



State of Washington

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 17-008: SURF SMELT SPAWNING BEACH OCCUPANCY  
STANDARD MODIFICATION

**Description of Proposal:**

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)).

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Contact: Randi Thurston  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360) 902-2602  
[Randi.Thurston@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Randi.Thurston@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Marine beaches in Puget Sound and on the Pacific Coast of Washington; Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Island, San Juan, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific Counties.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on March 20, 2017**.

**Method of Comment:** The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 6, 2017

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 17-008.dns