Wood

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 law¹.

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 22, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-050.dns