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WAC 220-110-250

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Saltwater habitats of special concern.

In the following saltwater habitats of special concern, or areas in close proximity with similar bed materials, specific restrictions regarding project type, design, location, and timing may apply as referenced in WAC [220-110-270](#) through [220-110-330](#). The location of such habitats may be determined by a site visit. In addition, the department may consider all available information regarding the location of the following habitats of special concern.

(1) Information concerning the location of the following saltwater habitats of special concern is available on request to the habitat management division of the department of fish and wildlife. These habitats of special concern may occur in the following types of areas:

(a) Surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) spawning beds are located in the upper beach area in saltwater areas containing sand and/or gravel bed materials.

(b) Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) spawning beds are located in the upper beach area in saltwater areas containing sand and/or gravel bed materials.

(c) Rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*) spawning beds are located in the upper and middle beach area in saltwater areas containing sand and/or gravel bed materials.

(d) Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus pallasii*) spawning beds occur in lower beach areas and shallow subtidal areas in saltwater areas. These beds include eelgrass (*Zostera* spp) and other saltwater vegetation and/or other bed materials such as subtidal worm tubes.

(e) Rockfish (*Sebastes* spp) settlement and nursery areas are located in kelp beds, eelgrass (*Zostera* spp) beds, other saltwater vegetation, and other bed materials.

(f) Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*) settlement and nursery areas are located in beach and subtidal areas with sand,

eelgrass (*Zostera* spp), subtidal worm tubes, and other bed materials.

(2) Juvenile salmonid (Family salmonidae) migration corridors, and rearing and feeding areas are ubiquitous throughout shallow nearshore saltwater areas of the state.

(3) The following vegetation is found in many saltwater areas and serves essential functions in the developmental life history of fish or shellfish:

(a) Eelgrass (*Zostera* spp);

(b) Kelp (Order laminariales);

(c) Intertidal wetland vascular plants (except noxious weeds).

[Statutory Authority: RCW [75.08.080](#). WSR 94-23-058 (Order 94-160), § 220-110-250, filed 11/14/94, effective 12/15/94. Statutory Authority: RCW [75.08.012](#), 75.08.080 and 75.20.100. WSR 84-04-047 (Order 84-04), § 220-110-250, filed 1/30/84. Statutory Authority: RCW [75.20.100](#) and 75.08.080. WSR 83-09-019 (Order 83-25), § 220-110-250, filed 4/13/83.]