

# 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:***

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: [Proposal to list the pinto abalone \(\*Haliotis kamtschatkana\*\) as endangered in the state of Washington.](#)
2. Name of applicant: [Dr. Henry Carson](#)

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501  
(360) 902-2846

4. Date checklist prepared: January 15, 2019

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): If approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the pinto abalone would be added to the state endangered species list effective in June 2019 (approximately).

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. No. Restoration activities for pinto abalone populations are ongoing and independent of this proposal.

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

A preliminary status report for pinto abalone in Washington has been prepared by WDFW, and is currently subject to public comment and peer review. A final status report is scheduled to be issued in April 2019.

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 none.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. Not applicable.

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.)

Pinto abalone, a marine gastropod mollusc (sea snail), are candidates to be added to the state endangered species list. Available information suggests that the local population continues to decline, is aging, has experienced widespread reproductive failure, and likely will not recovery without significant assistance. The proposal would remove pinto abalone from the list of food fish/shellfish potentially available for harvest, remove other regulations related to harvest, and add it to the state's list of endangered species.

Information on the current status and trends in pinto abalone populations, factors effecting their continued existence, and management activities related to restoration are detailed in the *Preliminary Status Report for the Pinto Abalone in Washington* currently available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02031/>.

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

This proposal would list abalone as endangered in all marine waters of the state of Washington. The species is known to exist primarily in shallow waters of Northern Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca over hard substrate such as bedrock or boulder.

## **B. Environmental Elements** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. **Earth** [\[help\]](#) This proposal applies only to marine waters and does not apply to any terrestrial area.

a. General description of the site:

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

2. **Air** [\[help\]](#) This proposal applies only to subsurface marine waters and would not impact 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.

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

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

### 3. Water [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

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

This proposal applies to all marine waters of the state of Washington, including the Pacific coast, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Georgia and San Juan Islands, Admiralty Inlet, Hood Canal, and Puget Sound. Pinto Abalone are not found in all these locations, however (see A12 above).

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.

As a proposed change to legal designation (endangered species), the proposal does not prescribe any specific work. Restoration activities for this species are ongoing and independent of this 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.

Not applicable.

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

No.

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

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.

No.

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#) This proposal does not involve any fresh water including groundwater.

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.

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.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater): [This proposal does not involve any fresh water including stormwater runoff.](#)

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.

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

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

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

#### 4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

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 ([marine macroalgae](#))

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

[Not applicable.](#)

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.  
Not applicable.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:  
Not applicable.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.  
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.

Examples include:

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

A diversity of animals co-occur with pinto abalone in the marine waters of the state of Washington including marine invertebrates (e.g. sponges, cnidarians, bryozoans, annelids, crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms, and non-vertebrate chordates) and vertebrate chordates (e.g. bony and cartilaginous fishes, sea birds, and marine mammals).

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

Any threatened or endangered species that inhabits Washington marine waters could potentially exist near pinto abalone habitat, although pinto abalone are generally found in shallow water only ( $\leq 10$  meters depth). Potential species include the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), orca (*Orcinus orca*), North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalis*), sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), tufted puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentate*), coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*Onchorynchus keta*), sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*), steelhead (*Onchorynchus mykiss*), bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), and yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*).

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.  
Not applicable.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:  
The proposal itself would afford protection to the pinto abalone via the state endangered species act.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.  
There are no known invasive species specific to pinto abalone habitat in Washington.

**6. Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#) As a proposed change to legal designation (endangered species), the proposal does not directly result in the consumption of energy or 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.

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

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:

**7. Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#) As a proposed change to legal designation (endangered species), the proposal does not directly impact human 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.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
- 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.
- 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.
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

b. *Noise*

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

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.

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

**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.

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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:

Not applicable.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

As this proposal involves nearshore areas of the entire state, especially the six counties with known pinto abalone populations, the shoreline master program designations vary over the entire range from "Urban" to "Natural".

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

As a nearshore species, pinto abalone exist within critical habitat designations from federal endangered species act listed species. For instance, the critical habitat map for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon encompasses all nearshore habitat in Puget Sound. Together with protections for orca habitat, forage fish spawning grounds, or bull kelp beds, nearly all pinto abalone habitat is classified as protected in one way or another.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?  
Not applicable.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?  
Not applicable.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:  
Not applicable.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:  
Not applicable.
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:  
Not applicable.

**9. Housing** [\[help\]](#) This proposal does not involve housing.

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

**10. Aesthetics** [\[help\]](#) This proposal will not impact aesthetics.

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**11. Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#) This proposal will not produce any light or glare.

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

**12. Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?  
 As this proposal involves nearshore areas of the entire state, there are myriad recreational opportunities in the vicinity of pinto abalone habitat, including boating, swimming, fishing, and diving.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.  
 This proposal does not include any new restrictions on recreational use anywhere. Harvest of pinto abalone has been closed by department rule since 1994, and would remain closed.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:  
 Not applicable.

**13. Historic and cultural preservation** [\[help\]](#) This proposal will not impact any historic or cultural buildings or structures.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

**14. Transportation** [\[help\]](#) This proposal will not impact 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.
  
- 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?
  
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?
  
- 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).
  
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
  
- 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?
  
- 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.
  
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**15. Public Services** [\[help\]](#) This proposal will not impact non-WDFW public services.

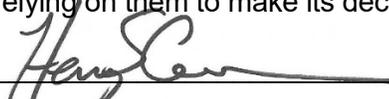
- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
  
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**16. Utilities** [\[help\]](#) This proposal does not involve utilities.

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

**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:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee Henry Carson

Position and Agency/Organization Research Scientist, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Date Submitted: Jan 15, 2019

**D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions** [\[HELP\]](#)

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

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

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

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

[This proposal will not increase any of these things.](#)

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

As a change in legal status, this proposal will not directly impact any of these. It may indirectly result in increased populations of pinto abalone in the state, which in turn may have marine ecosystem impacts. Grazing activity of the abalone may reduce the abundance of drift kelp consumed, but is also like to keep rock substrate clear and available for the recruitment of new kelp. Increased populations of pinto abalone may also serve as prey to a variety of fish, invertebrates, and marine mammals.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

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?

Not applicable.

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

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 may result in changes to Shoreline Master Program (SMP) documents, particularly for the counties that have shoreline with documented pinto abalone populations (Clallam, Jefferson, Island, Skagit, San Juan, and Whatcom). These documents may require surveys for pinto abalone or pinto abalone habitat to assess the impacts of subsurface construction, and appropriate steps to ensure no net loss of pinto abalone individuals or habitat.

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

Some of these SMP documents already have provisions related to pinto abalone as they are a state candidate / sensitive species currently. Most or all of the shoreline in question already has restrictions related to bull kelp (which co-occurs strongly with pinto abalone) and other ESA-listed species such as orcas or salmon. The addition of pinto abalone protections to these areas is not expected to significantly increase the need for pre-construction survey activities.

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

Not applicable.

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

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

Not applicable.