

SEPA Checklist for WDFW Emerging Commercial Fishery Designation for the Columbia River
Non-Treaty Commercial Fishery

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.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Rulemaking for designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery in the lower Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Contact:

Dr. Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead
Charlene.Hurst@dfw.wa.gov / (360) 605-5247

4. Date checklist prepared:

August 4, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is initiating a rulemaking process to designate an Emerging Commercial Fishery in the lower Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery. This rulemaking is the subject and scope of this SEPA checklist.

Once the rule designating the Emerging Commercial Fishery is effective, WDFW will utilize these experimental gears through their annual planning and in-season management process. These experimental gears will be subject to specific regulations relating to seasons, locations and harvest/impact limits, as determined through the existing management process. Approximately five years after the designation is effective, WDFW will submit a report to the Washington State Legislature with findings and a recommendation on whether or not to legalize these new gears. The decision to legalize any of the experimental gears will trigger a separate rulemaking process at that time.

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

There are currently no plans to expand or add onto the rulemaking for this Emerging Commercial Fishery designation. While the scope of this SEPA checklist pertains to this specific rulemaking, subsequent rulemaking and action will undergo a separate SEPA review as appropriate. These subsequent actions include permitting and establishing rules for the use of experimental gears within the existing Columbia River management process (e.g., seasons, catch limits, geographic areas), and may be exempt from SEPA under the Washington Administrative Code.

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

Given the administrative nature of this rule, no environmental information has been or will be prepared directly related to the designation of an Emerging Commercial Fishery. However, the purpose of designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is to gather information, including any relevant environmental information, to evaluate these potential new gears and support future decision making.

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.

There are no other applications or proposals affecting or related to this proposal.

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

- The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will adopt the final rule.

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 has initiated a rulemaking process (the subject of this SEPA checklist) to designate an Emerging Commercial Fishery in the lower Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery. This designation supports the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission's Columbia River Policy (C-3630), which calls for the exploration of alternative commercial fishing gears. The goal of this designation is to investigate the

feasibility and commercial viability of new mobile and fixed fishing gears (e.g., beach seines, purse seines, pound nets). As described above in A.6 and A.7, the proposal undergoing SEPA review at this time is the rulemaking for the Emerging Commercial Fishery designation and not any subsequent actions.

Pursuant to RCW 77.65.400, the WDFW Director may designate an Emerging Commercial Fishery authorizing trial and/or experimental fishing with gears that are otherwise disallowed for commercial fishing. This designation allows information to be gathered for approximately five years, at which point findings will be presented to the Washington Legislature to determine whether or not to establish permanent fisheries using these additional gears (RCW 77.70.180). If the legislature decides to establish permanent fisheries, a rulemaking process will be undertaken (including SEPA) to legalize these new commercial gears.

Once the Emerging Commercial Fishery designation is effective, the required fishing licenses and permits will be issued on an annual basis (RCW 77.65.400). WDFW staff will then utilize these experimental gears within the existing Columbia River management framework. Columbia River salmon fisheries are managed through a Compact process with Oregon where regulations are established annually to specify the time, place and gears for commercial fishing. The experimental gears will essentially “plug into” this process and be utilized when, where and how they are appropriate (i.e., as run sizes and fishery conditions allow).

There are several new fishing gears being explored through this designation. Mobile gears, such as beach and purse seines, operate in a similar fashion to the currently authorized gears (gillnets and tanglenets). Fixed gears, such as pound nets, operate differently and may require fixed infrastructure such as pilings and docks to be constructed in or adjacent to the Columbia River.

Following the Emerging Commercial Fishery designation (the scope of this SEPA review), several permitting processes will be undertaken to examine the environmental impacts of construction and operation for each proposed fixed gear installation. This is separate from the fishing licenses/permits referenced above, which would only be issued once the respective fixed gear installation is fully permitted and operational. Each county’s Shoreline Master Plan will also be consulted to assess if fixed gear is allowable in the respective county and what additional county permits are necessary. Below is a brief overview of the different local, State and Federal agencies involved in permitting fixed gear in the Columbia River. It is anticipated that the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) process will be used to streamline this process.

