



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Region Office
PO Box 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716 • 206-594-0000

May 13, 2025

Ice Floe DBA Nichols Brothers Boat Builders
ATTN: Gavin Higgins
5400 Cameron Road
Freeland, WA 98249

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for Ice Floe DBA Nichols
Brothers Boat Builders Launch Pad Maintenance Dredging (Corps No. NWS-2024-0099-
1), Holmes Harbor, Freeland, Island County, Washington

Dear Gavin Higgins:

On May 1, 2024, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a Certification of Consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) for the above project. Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on April 9, 2025. Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Ice Floe DBA Nichols Brothers Boat Builders' determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

On October 14, 2024, Ice Floe DBA Nichols Brothers Boat Builders and Ecology agreed to stay the CZM review period until May 1, 2025, in order for Ice Floe DBA Nichols Brothers Boat Builders to obtain a shoreline permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. On March 13, 2025, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) notified Ecology that they had withdrawn the permit application for lack of information, which placed the CZM review period on hold for the same duration that the Corps permit application was on hold. On March 26, 2025, Ecology was notified that the Corps had re-initiated their review of the permit application, which extended the CZM review period until May 14, 2025.

The project proposes to remove up to 250 cubic yards (CY) of sediment from an existing concrete boat launch ramp and basin over a ten-year period. Within the ten-year period, up to 25 CY of sediment would be removed annually from the lowest 40-foot by 80-foot section of the 605-foot existing structure to allow for continued use of the boat ramp and concrete basin. The proposed sediment removal would not exceed the footprint of the existing structure. Proposed sediment removal activities would include scraping sediment from the ramp and

excavating sediment from within the concrete basin. Sediment removal would occur in the dry at a negative low tide, using equipment stationed on the ramp. Each removal event would take place over one to two low tides within approved work windows. The excavated material would be disposed of at an upland location. The purpose is to maintain use and accessibility for launching vessels. This activity would occur in Holmes Harbor, near Freeland, Island County, Washington.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Austin Schmalz at 425-301-6989.

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

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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,



Joe Burcar, Section Manager
Northwest Region Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: gavin@nicholsboats.com

E-cc: Jaime Liljegren, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Grette Associates
Austin Schmalz, Ecology
fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov