



AQUATIC LANDS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Protecting At-Risk Species on State-owned Aquatic Lands

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands, which lie beneath marine and fresh waters. These aquatic lands provide habitat for diverse native species statewide—in marine and freshwater environments. DNR is responsible for protecting these ecosystems while also providing for navigation, commerce, use of renewable resources, and public uses.

DNR is preparing a draft **Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** to ensure that as we carry out our management activities of state-owned aquatic lands, we are protecting species identified in the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) as being at risk from environmental threats. The goals of the Aquatic Lands HCP are to:

- Avoid and minimize harmful effects to these species and their habitats.
- Improve and restore habitat quality to compensate for unavoidable effects of activities and uses.
- Identify and protect important habitats.

What activities will be affected by this HCP?

DNR authorizes more than 70 different kinds of uses on state-owned aquatic lands. In developing the HCP, DNR analyzed how certain species that depend on aquatic habitats (such as during migration, breeding, and foraging for food) could be affected by activities that DNR authorizes.

DNR's Aquatic Lands HCP will focus primarily on uses and activities that affect businesses, individuals, and government agencies using state-owned aquatic lands for:

- **Overwater structures** (Boat ramps, launches, and hoists; docks and wharves; floating homes; rafts and floats; marinas; mooring buoys; nearshore buildings; and shipyards and terminals)
- **Shellfish aquaculture**
- **Log booming and in-water storage**



An orca breaches in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve. Southern resident orcas are an endangered species addressed in DNR's Aquatic Lands HCP.



Western snowy plovers are a threatened species proposed for coverage in DNR's Aquatic Lands HCP.
Photo: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Which species will be covered in the Aquatic Lands HCP?

DNR initially examined 90 species for inclusion in the Aquatic Lands HC, focusing on those that are endangered, threatened, of concern, or rare, and that potentially use state-owned aquatic lands as a permanent home, a migratory resting place, or for rearing young.

After DNR scientists determined whether each of these 90 species might be negatively affected by activities that take place on state-owned aquatic lands, they identified 29 species for coverage in the HCP (listed below). This is a preliminary list. As more information becomes available, the list of species may change before the Aquatic Lands HCP is finalized.

At-risk species proposed for coverage in the Aquatic Lands HCP	
Amphibians and reptiles	Fish
Columbia spotted frog	Bocaccio
Northern leopard frog	Bull trout
Oregon spotted frog	Canary rockfish
Western toad	Chinook salmon
Western pond turtle	Chum salmon
	Coastal cutthroat trout
Birds	Coho salmon
Black tern	Eulachon/Pacific smelt
Common loon	Green sturgeon
Harlequin duck	Pacific herring
Marbled murrelet	Pacific lamprey
Western snowy plover	Pacific sand lance
	Pink salmon
Marine Mammal	Sockeye salmon
Southern resident orca	Steelhead trout
	Surf smelt
	White sturgeon
	Yelloweye Rockfish