- Army Corps of Engineers – Federal Section 10 permit
- Washington Department of Natural Resources – Site Leases
- Washington Department of Ecology – Conditional Use Permit and Federal Section 401/404 permits (as necessary)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Hydraulic Project approval, emerging commercial fishery license and trial/experimental fishery permits.
- Counties – Shoreline Use permits

The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation being pursued through this rule allows for the experimental use of new gears but will not change any other regulations or policies associated with Columbia River commercial fisheries. → This designation is both temporary and administrative in nature and is not expected to have any significant environmental impacts. Additional rulemaking or action pertaining to the permitting and

actual use of these experimental gears will undergo a separate SEPA review or be subject to SEPA exemption, as appropriate.

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.

The Emerging Commercial Fishing designation will authorize the experimental use of new gears in the Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery. This fishery is authorized to harvest salmon, sturgeon, eulachon, and shad on the lower Columbia River (from the mouth of the river to Bonneville Dam).

There are two types of fishing licenses that authorize commercial fishing on the lower Columbia River: Columbia River/Willapa Bay and Columbia River/Grays Harbor. However, the Emerging Commercial Fishery designation only authorizes experimental gears in the Columbia River.

Washington State counties that border the lower Columbia River include Pacific County, Wahkiakum County, Cowlitz County, Clark County, Skamania County, and Klickitat County.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

2. Air

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 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.

The Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery occurs in the following surface water bodies:

- Columbia River, from the river mouth upstream to the Bonneville Dam
- Off-channel select areas on the lower Columbia River. Select areas are designated fishing sites in bays, channels, and river mouths along the Columbia River. These include:
 - Deep River (on the Washington side of the Columbia River)
 - Youngs Bay, Blind /Knappa Slough, and Tongue Point/South Channel (on the Oregon side of the Columbia River)

- 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.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

- 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.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

- 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.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

b. Ground Water:

- 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.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- ___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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. See A.11 for a description of subsequent permitting processes.

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

5. **Animals**

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

Examples include:

- birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

The Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery harvests salmon, sturgeon, eulachon, and shad in the lower Columbia River.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The following threatened and endangered species are found in or around the lower Columbia River.

Fish species:

- Salmon, Chinook Lower Columbia River ESU (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Salmon, Chinook Snake River fall-run ESU (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)

- Salmon, Chinook Snake River spring/summer-run ESU (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Salmon, Chinook Upper Columbia spring-run ESU (WA State Candidate, Federal Endangered)
- Salmon, chum Columbia R. (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Salmon, coho Lower Columbia River ESU (Federal Threatened)
- Salmon, sockeye ESU (WA State Candidate, Federal Endangered)
- Steelhead lower Columbia R. (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Steelhead middle Columbia R. (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Steelhead Snake R. Basin (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Steelhead upper Columbia R. Basin (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Pacific Eulachon (smelt) (WA State Candidate, Federal Threatened)
- Green sturgeon (Federal Threatened)

Other marine and coastal species:

- American White Pelican (WA State Threatened)
- Common Loon (WA State Sensitive)
- Gray Whale eastern Pacific population (WA State Sensitive)
- Columbian White-tailed Deer (WA State Endangered, Federal Threatened)
- Sandhill Crane (WA State Endangered)
- Streaked Horned Lark (WA State Endangered, Federal Threatened)
- Marbled Murrelet (WA State Endangered, Federal Threatened)
- Humpback Whale (WA State Endangered, Federal Endangered/Threatened – different populations have different listing status)
- Western Snowy Plover (WA State Endangered, Federal Threatened)
- Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (WA State endangered, Federal threatened)
- Northern Spotted Owl (WA State endangered, Federal threatened)
- California Sea Lion (Federal threatened)
- Steller Sea Lion (Federal endangered for Western DPS)

All fishery-related activities in the lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam) occur in consultation with NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). All fishery activities are managed for consistency with current ESA guidelines and requirements. The designation of an Emerging Commercial Fishery is administrative in nature and subsequent use of experimental gears will occur in compliance with the ESA.

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

Yes, salmon, shad and eulachon return to the Columbia River as adults on their upstream migration. Additionally, adult and juvenile anadromous fish pass through these areas from their natal waters. The designation of an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action and does not impact these migration routes.

