



State of Washington  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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**Decision Document for the KMMEF**

**This document seeks to rationalize and justify issuance of the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for the KMMEF, application ID number 5400. This document only highlights the biological, hydrological, and ecological baselines at or near the site, as well as the project-related impacts. This document does not provide an itemized in-depth review of project-related elements.**

**Decision:**

**It is the opinion of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) that this project is compliant with RCW 77.55.021 and all applicable WACs under 220-660-, as well as all policy and guidance provided by the agency.**

**Background:**

**Project- related actions considered under “Hydraulic Code” (RCW 77.55.021):**

- 1) Initial dredging and future dredging-related actions considered under Policy M5002;**
- 2) Piling Installation (concrete and steel);**
- 3) Overwater structure construction;**
- 4) Mitigation**

**Sub-project elements:**

- 1) Alternative dredging timelines (work window), specifically September;**
- 2) Upland disposal (vs. in-water)**

**Existing Habitat (Jurisdictional Only)**

- 1) Deep water,**
- 2) Shallow water**
- 3) Riparian**

**(Terrestrial Habitat is not considered, except for upland dredge material disposal; this habitat is assumed to be “heavily disturbed”).**

**Generally, the deep(er) water habitat (>20’) is assumed to be sand and sand waves, largely devoid of aquatic vegetation. Shallow water habitat is generally assumed to be sand and silt with little to no aquatic vegetation. The riparian area consists of sparse native vegetation (cottonwood, alders) and non-natives, such as scotch broom, etc. It should also be noted that the existing conditions allow for natural accumulation(s) of large woody material (LWM).**

**Aquatic Species (fish only, as determined under RCW 77.55.021), located in the project area, including, native, non-native, resident, and non-resident fish:**

- All Columbia River Salmon- various stocks, various life stages**
- Columbia River Steelhead**
- White Sturgeon**

- **Green Sturgeon (limited)**
- **Eulachon**
- **Others**

**Fish usage includes general upstream and downstream migration, rearing, holding (commercial fishery sanctuary), and general eulachon presence.**

**The section of the Columbia River also includes the “Kalama A” Commercial Fishery Sanctuary, which excludes all commercial fishing activities. This designation exists due to large congregations of adult (returning) salmon, and is enforced through WAC 220-33-005. Although, this facility is proposed in the sanctuary, the agency concludes that little to no impact on adult salmon(ids) will result from the construction and general operations and maintenance (O&M).**

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):**

- 1) Timing restrictions**
- 2) Vibratory hammer when possible; sound attenuation when necessary**
- 3) Limited over-water structure and grating installed (vs. solid deck) when feasible**

**Mitigation Alternatives:**

**This section consists of a suite of actions (in order below):**

- 1) Avoidance;**
- 2) Minimization;**
- 3) Compensatory Mitigation (an offset)**

**This section generally consists of the above suite of actions. The first two address the overall project design and process involved. Compensatory mitigation is considered when avoidance and minimization efforts cannot fully offset project-related impacts. The following measures seek to fully offset all project-related impacts (Jurisdictional Only):**

- 1) Piling removal in adjacent backwater channel;**
- 2) Engineered log jams (ELJs) constructed onsite;**
- 3) Riparian enhancement;**

**(Wetland buffer enhancement is not considered)**

**Combined, the suite of mitigation proposals serve as an adequate, appropriate, and sufficient offset to all project-related impacts that can be reviewed under RCW 77.55.021.**