

# Glossary

<b>action area</b>	Under ESA, all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.
<b>BE</b>	Biological Evaluation. Information prepared by or under the direction of a federal agency to determine whether a proposed action is likely to 1) adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat 2) jeopardize the continued existence of species that are proposed for listing or 3) adversely modify proposed critical habitat. The outcome of a biological evaluation determines whether formal consultation or informal conference is necessary between an agency and the Services under the ESA. Sometimes this is called a biological assessment (BA).
<b>conservation</b>	As defined by the ESA is the use of all methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under the ESA are no longer necessary.
<b>critical habitat</b>	1) Specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing, if they contain physical or biological features essential to conservation, and those features may require special management considerations or protections; and 2) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.
<b>DPS</b>	Distinct Population Segment. Under the ESA, vertebrates are listed if they are distinct population segments. For a group of salmon to be a DPS, they must be an evolutionary significant unit. See ESU below.
<b>EFH</b>	Essential Fish Habitat. Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act of 1973. Federal law that mandates preservation of listed threatened and endangered species.
<b>ESU</b>	Evolutionarily Significant Unit. A population or group of populations that is 1) substantially reproductively isolated from populations and 2) represents an important component of the evolutionary legacy of the species.
<b>endangered</b>	Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
<b>environmental baseline</b>	Past and present impacts of all federal, state or private actions and other human activities in an action area.
<b>MHHW</b>	The average of the higher high water height of each tidal day observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, comparison of simultaneous observations with a control tide station is made in order to derive the equivalent datum of the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

<b>MHW</b>	The average of all the high water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, comparison of simultaneous observations with a control tide station is made in order to derive the equivalent datum of the National Tidal Datum Epoch.
<b>MLLW</b>	The average of the lower low water height of each tidal day observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, comparison of simultaneous observations with a control tide station is made in order to derive the equivalent datum of the National Tidal Datum Epoch.
<b>OHW</b>	Ordinary high water. Also called the OHWM or ordinary high water mark or OHWL or ordinary high water line. A freshwater datum for the visible line on a bank where the presence or action of waters are so common as to leave a mark on soil or vegetation. Indicated by a clear natural line on the bank, shelving, changes in soil character, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or presence of litter or debris or other characteristics of the surrounding area. Make sure you use the Corps of Engineers definition as it is not necessarily the same as that of Washington State.
<b>PCE</b>	Primary Constituent Element. Physical or biological feature essential to the conservation of a given species and that may require special management considerations or protection. Such requirements include but are not limited to the following: 1) Space for individual and population growth, and for normal behavior; 2) food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements; 3) cover or shelter; 4) site for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination, or seed dispersal; and generally, (5) habitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historic geographical and ecological distributions of a species.
<b>SBE</b>	Seattle Biological Evaluation. An inclusive, reference document that allows routine methods and conservation measures to be applied to a range of small capital improvement projects and routine maintenance activities performed by the City of Seattle within the city limits. The SBE replaces the need to prepare a biological evaluation (BE) or a biological assessment (BA).
<b>Std Spec</b>	Standard Specifications. City of Seattle Standard Specifications for road, bridge, and municipal construction projects.
<b>Std Plan</b>	Standard Plans. City of Seattle Standard Plans for municipal construction projects. These show frequently recurring components or work that has been standardized for use by various departments within the City of Seattle.
<b>the Services</b>	The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
<b>threatened</b>	Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.