

## WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, 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.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND

##### 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Draft Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy: "Columbia River Basin Salmon Management"  
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/>

##### 2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish Wildlife (WDFW)

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

600 Capitol Way N

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Contact: Cindy LeFleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager – 360-906-6708

##### 4. Date checklist prepared: December 18, 2012

##### 5. Agency requesting checklist: WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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

The intent is to gradually phase out the use of gill nets in the mainstem Columbia River by the end of 2016. During the period 2013-2016, the commercial fishery will transition into off-channel fishing, and development of alternative harvest strategies using purse seines and beach seines. Additional hatchery fish would be released in off-channel areas (Deep River on the Washington side, 3 others on the Oregon side). Increased Washington production could possibly come from additional net pen sites in Cathlamet Channel or another location in the Lower Columbia River. At this time,

WDFW has not determined another site besides Cathlamet Channel for consideration. Test fishing will be conducted by contracted commercial fishers, using tangle nets in the Cathlamet Channel. For projects authorized by WDFW, routine net pen installation and removal: The majority of net pen projects will receive fish from October-January and release fish from April-May. Net pen removal and installation would typically take place between those periods. Fishing activities will occur year-round, but will be focused in March-June and August-October. Test fishing will be focused in March-May.

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

YES. The number of hatchery fish acclimated in the net pens at Deep River would increase over time to meet the transition goals of moving commercial fisheries to off-channel areas. Also increased net pen production will come from additional acclimation sites, possibly Cathlamet Channel. WDFW would develop and implement selective-fishing gear and techniques for commercial mainstem fisheries to optimize conservation and economic benefits consistent with mainstem recreational objectives.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. A JARPA will be prepared and submitted to Wahkiakum County, WDFW and USACE. Aquatic Land Use Authorization from DNR.

A previous study document by BPA **6450-0** 1-P entitled Finding of No Significant Impact for Lower Columbia River Terminal Fisheries Research Project was prepared and can be found on WDFW SEPA web site: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa\\_comment\\_docs.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html)

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.  
This project is a collaborative effort between the states of Oregon and Washington's departments of Fish and Wildlife.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
NPDES from DOE, Shoreline Substantial Development permit from Wahkiakum County, Hydraulic Project Approval, nationwide permit from USACE and an Aquatic Land Use Authorization from DNR. All fishery-related activities in the lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam) have been provided to NOAA Fisheries during consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NOAA Fisheries has provided a Biological Opinion that fisheries operated under the "U.S. v Oregon" Management Agreement" dated May 2008 meet the "no jeopardy" standard, and do not pose jeopardy to ESA-listed salmonids.

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.)

The intent of the plan is to implement an alternative management framework for non-tribal Columbia River recreational and commercial fisheries. The framework is intended to enhance the economies of Oregon and Washington as a whole, ensure the long-term viability of recreational and commercial fisheries and those communities that rely on them, and contribute to fish conservation and recovery. In the off-channels it would expand existing seasons, boundaries, increase production or provide new production and allow increased harvest where the likelihood of impacting ESA-listed stocks is lower than the mainstem. The physical component of this proposal involves the expansion of the current net pen sites in both Oregon and Washington. This proposal covers the installation and removal of net pens and any associated fish acclimation activities. Net pens are non-permanent floating structures used to hold fish for several months, for feeding and monitoring, until they reach sufficient size and are released to enhance public sport and commercial fishing in lakes, rivers and marine areas. Most net pen structures consist of a narrow wood or metal frame that rests on floats on the surface of the water with a

mesh net extending into the water. There is minimal shading of the water surface below. Some net pens have net covers to reduce avian predation of juvenile fish. While it's possible that wildlife could get entangled in the netting, current operations and past experience suggest this rarely occurs. Net pens are secured by attaching directly to a dock, pilings or other floating structure, with cables attached near the shore or, in a few cases, by anchoring directly to the bed of the water body. Most net pens are incorporated into an existing dock structures so any additional navigational or safety hazards would be minimal. An individual net pen would encompass no more than 400 ft<sup>2</sup> (20' x 20') of surface area with a net no deeper than 20 ft. These net pens aim to acclimate and release spring Chinook and coho as part of increased off channel production for harvest opportunity (Figures 3 and 4).

