

SALISH SEA NEARSHORE PROGRAMMATIC (SSNP) CONSULTATIONS
LIST OF REQUIREMENTS
Version: August 02, 2022

Project Design Criteria (PDC) #5 Expand or install a new in-water or overwater structure

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	
All actions necessary to complete installation of the following:	
• Mooring Buoys	• Mooring dolphin/piles
• Debris booms	• Fender pile(s)
• Staircases	• Marine rails
• Noncovered boat lift(s)	• Boat ramps
• Residential overwater structures (i.e. fixed pier, elevated walkway, ramp, and float)	• Community overwater structures (i.e. fixed pier, elevated walkway, ramp, and float)
Notification Requirements	
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.	
• Conservation offsets are needed for activities under 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.	
• If a new structure is proposed or submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is present within 25-feet of the proposed float, submit a SAV survey.	
• If an embedded anchor cannot be used, provide analysis for concrete anchor in the notification.	
• Project description should include when applicable: dimensions (square feet) of the proposed work in the upper shore zone, lower shore zone, and/or deep shore zone; percent grating; material, length, and diameter of pilings to be removed or placed.	
• If a minor alteration from the PDC is requested, provide documentation in the notification. See Program Administration Section 6 of the Biological Opinions for supporting information.	

Project Design Criteria	
	New structures will require submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) surveys to determine presence or absence and the applicant will describe measures necessary to avoid and minimize impacts to such habitat features.
	The Corps recommends the project meet applicable construction specifications of the most current version of RGP 6 to minimize impacts.
	New mooring buoys and OWSs will not be proposed in areas where water depth is insufficient to prevent the structure from grounding out on substrate during normal low flow or low tide conditions. Floating structures remain at least 12 inches above the substrate at all times.
	If SAV is present within 25-feet of the proposed float, the bottom side of the float must be elevated at least 4 feet above the substrate at low tide to reduce prop scour impacts on SAV.
	A new structure is not proposed in a mitigation site or other habitat enhancement, restoration, preservation or creation site.
	This activity category does not include new covered OWS (e.g., boat house, boat garage, storage shed).
	New in-water residential or community OWS design criteria
	Unless the applicant demonstrates that project modifications are necessary to comply with other laws or regulations, e.g., the accessibility guidelines from the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).
	To the maximum extent practicable, the location of the proposed in-water or overwater structures should not be in areas occupied by or determined to be suitable for sensitive habitat (e.g. SAV, salt marsh, intertidal flats).
	Skirting and other continuous protective bumper material that may impede light penetration beneath an overwater structure may not extend below the bottom edge of a float frame or pier.
	Structures will be placed with as much horizontal and vertical distance to SAV as possible to minimize shading impacts, to allow for greater circulation, and to reduce impacts from boat maneuvering, grounding, and propeller damage (prop scarring).
	All synthetic float material must be permanently encapsulated to prevent breakup into small pieces and dispersal in water.
	Up to two watercraft lifts may be installed at a single-use overwater structure and up to four may be installed at a joint-use structure.
	A maximum of 2 additional piles may be used to attach a watercraft lift/grid to the piles used for anchoring the floats.
	Piles
	In addition to float and pier support piles, a maximum of 2 moorage piles to be installed.

	Use the smallest diameter piles and the fewest number necessary for support of the structure to minimize pile shading, substrate impacts, and impacts to water circulation.
	Pier support pilings must be spaced a minimum distance of 20 feet apart unless site specific conditions or engineering needs dictate a shorter distance.
	Pier support pilings in forage fish spawning habitat must be spaced a minimum distance of 40 feet apart unless site specific conditions or engineering needs dictate a shorter distance
	All pilings and mooring buoys must be fitted with devices to prevent perching by piscivorous birds.
	Mooring Buoys
	Anchor lines must not rest or drag on the substrate. A midline float must be installed to prevent this.
	Anchors should be helical screw or another type of embedded anchor. Only if the substrate prohibits use of embedded anchors may an alternative anchor (i.e., concrete block) be used.
	If an embedded anchor cannot be used and a concrete anchor is needed, calculations showing that the anchor will hold without dragging/breaking during storm events is required. This analysis should include the size of the vessel and the dry weight/dimensions of the anchor.
	No other buoys may be anchored within a 117-foot radius of the proposed buoy. Note: This requirement can be waived up to no more than 3 other buoys within a 117-foot radius of the proposed buoy provided water quality impacts to shellfish are minimized. Show all existing buoys within a 117- foot radius of the proposed buoy on the project drawings.
	Floats
	Floats must have a minimum of 50 percent grating and all grating must have a minimum of 60 percent open space (WAC 220-110-300).
	Floats may be held in place with lines anchored with a helical screw or "duckbill" embedded anchor or piles.
	Grating
	Piers, gangway ramps, and stairs must be fully grated.
	Grating openings should be oriented lengthwise in the east-west direction to the maximum extent practicable.
	New Boat Ramps
	Concrete ramps must use pre-cast concrete slabs below High Tide Line, although the slabs may be cast-in-place if completed in the dry.
	Boarding floats for a ramp may be allowed to ground out only on the ramp surface.
	The extent, size, and amount of rock used to prevent scouring, down-cutting, or failure at the boat ramp will be determined by a professional engineer.
	For elevated boat ramps, debris will be removed from under the boat ramp for the life of the project. While man-made debris (e.g., Styrofoam, fishing line, etc.) should be disposed of properly in an upland location, organic material,

	including wood and marine algae, will be moved to the beach down drift of the structure.
	New Marine Rail
	A residential property can have only one structure located within the intertidal area, a marine rail or an overwater structure, but not both.
	A marine rail has to be at least 20 feet long or an overwater structure, but not both.
	Support a marine rail with as few piles as practicable.
	New Staircase
	Stairway landings and steps must be entirely grated with either multi-directional grating with 40% open space or square grating with 60% open space.
	New Tram
	For anchoring of tram cables or footings for stairs: No more than one cubic yard of fill can be used for each footing or anchor. The number and size of footings and anchors must be minimized.