



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (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 21-050: PINTO ABALONE RECOVERY PLAN

Description of Proposal:

The pinto abalone recovery plan outlines the criteria that will be used to evaluate the status of the population in Washington, for eventual upgrades to threatened or sensitive status. It also details the steps that the department and its partners will take to achieve that status. It does not include any rule making. In the current draft plan, those steps are:

- 1) Captive breeding and propagation of pinto abalone for the enhancement of the wild population, including:
 - a) Maintenance of current pinto abalone hatchery at Manchester, WA
 - b) Increase in hatchery capacity through satellite facilities
 - c) Continuation of research regarding best captive abalone husbandry methods and juvenile rearing methods
 - d) Rotation of hatchery broodstock into wild spawning aggregations in the San Juan Islands or Strait of Juan de Fuca.
 - e) Develop quarantine protocols for possible importation of out-of-state broodstock
- 2) Expansion of outplant program
 - a) Large-scale juvenile abalone outplanting to restoration sites in the San Juan Island and Strait of Juan de Fuca, continued monitoring of established sites, and continued research into favorable site characteristics.
 - b) Further research into the efficacy of larval and post-larval abalone outplants
- 3) Continuous and expanded identification and monitoring of remnant wild aggregations
 - a) Continuous index site monitoring through the use of agency and partner divers
 - b) Addition of new index sites or identified wild aggregations
 - c) Exploratory dives to find new aggregations, singleton broodstock, and outplant friendly habitat in the San Juan Islands and Strait of Juan de Fuca
- 4) Continued relations with partners and the public
 - a) Build partnerships and secure financial support for outplant and monitoring program
 - b) Maintenance of fishery closures and diligent enforcement
 - c) Education and public outreach
- 5) Close additional knowledge gaps in pinto abalone life history and ecology
 - a) Ocean acidification impact on pinto abalone
 - b) Barriers to recruitment and survival including water quality and sedimentation
 - c) Genetic diversity of remnant wild population and hatchery-origin population

- d) Baseline monitoring of kelp forest ecosystem shifts
- e) Relationship between adult density and fertilization efficiency
- f) Basic life history information for pinto abalone in Washington waters.

The draft plan is available for review at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02284>

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Counties affected by this plan in the natural environment are Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam. Counties affected by this plan in that they contain upland hatchery facilities are Jefferson, Kitsap, and King. To protect current and future restoration sites from poaching and human disturbance, neither WDFW nor our collaborators release geospatial information regarding the location of these sites.

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 101 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 January 6, 2022.**

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.

Please submit your comments online through the Public Input comment portal for this proposal at: <https://publicinput.com/PintoAbalone>

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

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

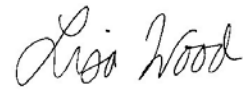
Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

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 27, 2021

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 21-050.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 the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).