Proposed net pens for spring Chinook may be located in Cathlamet Channel or another area in the Lower Columbia River. This project would potentially include up to 10 net pens for the release of 250,000 spring Chinook.

The restructuring of sport fisheries and the development and implementation of selective alternative gear such as purse seines and beach seines in the mainstem would optimize area-specific opportunity to target harvest on abundant hatchery stocks, reduce the number of hatchery-origin fish in natural spawning areas, and provide commercial fishing opportunities.

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 existing net pen at Deep River is located at: Deep River (WRIA# 25.0071, LLID 1236973462451) at R.M. 6.9 Grays–Elochoman Basin; tributary to the Columbia River at R.M. 20.5), Columbia Estuary Sub-basin, T10-0N-R8-0W. An additional location for Spring Chinook acclimation has not been finalized but may include Cathlamet Channel.

Mainstem selective alternative gear fishing areas will be determined through the Columbia River Compact and would be focused in the commercial fishing Zones (Figure 2) of the lower Columbia River downstream from Bonneville Dam.



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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other. . . . .

N/A = net pens and fisheries are located in and on the water

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

N/A = net pens and fisheries are located in and on the water

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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 prime farmland.

Various soils on river shore or bottom.

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

Unknown

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No fill or grading is proposed

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

N/A = there is no proposed construction or clearing for the installation and maintenance of the net pens.

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

0%

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

N/A = erosion and other impacts to the earth will be avoided due to the lack of movement of earth. Project vessels servicing these net pens will practice no wake operations to minimize shore erosion during access and egress from area.

## 2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The only emissions that can be reported would be from the vehicle that would deliver the fish to the net pens and from the boats during the commercial off-channel fishing seasons. It is assumed that these emissions will not propose a significant impact to the air.

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

No

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

There are none are needed

### 3. Water

#### a. Surface:

- 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.

Net pens are currently located at four locations in the Lower Columbia River; in Washington- Deep River, in Oregon-Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough. All of which flow directly into or are channels on the Columbia River. Additional location has not yet been determined but may include Cathlamet Channel.

Fisheries will occur in the mainstem Columbia River downstream from Bonneville Dam (Figure 2), or in Deep River or in Cathlamet Channel. These fisheries are currently in operation.

- 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.

Yes, installation and removal of the net pens takes place on or near the water. Underwater inspection of the net pen components and minor maintenance and repair may occur while the net pens are in the water.

Fisheries will occur in the mainstem Columbia River downstream from Bonneville Dam (Figure 2), or in Deep River or in Cathlamet Channel. These fisheries are currently in operation.

- 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.

No fill or dredge material will be removed or added to the net pen sites.

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

This proposal does not require surface water withdrawals or diversions for Deep River or if Cathlamet Channel is used for the new net pen site. It is unclear what water withdrawals or diversions might be needed if the net pens are located in the waste water treatment facility. If withdrawals or diversions are needed, the water would be discharged into the same location as withdrawn from. The water is classified as non-consumptive.

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

N/A = the net pens and fisheries are located in the water

- 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.

Fish waste from the rearing fish in the net pens will be released directly into the water. The volume will vary depending on the number of fish reared at the particular site. NPDES wastewater discharge permits are required for any facility with more than 20,000 pounds of net production or feeding more than 5,000 pounds of food in a month. Future plans include an additional 100,000 coho smolts to be released in the Deep River net pens. Fish would be put in the pens at a size of 25 fish/pound and would be residing in the net pens from

November until they are released in May. Fish are expected to be a size of 12 fish/pound when released in May.

There is an expectation for a new net pen site for spring Chinook. The site has not yet been determined but the Cathlamet Channel and/or the current waste water treatment facility in Cathlamet are under consideration at this time. If net pens are put into Cathlamet Channel, then Columbia River waters would flow through the pens. There would be little likelihood of waste build-up in this situation because of the continuous flow of the Columbia River. Another location that may be considered for placement of new net pens is in the current waste water treatment facility in Cathlamet. This facility is in the process of being decommissioned and relocated. If the net pens are located at this site, water would need to be pumped in and waste from fish holding would be maintained within the impoundment. The net pens would not likely be directly connected to the Columbia River.

Future plans include 250,000 spring Chinook smolts to be released in the new net pens. Fish would be put in the pens at a size of 15 fish/pound and would be residing in the net pens from November until they are released in April. Fish are expected to be a size of 10 fish/pound when released in May.

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b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn or discharged into the ground water.

- 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.

N/A = this project does not deal with septic tanks or any other sources of domestic waste disposal.

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.

N/A = net pens and fisheries are located in and on the water

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

Fish waste from the rearing fish in the net pens will be released directly into the water. The volume will vary depending on the number of fish reared at the particular site. NPDES wastewater discharge permits are required for any facility with more than 20,000 pounds of net production or feeding more than 5,000 pounds of food in a month. If the potential short-term impacts from the net pens impede water flow through the nets, the nets will be cleaned to remove any waste material or debris.

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

None, fish waste is expected to be below levels which would require control measures.

4. **Plants**

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

X \_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other - cottonwood

- X\_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- X\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs
- X\_\_\_\_\_ grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ pasture
- \_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain
- X\_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- X\_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- X\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

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

No vegetation will be removed or altered from the use of the net pens. There may be some alterations to the vegetation adjacent to the shoreline from the beach seine fishery. Most areas that would be conducive to beach seine fishing would not have much vegetation in the area. The impact from the beach seine fishery would be minimal to any vegetation.

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

There are no known listed plant species on or near the net pen site

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

No plantings are needed to enhance or preserve the vegetation in the area of the net pens

**5. Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site: Potential animals that might be on or near the site are:
  - a. Hawk, herons, eagles, songbirds, ospreys, mergansers, gulls, waterfowl
  - b. Deer, elk, beaver, otter
  - c. Salmon, trout, bass, sturgeon, smelt, shellfish
  - d. Benthic invertebrates

Potential impacts would most likely occur to fish and benthic invertebrates and the effects would mostly be just below the net pens. Some non-target fish species could be caught in the gillnets, purse and beach seines in the mainstem and off-channel areas. The numbers and types would not be greater than what currently occurs in sport and gillnet fisheries. There is a potential for shellfish to be displaced from the beach seines, but none of the shellfish are protected and the displacement would be temporary.

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

- Salmon, Chinook Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Salmon, Chinook Snake River fall-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Salmon, Chinook Snake River spring/summer-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Salmon, Chinook Upper Columbia spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Salmon, chum Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
- Salmon, coho Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
- Salmon, sockeye U.S.A. (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)
- Steelhead lower Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Steelhead middle Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Steelhead Snake R. Basin (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Steelhead upper Columbia R. Basin (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)  
Pacific Eulachon (smelt) (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)  
Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)

All fishery-related activities in the lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam) have been provided to NOAA Fisheries during consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NOAA Fisheries has provided a Biological Opinion that fisheries operated under the “*U.S. v Oregon*” Management Agreement” dated May 2008 meet the “no jeopardy” standard, and do not pose jeopardy to ESA-listed salmonids. All fishery activities would be consistent with Endangered Species Act (ESA) guidelines and requirements.

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

Yes, salmon acclimated in the off-channel net pens would return to the sites as adults on their upstream migration. Additionally, adult and juvenile anadromous fish from out of project areas may pass through these areas. Migration impacts should be minimal due to the large body of water and relative small size of the net pens. All of the salmon, steelhead, smelt and green sturgeon would migrate through the lower Columbia River.

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

A goal of this project is to change the type and location of certain commercial harvest methods by phasing out or limiting the use of gill nets and tangle nets in the mainstem and implementation of live capture selective commercial fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River. This would be accomplished by increasing off-channel commercial fishing opportunities where the goal is to have minimal impact on listed salmonid stocks. All fishery activities would be consistent with ESA guidelines and requirements.

## 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.

The net pens and net bags are manufactured off site and towed into position using outboard motors on small vessels or skiffs. The daily operation of the net pens does not require energy other than the transport equipment to access net pens. The fish being acclimated to the net pens are feed by hand. A solar power exclusionary fence may be used to keep predators out of net pens. Fishing boats will use diesel or gasoline fuel.

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

No, the net pens with predator control netting sits three feet above the water surface and would not hinder adjacent property owners solar generation.

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:

Since the net pens draw no power once installed, there is not an energy conservation plan included in this proposal.

## 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.

None could be expected to reasonably occur.



1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the chance that there is a high water event with a heavy debris load the net pens would have to be monitored to make sure they were out of harm's way.

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

There are no known environmental health hazards expected.

**b. Noise**

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

There are no known noises that would affect the net pen project or fisheries.

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.

A minimal amount of noise would be created during daylight hours when the net pens were installed, removed or maintained. There will be minimal boat noise associated with the commercial and recreational fishing boats.

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

With the project projected to create a minimal amount of noise with little to no impact there is not a plan to reduce or control noise impacts.

**8. Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Currently, four off channel net pen sites (see map, figure1) have been used to rear fish for Columbia River sport and commercial harvest. The SAFE fisheries program (has been known by several other names) began in 1962 and expanded in 1989 to include spring Chinook. This proposed project would continue to use the current net pen locations in addition to adding additional sites as needed and will gradually increase the number of fish reared in the net pens until the Columbia River commercial management plan goes into full effect in 2017.

Fishing activity occurs throughout the lower Columbia River and includes all accessible beaches.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No the sites are not used for agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Net pens are typically located next to existing docks or installed pilings. The actual locations for additional acclimation sites is to be determined but will be in the lower Columbia River possibly in the Cathlamet Channel. There is an off channel marina located nearby, but proposed operations should have little or no impact on marina activities.

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

No structures need to be demolished for this proposal.

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

There are no zoning classifications in this area

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

The site area is designated as specific agricultural

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

Rural shoreline conservancy aquatic

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No part of the site has been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area

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

No humans will inhabit the net pens or fishing areas as a result of this proposal. Net pen operations require 2-3 staff to maintain the net pen structures, nets and feed acclimating fish.

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

This project will not displace any people

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

Displacement impacts will be avoided during this project

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

N/A = this is an in-water project and does not involve extensive land use.

#### 9. **Housing**

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

N/A = this project is not building resident housing

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

N/A = this project is not eliminating resident housing

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

N/A = this project is not building resident housing

#### 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?

Some net pens have predator control netting fixed to the top of the pens with PVC pipe that is typically three feet high. When not being used for fish acclimation, 10 foot tall stanchions are visible above the net pen deck. These stanchions are made of black UHMW (Ultra High Molecular Weight) plastic.

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

Even with the predator control mesh on top of the net pens it will not alter or obstruct the view.

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

No measures need to be taken to reduce or control aesthetic impacts.

### 11. Light and glare

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

This project will not produce any light or glare.

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

This project will not produce any light or glare.

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

This project will not be affected by off-site sources of light or glare.

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

This project will not produce any light or glare.

### 12. Recreation

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

There are a multitude of recreational fishing and boating (motorized and non-motorized) opportunities in the area, including fishing, sailing, kayaking. Camping and hiking occurs on the lands and islands located adjacent to the Columbia River.

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

By increasing the commercial harvest opportunity in the off-channels, there will be an increase in recreational fishing opportunities in the mainstem Columbia as well as the adjacent off channel areas. During times when purse/beach seine fisheries will occur in the mainstem Columbia River, there may be sport fishing boats displaced. This will be determined by the fishery managers, but is not expected to reduce overall opportunity.

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

All fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River are managed conservatively and monitored by highly trained staff with Washington and Oregon departments of Fish and Wildlife. Spring Chinook fisheries occurring during January through mid-June are managed with a 30% run size buffer to provide increased certainty that fisheries occurring upstream of Bonneville Dam are not negatively impacted by fisheries below Bonneville Dam. All fisheries are managed to remain within the guidelines of the ESA and other co-manager agreements.

**13. Historic and cultural preservation**

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.  
There are no known places or objects listed on the national, state, or local preservation registers on or next to the existing and proposed net pen sites.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.  
There are no known landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the existing and proposed net pen sites.

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- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:  
If any evidence is uncovered that is thought to have historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance the experts at the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be notified. The net pens are non-permanent structures and can be relocated if needed.

**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.  
Public roads will be accessed to install and maintain the net pens.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?  
Public transit does not reach any of the net pen sites.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?  
None. This project would not impact current parking patterns or activities.
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).  
None. This project would not impact current driving patterns or activities. All access will be by public thoroughfares.

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- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.  
Installation and maintenance of the net pens is accomplished with small vessels or skiffs. These craft are launched at nearby existing boat launches or marinas and travel directly to the net pen.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

For installation, the net pens are delivered by truck and trailer. The number of deliveries depends on the number of net pens being installed and the number of fish being acclimated. Normal net pen operations would involve one or two trips per day to deliver fish feed or materials for maintenance and repairs.