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

Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action and does not directly or negatively impact the preservation or enhancement of wildlife. However, the development and testing of new gears, if successful, may result in improved capability to harvest hatchery produced salmon while reducing incidental take of ESA listed wild salmon.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action and does not contribute to the introduction or abatement of invasive species.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

7. Environmental Health

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- 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.

The lower Columbia River is used for many purposes including commercial and recreational fishing, wildlife viewing, boating, and a variety of marine transport and other activities related to the region's associated ports and marinas. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action and will not affect current land uses in the region. However, some experimental gears may result in changes to land and shoreline use. There is a subsequent permitting process for fixed gears that will explore these impacts (see A.11).

- 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. No land or waterways will be converted with this administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

9. Housing

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

10. Aesthetics

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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

11. Light and Glare

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

12. Recreation

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

Recreational fisheries for salmon and steelhead occur throughout the Columbia River. Additional recreational opportunities include boating, swimming/beachgoing, hunting and birdwatching.

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

No. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action and will not impact recreational fishing or other recreation opportunities.

- c. 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- 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.

Much of the lower Columbia River is historically and culturally significant. The National Park Service previously conducted a study as part of the National Heritage Area designation process cataloging the Native American and Euro-American culture and history in the lower Columbia and nearby coastal areas (designation was not further pursued due to lack of public support) ([link](#)).

- 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.

Southwestern Washington and the lower Columbia River region are home to several Native American tribes. The region further supports the livelihoods and cultural heritage of a number of upriver tribes. Historically, many Pacific Northwest Tribes travelled to the Columbia River to fish for salmon, steelhead, eulachon, lamprey and other species, and many of those tribes maintain rights to those fishing areas today. Columbia River tribal fisheries are managed in partnership between state and tribal governments in accordance with resource sharing agreements and federal treaties. This Emerging Commercial Fishery designation applies only to non-treaty Columbia River commercial fisheries.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. Consultation on any potential impacts to cultural and historic resources will occur during a subsequent permitting process for potential use of fixed gear (see A.11).

- d. 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action. Addressing potential impacts to cultural and historic resources will occur during a subsequent permitting process for potential use of fixed gear (see A.11).

14. Transportation

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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).

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

The Columbia River non-treaty commercial fishery occurs in the lower Columbia River which is a major transportation waterway. However, the Emerging Commercial Fishery designation being proposed is administrative in nature and will not impact transportation along the Columbia River. Subsequent permitting processes for fixed gears (see section A.11) will assess any potential impacts to navigation.

- 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?

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

15. Public Services

- 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.

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

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

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

Does not apply. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

- 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. Designating an Emerging Commercial Fishery is an administrative action.

C. Signature

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: _____ *Ryan Lothrop* _____

Name of signee __Charlene Hurst, Ph.D.____ Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager, WDFW

Position and Agency/Organization __ Columbia River Management Unit Lead, WDFW__

Date Submitted: __August 4, 2021_____

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(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?

The proposed Emerging Commercial Fishery designation is an administrative action and will not increase discharges, emissions, the release of hazardous substances or noise levels.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Does not apply. The program will not result in any increases.

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

The proposed Emerging Commercial Fishery designation is an administrative action and is not likely to negatively affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life. However, the ultimate goal of this action is to develop new, more selective fishing gears, which would support the State's Wild Salmon Policy and salmon recovery efforts. Some of the new gears may require fixed infrastructure, the environmental impacts of which will be assessed through the JARPA process (see A. 11). The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation sought under this rule allows WDFW to develop and test these new gears while simultaneously collecting additional information and assessing environmental impacts to support a permanent decision.

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

Does not apply.

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

The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation will not deplete energy or natural resources.

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

Does not apply.

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?

The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation is not likely to adversely affect environmentally sensitive or protected areas given the administrative nature of the action. Potential impacts of new fixed gears will be assessed through a subsequent permitting process (see A.11).

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

Does not apply.

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?

The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation is not likely to negatively affect land or shoreline use given the administrative nature of the action. Potential impacts of new fixed gear infrastructure will be assessed through a subsequent permitting process (see A.11).

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

Does not apply.

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

The Emerging Commercial Fishery designation would not increase demands on transportation, public services, or utilities.

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

Does not apply.

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

No conflict with any local, state or federal laws or requirements.