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. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. 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 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.

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: [help]

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). 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: [help]

Modification of the surf smelt spawning beach occupancy standard

2. Name of applicant: [help]

Randi Thurston

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
(360) 902-2602

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

February 17, 2017

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department)

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

Once the SEPA process is complete the proposed modification to the surf smelt spawning beach occupancy standard will became effective immediately.

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

No

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

The Habitat Program Science Division prepared a paper entitled Informing Spatio-temporal Correlation in Surf Smelt Egg Detection to Improve HPA Protection of Forage Fish Spawning Beaches. (See attached document).This paper explains the science supporting the proposed modification.

If the proposed modification is approved, the Department will revise the location map (http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/projects/marine_beach_spawning/index.html) that shows the documented spawning locations of Pacific Sand Lance, Surf Smelt, and Pacific Herring in Washington State to reflect the modified surf smelt spawning beach occupancy standard. The department will also modify the Priority Species and Habitats interactive map (http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/). This map displays known locations of priority habitats and species including surf smelt spawning beaches.

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. [help]

Locations within the occupied surf smelt spawning beach could have applications pending for government approvals for proposed construction or other work.

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

None

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.) [help]

After reviewing the science, both the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Hydraulic Code Implementation Citizen Advisory Group recommend the Department extend the previous standard of surf smelt beach occupancy, from the current 305 m to a distance of 1267 m. When surf smelt eggs are observed in a 30 m sampling transect, the occupied surf smelt spawning area would extend in both directions from the center of the transect up to a distance of 634 m (1267 m total) or until there is a change in beach type based on Washington Department of Natural Resources ShoreZone inventory data. The new standard would replace the old standard for establishing the spatial scale of an occupied beach based on a single occupied transect. The total length of documented surf smelt spawning beach in Puget Sound will increase from 517 kilometers to 1063 kilometers.

Currently, the presence of a documented occupied surf smelt spawning beach can restrict project type, design and timing. This will not change. In addition, the department is not proposing any rule (Chapter 220-660 WAC) changes. As a result, the authorized work times (WAC 220-660-330(3)(e)) will not change and a survey option (WAC 220-660-330(3)(f)) will still be available in nine of the thirteen tidal reference areas because the surf smelt spawning period is six months or longer. The Department does not anticipate an increase in the number of surveys because the Department currently requires intertidal forage fish spawning surveys if the job site has bed materials similar to the documented beach and the work will occur during the spawning season (WAC 220-660-330(3)(h)).

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. [help]

The proposal increases the kilometers of mapped occupied surf smelt spawning beaches in Puget Sound and on the Pacific Coast from 517 kilometers to 1063 kilometers.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth [help]

a. General description of the site: [help]

Surf smelt deposit their eggs (spawn) in the upper intertidal zone of Puget Sound and Coastal beaches.

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

Puget Sound and Coastal nearshore landforms include beaches and bluffs, estuaries and lagoons, river deltas and rocky coastlines.

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Surf smelt spawn on a mixture of coarse sand and fine gravel in the upper intertidal zone.

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

3. **Water** [help]

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. [help]

Yes, surf smelt spawn in the upper intertidal zone of Puget Sound and Coastal beaches. Several rivers and streams empty into Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean, however, the proposed occupied beaches are not located at the mouth of these freshwater bodies.

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. [help]

Yes, surf smelt spawn in the upper intertidal zone of Puget Sound and Coastal beaches. Currently, if the spawning period is six months or longer, a project proponent can conduct an intertidal forage fish spawning beach survey no more than 72 hours prior to working on the beach. If no eggs (spawn) are found then the work may proceed. The survey option is not effected by the proposal.

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

No

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

No

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. [help]

No

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. [help]

No

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. [help]

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

No

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

No

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

Not applicable

4. **Plants** [help]

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

__X__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
__X__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__X__shrubs
__X__grass
_____pasture
_____crop or grain
_____Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
__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? [help]

No vegetation will be removed.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

5. **Animals** [help]

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. [help]

Examples include:

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

Several invertebrate and vertebrate animal species inhabit Puget Sound and Coastal shorelines. However, only surf smelt and sand lance eggs are impacted by intertidal forage fish spawning bed surveys. This impact is minor.

