



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 23-005: WASHINGTON AND OREGON EULACHON
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Proposal:

This management plan is being submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for authorization of directed take of the Southern distinct population segment of Eulachon in commercial and recreational fisheries. The objective of this management plan is to update the 2001 Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan for the purpose of harvesting Eulachon in a manner that does not jeopardize their survival and recovery. The management area covered by this plan includes the Columbia River mainstem and adjacent tributaries in Washington and Oregon. The Eulachon fishing period may extend from December through May, with fishing generally occurring in February through April.

The management plan would outline strategies to authorize recreational and commercial fisheries within the management area, therefore the total number of people who harvest Eulachon as a result of this plan would vary between seasons, years, and areas. Based on the past 10 years of management data, in years when the Eulachon run is strong, an estimated 5-10 commercial fishers may be fishing Eulachon on the mainstem Columbia for 10-30 total days between January and April. During that same time period, an estimated 10-20 thousand recreational anglers may come out for a single day, five-six hour, recreational opener. It is likely that in most years there will only be opportunity for fewer than five recreational openers in a season.

This SEPA determination considers the portion of the plan occurring only in Washington State and does not cover the Oregon portion.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The management area and proposed fishing activities covered by this plan include the Columbia River mainstem from the mouth upstream to Bonneville Dam, and adjacent tributaries, including the Cowlitz, Lewis, Elochoman, Kalama, Grays, and Deep rivers in Washington and the Sandy River in Oregon.

Counties in Washington affected by this plan in the natural environment are Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Lewis, and Klickitat.

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 law¹ 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.² **We will not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on February 22, 2023**.

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal: <https://publicinput.com/EulachonPlan>
- Email to: EulachonPlan@PublicInput.com

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

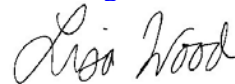
Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. 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.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 23, 2023

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-005.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).