## [POTENTIAL TFW POLICY FP RULE CHANGES TO CLARIFY OFF March 17, 2015 CHANNEL HABITAT LANGUAGE – DICK MILLER AND RAY ENTZ]

#### WAC 222-16-030 Water typing system. [Not in effect]

#### "Type F Water" \*(2)

Riverine Riverine and Palustrine wetlands, ponds, wall-based channels, depressions, and other channel features that can arebe used by fish for offchannel habitat (OCH). These areas are critical to optimum-survival of fish-Wwhen These off-channel habitats must be accessible by fish based upon a 50% flood return intervall - in some period of the year. This OCH habitat will <u>udelineate the starting edge of Type "F" buffers.</u>

## WAC 222-16-031 Interim water typing system. [Effective 12/16/06]

### "Type 2 Water"

- (d) Are used by fish for spawning, rearing, [foraging, escape cover], or migration. Waters having the following characteristics are presumed to have highly significant fish populations: to benefit fish populations
  - Stream segments having a defined channel bankfull width 20 feet or greater within the bankfull width and having a gradient of less than 4 percent.
  - (ii) Lakes, ponds, or [wetland] r impoundments having a surface area of 1 acre or greater at seasonal low water; or
  - Are used by fish for off-channel habitat (OCH). These areas are critical to the survival of fish. This habitat shall be identified based on the following criteria:
    - (i) The OCH site must be accessible by fish to or from a fish bearing stream during some period of the year;
    - The off-channel water must be accessible to fish through a drainage (ii) with less than a 5% gradient [as described in (i)].

#### \*(3) "Type 3 Water"

- Are used by fish for spawning, rearing or migration. Requirements for determining fish use are described in the board manual section 13. If fish use has not been determined:
  - Waters having any of the following characteristics are presumed to (i) have fish use:
    - Stream segments having a defined channel of 2 feet or greater (A) within the bankfull width in Western Washington; or 3 feet or greater in width in Eastern Washington; and having a gradient of 16 percent or less;
    - Stream segments having a defined channel of 2 feet or greater within the bankfull width in Western Washington; or 3 feet or greater within the bankfull width in Eastern Washington, and having a gradient greater than 16 percent and less than or equal to 20 percent, and having greater than 50 acres in

Commented [DM1]: what are these?

Commented [r2]: For policy discussion. A 50% Flood Return Interval is a two year flood event and is the standardized basis for most if not all Bank Full Width and depth definitions.

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March 17, 2015

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contributing basin size in Western Washington or greater than 175 acres contributing basin size in Eastern Washington, based on hydrographic boundaries; note: need a citation or specific resource definition – e.g. HUC 5 USGS designation.

(C) Ponds or impoundments that are accessible by fish;

- -(ii) The department shall waive or modify the characteristics in (i) of this subsection, as determined in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife, department of ecology, affected tribes and interested parties, where:
  - (A) Waters have confirmed, long term, naturally occurring water quality parameters incapable of supporting fish;
  - (B) Snowmelt streams have short flow cycles that do not support successful life history phases of fish. These streams typically have no flow in the winter months and discontinue flow by June 1;
  - (C) Sufficient information about a geomorphic region is available to support a departure from the characteristics in (i) of this subsection,

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**Commented [r3]:** Ray and Dick both recommend that the TFW Policy accept a definition for rule 030 and ask the board to discontinue the 031 interim rule.