

Streamlining maintenance at hatcheries



Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) routine hatchery maintenance can be accomplished more quickly, at times of year that avoid negative impacts to fish, and at less expense to taxpayers.

Routine maintenance on existing hatcheries should not trigger permitting under the Shoreline Management Act (SMA).

WDFW at times will place fish traps or weirs into a river to recover returning fish, or remove sediment from existing in-water structures as part of necessary maintenance. Local governments may be hesitant to agree that such sediment removal is “routine” maintenance, and can be reviewed under an exemption of the SMA. This can trigger permitting under local regulations, which often definitionally cover dredging or placement of structures in water. When this happens, the permit is then approved by the local government or the Department of Ecology (DOE).

DOE consults with the local jurisdiction on whether to allow the activity, which typically results in approval. But gaining that approval takes time—potentially impacting hatchery populations—and uses unnecessary resources.

This proposal is similar to a current exception from SMA permitting for Department of Transportation (DOT) maintenance. We have added prior notice requirements for all maintenance projects to DOE and local governments.

For more information, contact:

Tom McBride
Legislative Director
(360) 480-1472
Tom.McBride@dfw.wa.gov

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, 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). For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.

2 August 2022