SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. <u>You may use "not applicable" or</u> <u>"does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown</u>. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [HELP]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Non-native game fish and fisheries policy

2. Name of applicant:

Stephen Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501 (360)902-8315

4. Date checklist prepared:

10/14/2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The development of this policy and its options went through an extensive public process over the past 16 months. The policy development started in May 2020 and has included comments and input from a citizen-based ad-hoc advisory group, an on-line town hall meeting, a 60-day on-line public review, a 60-day tribal review, 4 Fish and Wildlife Commission Fish Committee meetings, and two full Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings. Following the current SEPA process (November 1-14, 2021), a final decision on this policy and its options is expected to come from the Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 3, 2021.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

As a policy, this document is intended to provide general guidance to WDFW staff on the types of actions that may be undertaken in the management of non-native game fish and fisheries for thee species. Over time, actions may occur that are allowed under this policy (e.g., introductions of species into new waters, removal of species from other waters) and those actions would undergo a seperate SEPA review as appropriate for the specific project. This policy is not intended to circumvent any requirement for environmental review of an individual project, where required under SEPA.

This SEPA checklist includes multiple options being put forward to the Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider as part of their final non-native game fish and fisheries policy. WDFW will finalize this policy from options that are chosen by the Commission.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

This policy mentions "chemical" methods for control of some species of fish. WDFW used two Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (FSEISs) when it created a Programmatic SEPA determination for their proposed actions of rotenone discharge under the Draft Fisheries Resource Management National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) General Permit that provides general coverage for the Lake and Stream Rehabilitation Program statewide. The Program is regulated by

the NPDES permit, as authorized by the EPA and administered by the Washington Department of Ecology.

- 1. Lake and Stream Rehabilitations Final Supplemental Impact Statement (FSEIS), 1992-1993 and
- 2. Lake and Stream Rehabilitation: Rotenone Use and Health Risks FSEIS, 2002
- 3. SEPA DS/Adoption 15-008: Programmatic Lake ad Stream Rahabilitation
- 4. Fisheries Resource Management National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) General Permit # WAG994276

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

As this policy is not site specific, this does not apply to this proposal.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

As this policy is not site specific, this does not apply to this proposal.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

WDFW proposes to establish a Non-native Game Fish and Fisheries policy that will serve to guide the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) management of non-native gamefish statewide. This proposed policy will provide general guidance on when and where it will be appropriate for WDFW to manage fisheries for non-native game fish through the establishment of fishing seasons, bag or catch limits, and geographical areas where such activities will be permitted. These species already occur in the majority of inland waters in Washington and fisheries already occur on these species. This policy is not expected to significantly change how, when, or where WDFW prioritizes the management of non-native game fish, but will provide clear guidance as to where non-native game fish can be a priority for our management and where native species are a priority. The policy will also be consistent with WDFW's mandate under RWC 77.04.012 which requires WDFW to "preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters...", as well as "maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state." In addition to WDFW's mandate, additional guidance to this policy was provided by the Washington State Legislature through Title 77 in directing the Commission and WDFW to manage certain non-native fish species such that various native species including southern resident killer whales are not negatively impacted, after which the Commission undertook rule-making actions to liberalize daily bag limits for certain non-native game fish species in anadromous waters. Concurrently, through legislation of RCW 77.44.010, WDFW was directed create a warm water gamefish enhancement program "designed to increase the opportunities to fish for and catch warm water game fish including: Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, channel catfish, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, and tiger musky." This policy establishes the following:

- 1) This policy will support conservation and recovery of native species.
- Actions under this policy will utilize best available science related to non-native game fish species impacts on native species of concern – particularly vulnerable salmonids - to systematically craft fisheries to meet the interests of non-native game fish anglers where appropriate.
- The policy establishes management guidance in six broad categories: population management, fishing regulations, introduction/supplementation/translocation, habitat, and targeted control in six broad water body types.

- 4) This policy will be consistent with state laws, rules, Commission policies, and native species conservation plans.
- 5) This policy will use precautionary approaches to manage non-native game fish fisheries within the WDFW's available budget.
- 6) Provide clear and concise context and guidance as to where, when and how WDFW may manage non-native game fish to provide recreational opportunity.
- 7) Non-native game fish species play an important role in Washington's diverse recreational fishing landscape, generating hundreds of thousands of angler trips annually, and contributing millions to local and state economies.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This is a statewide policy and will be implemented for all inland, fresh waters of the state.

