



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

Regulatory Branch
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Public Notice Date: September 19, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will hold a public training session on the use and implementation of Regional General Permit (RGP) 6 for Structures in Inland Marine Waters of Washington State.

What: Public Training Session
Who is invited: Public (applicants, agents, agencies, other interested parties)
Where: Washington Department of Ecology, Auditorium
300 Desmond Drive Southeast
Lacey, Washington 98503
When: October 27, 2017
10:00am to 2:00pm
(Demonstration of Nearshore Habitat Values Model to follow primary training session)

PURPOSE: The Corps and NMFS will jointly present the requirements of RGP-6 and the associated Section 7 Endangered Species Act programmatic consultation. This presentation will include discussion of construction specifications, mitigation requirements, and the use of the mitigation calculator. Individual project proposals will not be discussed in this forum; however, in the near future, applicants can attend RGP-6 pre-application meetings with the agencies to allow for pre-coordination on unusual or complex mitigation proposals or other overwater structure projects in inland marine waters. The agencies will take feedback on how best to clarify these requirements to the public and how best to organize upcoming RGP-6 pre-application meetings.

BACKGROUND: An RGP is a type of general permit that is designed to expedite permit review for applicants provided they meet all the requirements of the RGP. Work types authorized by RGP-6 include residential piers, ramps, floats, buoys, marine rails, stairways, trams and watercraft lifts in inland marine waters of Washington State. Inland marine waters includes tidally influenced waters ranging from South Puget Sound and Hood Canal to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia. The RGP-6 was issued on April 20, 2017 and updated on August 18, 2017.

To meet the terms and conditions of this permit and the associated programmatic consultations with both NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are limits to the size and locations of structures, in addition to other required minimization measures such as grating the entire surface of structures. This permit also requires compensatory mitigation as outlined in Appendix B of the permit. A mitigation calculator tool has been developed to assist with determination of the sufficiency of compensatory mitigation on a project-specific basis.