



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

Regulatory Branch
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Public Notice Date: September 30, 2016
Expiration Date: November 30, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Specific Project Information Form (SPIF) is available for shellfish activity applicants to provide information for coverage under the *Programmatic Endangered Species Act (ESA)* and *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation (MSA)* for Shellfish Activities in Washington State Inland Marine Waters.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received Biological Opinions from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This completes the Corps' ESA and MSA programmatic consultation for shellfish activities in Washington State inland marine waters.

PURPOSE: The SPIF is the mechanism by which the Corps receives detailed information about a specific project. This information is then used to verify an applicant's application is compliant with the programmatic consultation. If the application does not meet all of the requirements of the consultation, then further individual ESA/MSA consultation with NMFS and USFWS would occur. The following summarizes what information is required from applicants to receive authorization for their shellfish projects using this programmatic consultation.

1. Existing operations previously verified under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 48. The previous ESA/MSA consultation used to authorize the majority of NWP 48 verifications for existing operations has expired. For the few projects which had individual ESA/MSA consultations and the project remains unchanged, no additional information is required at this time.

If you received a NWP 48 verification since 2012 for an existing commercial shellfish operation that did not have an individual consultation, you must submit the following:

- a. A completed SPIF (note: additional documentation will be required if the proposed activity does not meet all of the requirements of the programmatic consultation).
- b. A copy of the project drawings provided with your verification letter. The drawings should be updated to include the additional information requested in the SPIF under *Drawings*. Be sure to re-date the drawings to illustrate they are current.

c. A new application (JARPA) does not need to be submitted if changes to your permitted project are not proposed. If changes to your operation are proposed, please contact us to determine what information is required.

2. For shellfish activity projects that have not submitted an application. Please submit the following information:

a. A completed application (JARPA)

b. A completed SPIF (note: additional documentation will be required if the proposed activity does not meet all of the requirements of the programmatic consultation)

3. For new or existing applications currently being evaluated by the Corps. Please provide a completed SPIF. Additional information may be required to complete the Corps' evaluation of your project. If you have questions on how this may apply to your specific application, please contact your project manager or the aquaculture program manager (contact information is below).

UPCOMING TRAINING: Applicants are invited to attend a training workshop on completing the SPIF. Spaces at the workshop training are limited and require reservations. The workshop will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016, from 1-3:30 pm at the Seattle District Office, 4735 East Marginal Way South, Seattle. To reserve your space or for further information, please contact:

pamela.sanguinetti@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6904

The SPIF is available at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/>

The JARPA is available at http://www.epermitting.wa.gov/site/alias_resourcecenter/jarpa/9983/jarpa.aspx

Detailed instructions for filling out the JARPA for shellfish permitting is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/aquaculture/pdf/JARPAinstruction.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding the SPIF or an application for a shellfish project, please contact:
pamela.sanguinetti@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6904