



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)
-PHASED REVIEW-**

Name of Proposal: DNS 23-015: WDFW AND TRIBAL CO-MANAGER HATCHERY POLICY

Description of Proposal:

This proposal concerns a draft policy between Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) on behalf of WDFW, and Tribal Co-Managers on the management of anadromous salmon and steelhead hatcheries in Washington State. The full content of this draft proposal is attached. We provide here a summary of the Purpose, Scope, and Principles of the policy.

Purpose: Establishes expectations for collaborative management of tribal and WDFW salmon and steelhead hatchery programs in Washington State.

Scope of the Policy: The policy becomes active once the FWC approves the policy and at least one Tribal Co-Manager signs the policy. It is possible that not all Tribal Co-managers will sign the policy. Therefore, this policy applies to those anadromous salmon and steelhead hatchery programs operated by WDFW and Tribal Co-Managers in the geographic areas associated with the specific Tribal Co-Managers that are signatories to this policy. For those hatchery programs that fall under this Co-Manager Hatchery Policy, this policy will supersede all elements of the FWC's Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (Policy C-3624). All other hatchery programs will be operated based on existing legal requirements and C-3624.

Principle 1: Co-Managers acknowledge and re-commit to follow all court orders and management agreements arising under U.S. v. Washington, Hoh Indian Tribe v. Baldrige, and U.S. v. Oregon pertaining to salmonid hatchery operations and management.

Principle 2: Hatchery fish support Treaty Right fishing obligations that cannot be provided by natural-origin salmonid populations alone.

Principle 3: Hatcheries produce fish for state-regulated recreational and commercial fishing opportunities beyond that provided by natural-origin salmonid populations.

Principle 4: The Co-Managers will develop and/or operate hatcheries in accordance with hatchery program plans that include clearly-defined hatchery goals and describe hatchery operations at the regional and/or watershed level. The hatchery plans should indicate how the hatchery production is integrated with habitat, hydropower, and harvest. Hatchery program plans should: (1) support ecosystem function; (2) consider how natural-origin salmonids support ecosystem function; (3) consider how hatchery production can contribute to productive natural-spawning populations that are locally adaptive and diverse genetically; (4) consider how hatchery operations can maintain or enhance the genetic diversity and adaptability of hatchery

broodstock; and (5) include program goals that strive to balance harvest opportunities, cultural, economic, conservation, and ecological benefits with potential genetic and ecological risks to natural-origin salmonid populations, while considering current environmental conditions.

Principle 5: Hatcheries are to be designed and operated in a scientifically-sound and defensible manner, including adaptive management processes for informing decisions that include monitoring, evaluation, and research programs.

Principle 6: Co-Managers shall work to secure adequate financial resources to meet current and future challenges to the successful use of salmonid hatcheries in accomplishing the purpose of this Policy. This includes planning for the negative effects of climate change on salmonid survival and the resources needed to support them.

This proposal fits the definition of a nonproject action that governs the development of a series of connected actions (WAC 197-11-704(2)(b)(iii)). The series of connected actions is the management of specific hatchery programs. Since this proposal concerns a nonproject, WDFW considers this SEPA review as a phased review; the sequence of the review process moving from this nonspecific nonproject policy to future documents of narrower scope (WAC 197-11-060(5)(c)(i)). The documents of narrower scope are specific hatchery program plans (see Principle 4 above), which themselves will be subjected to a NEPA and/or SEPA review process.

The phased review is not intended to circumvent any requirement for environmental review of an individual project, where required under SEPA.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: If the WDFW and Tribal Co-Manager Hatchery Policy is approved by the FWC and at least one Tribal Co-Manager, the policy will take effect in the applicable geographic region of the state at the time when both parties have approved and signed the policy. As additional Tribal Co-Managers sign the policy, the geographic scope of the policy will increase. If all Tribal Co-Managers sign the Co- Manager Hatchery Policy, the policy would be applied broadly throughout Washington State.

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 26 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 26 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **11:59 pm on May 26, 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/CoManagerPolicy>
- Email to CoManagerPolicy@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: May 1, 2023

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-015.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).