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

Pre-trip planning will reduce the number of trips per day and minimize any impacts on local traffic.

**15. Public services**

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

None.

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

None.

**16. Utilities**

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

None at this time, because final location of this net pen project is yet to be determined.

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.

None at this time, because final location of this net pen project is yet to be determined.

**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:

December 18, 2012 .....

Date Submitted: TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT      EVALUATION FOR

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**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(do not 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.

The Department considers this proposal to be both a project and nonproject action.

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?

By increasing the commercial harvest opportunity in the off-channels, there will be an increase in recreational fishing opportunities in the mainstem Columbia as well as the adjacent off channel areas. This could add additional emissions to air.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:  
None at this time.

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

Some non-target fish species could be caught in the gillnets, purse and beach seines in the mainstem and off-channel areas. The numbers and types would not be greater than what currently occurs in sport and gillnet fisheries. There is a potential for shellfish to be displaced from the beach seines, but none of the shellfish are protected and the displacement would be temporary.

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

The proposed project is unlikely to deplete energy. The expansion of the off channel acclimation net pens will enhance both commercial and sport fisheries.

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

This project will contribute to the overall recovery strategies for salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia basin.

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?

There is no foreseeable impacts on historic or cultural sites because there will be no additional construction activities.

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

None

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EVALUATION FOR  
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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?

Shorelines would be used by beach seine fishers. Shorelines are currently used for recreational activities including fishing. Sport and commercial fisheries are managed to avoid conflicts with each other.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:  
Impacts are expected to be negligible.

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

It is not anticipated that this project will increase demands on public services or transportation.

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

None

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.  
No conflicts expected.

Figure 1. Map of Current Lower Columbia River Select Areas - (Youngs Bay = Zone 70; Tongue Point / South Channel = Zone 71; Blind Slough / Knappa Slough = Zone 74; and Deep River = Zone 80)





Figure 2. Columbia River Fishing Zones.

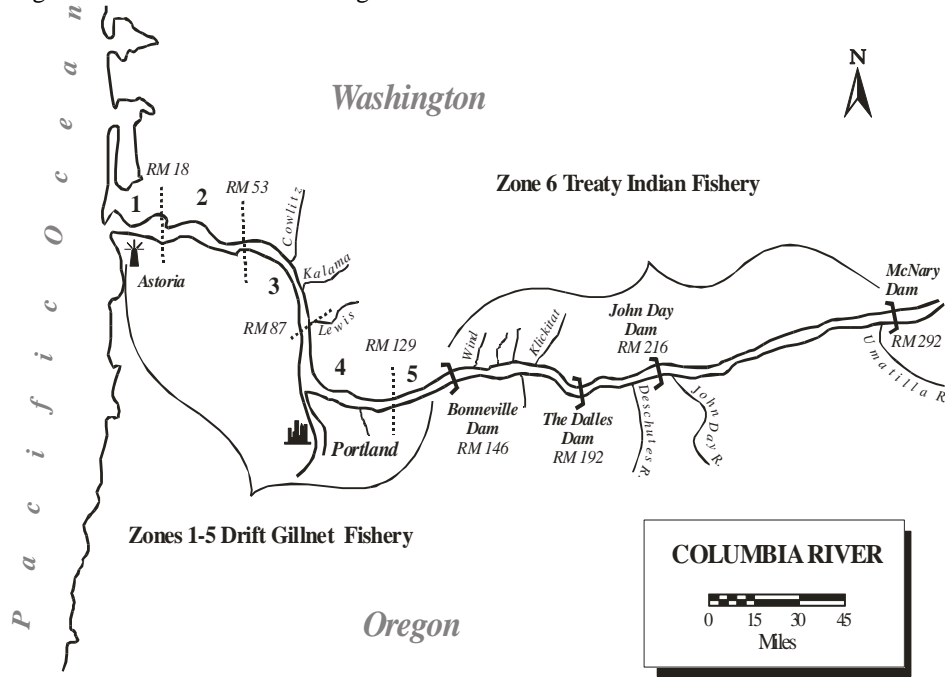


Figure 3. Deep River net pens.



Figure 4. Diagram of a net pen.

