



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

February 10, 2025

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
ATTN: Cheryl Zulick
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for MPRSA General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Carcasses, Washington

Dear Cheryl Zulick:

On December 5, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted a Consistency Determination with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). On January 29, 2025, Ecology requested a 15-day extension pursuant to 15 CFR Part 930.41(b), extending the CZM decision deadline to February 18, 2025. Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on December 23, 2024, and received no comments.

The EPA is in the process of issuing a General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Carcasses pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA). This general permit authorizes the transportation for the purpose of disposal and disposal of marine mammal and sea turtle carcasses in ocean waters for any officer, employee, agent, department, agency, or instrumentality of Tribal, federal, state, local unit of government, as well as any Marine Life Health and Stranding Response Program Standing Agreement Holder, and any Alaska Native, who already may take a marine mammal under the Endangered Species Act and/or Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Once issued, this permit will authorize disposals of marine mammal and sea turtle carcasses for a seven-year term. The general permit does not require ocean disposal of marine mammal or sea turtle carcasses; it merely authorizes ocean disposal when there is a need for such disposals. The EPA issued a general permit for transportation and ocean disposal of marine mammal carcasses in 2017 to streamline MPRSA authorization and reduce burdens associated with case-by-case emergency permitting. The previous version of the general permit did not authorize disposals for sea turtle carcasses nor disposals in Puget Sound; this permit will allow

for disposal in the ocean waters of Puget Sound. Permit re-issuance is necessary because the most recent general permit expired on January 4, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with EPA's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Address and Location Information

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

MPRSA General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Carcasses

Aquatics ID No. 143854

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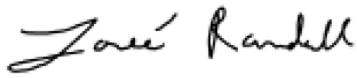
Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Aquatic Permitting & Protection Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: zulick.cheryl@epa.gov

E-cc: Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
Erin Hanlon-Brown, Ecology
Jessica Stocking, WDFW
Corey Niles, WDFW
fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov