

## Hydraulic Project Approval program

<b>Agency</b>	Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
<b>Year Established</b>	1943
<b>Relevant Statute</b>	Chapter 77 .55 RCW; Chapter 220-660 WAC
<b>Program Goal</b>	To ensure that construction or work is done in a manner that protects fish life.
<b>Agency Summary</b>	<p>A Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit is required from WDFW for any construction or project that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any of the salt or freshwater of the state.</p> <p>WDFW habitat biologists provide technical assistance to project proponents before and after the submittal of their application to ensure the project achieves the proponents' desired outcomes and protects fish life. Protection is achieved through the mitigation sequence of avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for remaining unavoidable impacts.</p>
<b>Existing Outcome Measures</b>	<p>WDFW uses an online permitting system to manage permit applications. Some compliance and effectiveness evaluation studies have been conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WDFW's 2006 Pilot Study of permit compliance, implementation, and effectiveness in WDFW Region 6 found that the HPA program appears to be working, but permit compliance and reduction of negative impacts does not meet the "no net loss" standard.</li> <li>• WDFW published a 2015 progress report of <i>Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring of Hydraulic Projects</i> that reviewed implementation of 54 culverts.</li> <li>• WDFW's Habitat Program Science Division has conducted implementation and effectiveness monitoring of shoreline armoring and fish-passage culverts since 2013.</li> <li>• In 2012, Kitsap County, San Juan County and WDFW conducted a <i>Shoreline Permitting and Effectiveness</i> study that examined the conditions of local shoreline and HPA permits.</li> <li>• In 2016, WDFW and partners evaluated 35 years of shoreline protection projects in San Juan County and found improvements in forest retention on marine shorelines after 1977 and that the majority of shoreline armor was done so without permits.</li> </ul>
<b>Other benefits identified by agencies</b>	<p><b>Economy:</b> economic contributions associated with commercial and recreational fishing and wildlife viewing</p> <p><b>Environment:</b> water quality, habitat protection,</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> emergency HPAs to address threats</p>