

FINAL SEPA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Port of Seattle Elliott Bay Acclimation Net Pen Improvement Project

The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental analysis, including review of pertinent and available environmental information and preparation of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist for the following proposal:

Description of the Proposed Action: The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Port of Seattle, working in partnership, propose to improve the existing native coho salmon net pen facility in northeast Elliott Bay, adding a second acclimation net pen, identical in size and operation, compared with the existing net pen. The present net pen facility has operated annually since 1993 and is used to acclimate juvenile coho salmon produced at the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Keta Creek Hatchery, located in the Green-Duwamish River watershed. The proposed addition of a second acclimation net pen would increase the annual capacity of the marine environment rearing facility from approximately 500,000 juvenile coho to approximately 1,000,000 coho. As with the existing net pen facility, juvenile coho salmon rearing operations occur seasonally, late winter through early spring, February to June. Following release of strengthened, imprinted juvenile coho to Elliott Bay, net pen enclosure netting is removed, with the vacant net pen frames and mooring/anchor system remaining in place throughout the year.

Location of Proposed Action: The project is located approximately 225 feet water-ward of the Centennial Park shoreline, in deep sub-tidal aquatic area, southeast of the Port of Seattle's Terminal 86 Grain Transshipment Facility vessel berth (Terminal 86 grain terminal address: 955 Alaskan Way West, Seattle, Washington 98119).

Lead agency: Port of Seattle (SEPA No. 20-03)

Determination: The Port of Seattle completed an environmental evaluation including review of pertinent environmental information, following the provisions of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under Chapter 43.21C, Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and Port of Seattle Commission Resolution No. 3650, and Port of Seattle SEPA Policies and Procedures. The Port of Seattle's SEPA determination concludes that environmental impacts of the proposal are not significant.

Supporting Information: Information used to reach this determination and applicable State laws and Port of Seattle policies, regulations, and procedures are available for public review at the Port of Seattle, Pier 69, Environment and Sustainability Department, Third Floor, 2711 Alaskan Way. The document is also available for review online at <https://www.portseattle.org/environment/sepa-nepa>.

Public and Agency Comment: The DNS and Environmental Checklist for this project were first published on June 23, 2020. The Port of Seattle received no comment letters. The Port's Final DNS is now being issued based on the final determination of no significant environmental impacts. Please refer any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed actions to Matthew Mateo, Port of Seattle, Maritime Environment and Sustainability Department, P.O. Box 1209 Seattle, Washington 98111. Telephone 206-787-3433. Email the Port of Seattle electronic mail internet address at SEPA@portseattle.org. Include your mailing address when submitting comments to the electronic Internet address.

Appeals: The Port's decision on the proposal described above and the Port's issuance of a Final DNS on this proposal constitute the Port's Final SEPA decision. This SEPA DNS determination may be appealed by filing a writ of review in King County Superior Court within twenty-one (21) days of the date of issuance pursuant to Port of Seattle Resolution No. 3650. Any appeal of the SEPA DNS must also satisfy the requirements of RCW 43.21C.075.

SEPA Responsible Official: Sandra Kilroy – Director, Maritime Environment and Sustainability


Sandra Kilroy (Sep 10, 2020 08:57 PDT)

Sandra Kilroy
Director, Maritime Environment and Sustainability
September 10, 2020