

SALISH SEA NEARSHORE PROGRAMMATIC (SSNP) CONSULTATIONS
LIST OF REQUIREMENTS
 Version: May 25, 2023

Project Design Criteria (PDC) #9 Dredging for Vessel Access

Programmatic Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultations [National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reference number WCRO-2019-04086, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reference number FWS/R1/2002-0048454] have been completed for the activities listed below. If you can design your project to meet all of the requirements of the Programmatic Biological Opinions (i.e. General Construction Measures, and Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations, and PDC's) including the specific project design criteria listed below, then the review of your ESA consultation and permit application will be streamlined. The submittal of this list is not required. However, to further expedite your review you may include a description of how you meet these requirements in your SSNP application materials.

Activities Covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging up to 5,000 cubic yards to maintain vessel access to existing authorized piers, ramps, floats, wharfs, mooring structures, marinas, marine terminals, or boat ramps by restoring the previously authorized dredge prism. • Multiple year maintenance dredging up to 5,000 cubic yards per cycle.
Notification Requirements
<p>NMFS notification and verification is required for this activity category. USFWS notification is required for this activity category. The application materials and notification should include the information below, if applicable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation offsets are required activities covered by this PDC. Submit a proposal for conservation offsets and any applicable report(s) (i.e. conservation calculator, habitat improvement plan, pre-sale agreement etc.). See Program Administration Section 8 of the Biological Opinions for supporting information. • A submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey. • If applicant is proposing multiple year vessel access and functionality maintenance dredging, confirm agreement that a pre-dredging and post-dredging report will be submitted as described in Program Administration Section 10 of the Biological Opinions. • If an alteration from the PDC is requested, provide documentation in the notification. See Program Administration Section 6 of the Biological Opinions for supporting information and examples. Verification from both NMFS and USFWS is required if an alteration is requested.

Project Design Criteria	
	This action does not include proposals for new dredging areas or dredging associated with the Federal Navigational Channel maintenance.
	Dredged materials are suitable, verified, and approved for in-water, upland, or ocean disposal.
	Cut surface must be suitable, verified, and approved to not pose a contaminant risk, as determined by the Dredged Material Management Office.

	Dredging must not alter the character, scope, size, or location of the project area or previously authorized dredge prism.
	Dredging will require SAV surveys to determine presence or absence of aquatic vegetation and the applicant will describe how the applicant plans to avoid and minimize impacts to such habitat features.
	Dredging activities will be sequenced or phased to minimize the extent and duration of in-water disturbances.
	Applicants may dredge by hydraulic suction, clamshell, or open bucket or propeller wash or excavator.
	If dredging will occur by hopper dredge or hydraulic cutterhead, the draghead or cutterhead will remain on the bottom to the greatest extent possible and only be raised 3 feet off the bottom when necessary, to minimize water turbidity and the potential for entrainment of organisms.
	When using dredge material for beach nourishment follow PDC #13 (Beach nourishment).
	Mechanical Dredging Operations Recommendations:
	Use an environmental bucket or covered bucket, where practicable.
	Lower the bucket slowly through the water column.
	Close the bucket as slowly as possible on the bottom. Do not overfill the bucket.
	Hoist the load very slowly.
	If dewatering is permissible, pause the bucket at the water surface to minimize distance of discharge.
	Ensure that all material is dumped into the barge from the bucket before returning for another bite.
	Do not dump partial or full buckets of material back into the water.
	Dredge Material Disposal Practices
	Placement activities at designated Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) sites are performed in accordance with the Site Management and Monitoring Plan developed under 40 CFR 228.9 and with use restrictions specified as part of the designation for these sites. At non-dispersive sites, material is dispersed as thinly and evenly as possible to minimize mounding and reduce impacts to marine organisms.
	The disposal vessel will remain within the boundaries of the disposal site during a disposal event.
	The disposal vessel should maintain a continuous speed of at least 2 knots, but no greater than 6 knots, when possible, during a disposal event.
	If sediment sampling determines that dredged material is not acceptable for unconfined, in-water placement, then a suitable alternative placement plan will be developed in cooperation with NMFS, EPA, Washington Department of Ecology and other agencies, as applicable.
	If in-water disposal is not feasible due to the unsuitability of sediments, upland disposal shall be required. Upland disposal will also be considered if dredging occurs in the estuary. The applicant is responsible for permitting any beneficial use upland placement, if proposed.

	Upland disposal sites will have dikes or other facilities to manage any return water. Return water will meet state water quality standards.
	Reporting for Multiple Year Dredging
	For multiple year vessel access and functionality maintenance dredging actions, the permittee will provide pre- and post-dredging reports for each year of activity for each project.
	Annual pre-dredging reports will be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to each dredging event.
	Annual post-dredging reports will be submitted concurrent with notification requirements issued by state or Federal dredging authority.
	Annual Post-dredging Reports will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Method of dredging and equipment used in dredging operation b. Amount of material removed during dredging c. Actual footprint of dredging d. Dates on which dredging occurred and time at which dredging occurred e. Location of disposal of dredged materials