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

The following threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the marine nearshore: bull trout, sockeye, chinook, chum and coho salmon, steelhead, eulachon, green and loggerhead sea turtles, green sturgeon, and snowy plover.

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

Juvenile salmonids migrate in the marine nearshore. Migratory seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl are found on or near Puget Sound and Coastal shorelines in the spring and fall.

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

Intertidal forage fish spawning bed surveys are conducted trained biologists, during low tide, and following an established protocol. Only four scoops of beach gravels are collected in a 100 foot stretch of beach so the impact to eggs is minimal.

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

Unknown

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

No

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: [help]

Not applicable

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. [help]

No

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [help]

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

b. Noise [help]

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

Land uses along marine shorelines include residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural.

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? [help]

This proposal will not affect land use.

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: [help]

No

c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

Structures include dwellings, buildings, marinas, marine terminals, docks, bulkheads, and boat ramps.

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

Not applicable

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

Not applicable

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

The comprehensive plan designation is specific the state and local government who prepared the comprehensive plan that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development.

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

The SMP designation is specific to the local government who has the primary responsibility for the planning required by the Shoreline Management Act and "administering the regulatory program consistent with the policy and provisions" of the act.

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

Critical areas found along Puget Sound and Coastal shorelines include wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and geologically hazardous areas.

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

Unknown

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

Zero

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

Not applicable

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

Project proponents must obtain applicable local permits prior to conducting work in the nearshore. These permits review the proposed project for compatibility with existing and projected land uses and plans.

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

Not applicable

9. **Housing** [help]

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

No

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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? [help]

Not applicable

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

None

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]

Not applicable

11. **Light and Glare** [help]

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

None

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

No

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

None

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

Not applicable

12. **Recreation** [help]

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

Recreation may include shellfish and seaweed harvesting, fishing, beachcombing and bird watching.

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

No

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

There may be buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the proposed occupied surf smelt spawning beaches that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers. However, the proposal will not affect these structures.

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. [help]

There may be landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation on or near the site. However, this proposal will not increase the risk of harm to these resources.

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. [help]

Project proponents must obtain applicable federal, state and local permits prior to conducting work in the nearshore. Many of these permits review the proposed project for potential impacts to cultural and historic resources.

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. [help]

Intertidal forage fish spawning bed surveys are conducted trained biologists, during low tide, and following an established protocol. Only four scoops of beach gravels are collected from the top 1-2 inches of beach so risk to cultural resources in.

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. [help]

Puget Sound and Coastal shorelines are served by public street and highways.

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? [help]

Some Puget Sound and Coastal shoreline areas are likely served by public transit.

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

Not applicable

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). [help]

No

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

No

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? [help]

Not applicable

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. [help]

No

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

Not applicable

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. [help]

No

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

Not applicable

16. **Utilities** [help]

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

Puget Sound and Coastal shorelines are served by utilities. However, this proposal will require installation or modification of existing utilities.

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. [help]

No utilities are planned by 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: _Randi L. Thurston_____
Name of signee _Randi Thurston_____
Position and Agency/Organization _Protection Division Manager, WDFW_____
Date Submitted: ____2/17/2017____

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?

The 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:

Not applicable

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

Only surf smelt and sand lance eggs are impacted by intertidal forage fish spawning bed surveys. This impact is minor because only four small scoops of beach material collected from the top 1 – 2 inches of the beach during the survey.

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

Only four small scoops of beach material collected from the top 1 – 2 inches of the beach during the survey.

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

The proposal will not deplete energy or natural 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?

The proposal is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites. This proposal will not affect parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers wetlands, floodplains or prime farmlands.

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

Intertidal forage fish spawning bed surveys are conducted trained biologists, during low tide, and following an established protocol. Only four scoops of beach gravels are collected in a 100 foot stretch of beach so the impact to eggs is minimal.

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 proposal will not affect land or shoreline use. Use designations are made by the local government.

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

Project proponents must obtain applicable local permits prior to conducting work in the nearshore. These permits review the proposed project for compatibility with existing and projected land uses and plans.

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

This proposal will not increase demands for public transportation.

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 proposal will not conflict with local, state, or federal laws.