B. Environmental Elements [HELP]

1. Earth [help]

a. General description of the site: Not applicable

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Does not apply to this proposal.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply to this proposal.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply to this proposal.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

2. Air [help]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction. operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

3. Water [help]

- a. Surface Water: [help]
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

This policy will cover all waters of the state.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

This policy does not require any specific work to be done in any specific body of water, it just provides guidelines as to where and when work may be appropriate or may be prioritized.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

This is not a construction project, so this does not apply to this proposal.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply to this proposal.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

This policy will cover all waters of the state, but it is not a construction project.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, this does not apply to this proposal.

- b. Ground Water: [help]
 - 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No, this does not apply to this proposal.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . .; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply to this proposal.

- c. Water runoff (including stormwater):
 - Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal..

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

- 4. Plants [help]
- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

Does not apply to this proposal.

- _____deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- _____evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ____shrubs
- ____grass
- ____pasture
- ____crop or grain
- _____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- _____water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ____other types of vegetation
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply to this proposal..

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply to this proposal.

5. Animals [help]

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Depends upon project location.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____ b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Depends upon project location.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Depends upon project location

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Depends upon project location.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Depends upon project location

6. Energy and Natural Resources [help]

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

7. Environmental Health [help]

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Does not apply to this proposal.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. Does not apply to this proposal.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Does not apply to this proposal..

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply to this proposal.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

- b. Noise
 - 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply to this proposal.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Does not apply to this proposal.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [help]

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

There will be no land use changes caused by this proposal.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Does not apply to this proposal.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

Does not apply to this proposal..

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply to this proposal.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Does not apply to this proposal.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Does not apply to this proposal.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Does not apply to this proposal.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does not apply to this proposal.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Does not apply to this proposal.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does not apply to this proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does not apply to this proposal.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

I. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

9. Housing [help]

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal..

10. Aesthetics [help]

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does not apply to this proposal.

f. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

11. Light and Glare [help]

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply to this proposal.

g. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply to this proposal.

h. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply to this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

12. Recreation [help]

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Depends upon project location and the species present.

i. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No, this policy will provide guidelines for the management of fish species, and will not displace any recreation.

j. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [help]

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Does not apply to this proposal..

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Does not apply to this proposal.

e.Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Does not apply to this proposal.

14. Transportation [help]

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply to this proposal.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Does not apply to this proposal.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No, there is no requirement for this type of work.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

This policy is not designed to increase or decrease angler participation, it is providing sideboards on where WDFW can expend effort in the <u>management</u> of non-native gamefish and their fisheries. These species already occur in most water bodies. Angler trips (vehicle trips per day) are not expected to change.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply to this proposal.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply to this proposal.

15. Public Services [help]

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Does not apply to this proposal.

16. Utilities [help]

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

Does not apply to this proposal.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply to this proposal.

C. Signature [HELP]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:	SHAC		
Name of signee		Stephen Caromile	
Position and Age	ency/Organization _	Inland Fish Program Manager	
Date Submitted:	10/29/2021		

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [HELP]

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

This proposal will not increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: Does not apply to this proposal.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

This proposed policy provides general guidelines on when and where it is appropriate for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage fisheries for non-native game fish through the establishment of fishing seasons, bag or catch limits, and geographical areas where such activities will be permitted . These species already occur in the majority of inland waters in Washington and fisheries already occur on

these species. This policy is not expected to significantly change how WDFW prioritizes the management of non-native game fish, but will help provide clear guidance as to where non-native game fish can be a priority for our management and where native species are a priority.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

This purpose of this proposed policy <u>is</u> the conservation and protection of native species of fish. This is not a management plan nor does it list explicit requirements, but it provides broad guidance for executing fisheries and for the conservation of fish species (native and non-native) across six broad water types in multiple management scenarios. This policy prioritizes the management of native anadromous fish and species of concern over introduced fish species in certain waters.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

This proposal will not deplete or impact any energy resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Not applicable.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

This proposed policy will not increase the use of any environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection. Any fisheries that are currently allowed in these areas may continue to be allowed in these areas and areas that are currently closed to fishing will remain so.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Not applicable.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

This proposed policy will not be likely to change any land or shoreline use patterns. Any fisheries that are currently allowed in these areas may continue to be allowed in these areas and areas that are currently closed to fishing will remain so.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Not applicable.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

This proposed policy will not be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities. This proposed policy does not constrain or liberalize the fisheries for non-native game fish in either number or duration.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Not applicable.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

This policy will not conflict with any laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The sideboards for the creation of this policy stated that it must conform to all state and federal laws, agency policies, and species recovery and management plans. The policy in itself is designed to provide guidance as to where management of resident non-native game fish can occur so it does not conflict with these laws or plans.