

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS TO CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

Project title and number

Killer Whale Critical Habitat - Primary Constituent Elements From 50 CFR Part 226

The primary constituent elements (PCE) determined essential to the conservation of southern resident killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) are:

(1) Water quality to support growth and development;

Existing Conditions: *describe conditions in project area.*

Effects to PCE: *describe effects of the action to the PCE.*

(2) Prey species of sufficient quantity, quality, and availability to support individual growth, reproduction, and development as well as overall population growth;

Existing Conditions: *describe conditions in project area*

Effects to PCE: *describe effects of the action to the PCE.*

(3) Passage conditions to allow for migration, resting, and foraging.

NMFS is gathering data to assist it in evaluating sound as a potential PCE.

Existing Conditions: *describe conditions in project area*

Effects to PCE: *describe effects of the action to the PCE.*

Determination of Effect: The determinations of effect for proposed critical habitat are: (1) no effect, (2) is not likely to destroy or adversely modify, (3) is likely to destroy or adversely modify.

The determinations of effect for designated critical habitat are: (1) no effect, (2) is not likely to adversely affect, (3) is likely to adversely affect.

Conservation Measures: