



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 20-045: ANADROMOUS SALMON AND STEELHEAD
HATCHERY POLICY C-3619

Description of Proposal:

This policy, C-3619, is a complete revision and supersedes the original policy C-3619 adopted November 5, 2009. The objective of the policy is to implement a consistent scientific driven hatchery management framework for WDFW hatchery programs. This is a non-project specific proposal that will guide the management of WDFW hatcheries in Washington state. The purpose of the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy is to guide hatcheries and their individual rearing programs to advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead by continuing to implement hatchery reform measures; to perpetuate salmon and steelhead in accordance with existing mitigation programs and agreements for permanently lost habitat; and to provide sustainable economic and stability benefits to recreational, commercial and tribal fisheries in Washington State as appropriate.

WDFW has embraced hatchery reform as a means to achieving salmon recovery while maintaining economically important harvest opportunities. WDFW believes that hatchery production at levels similar to today can be maintained at most hatcheries while providing 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 without the guiding principles of hatchery reform, hatchery programs can confound efforts to rebuild wild salmon populations and undermine efforts to recover wild fish.

The intent of this Policy is to provide direction, goals, objectives, and actions to improve hatchery effectiveness and ensure compatibility between hatchery salmon and steelhead production and wild salmon and steelhead conservation in a manner that optimally achieves the stated purposes of this Policy.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: This policy is a statewide policy. 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 units (ESU/DPS).

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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on September 28, 2020**.

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/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. 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 Lisa Wood at the address above or email SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: September 14, 2020

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 20-045.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes at (360-902-2349), or TTY 771, or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html.