State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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November 13, 2026

Misty Blair and Rebecca Rothwell
Shoreline Management Policy Lead
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
PO Box 47600
Lacey, WA 98504-7600

SUBJECT: Chapters 173-18, 173-20, 173-22, 173-26, and 173-27 WAC, Shoreline Management Act Rulemaking

Dear Misty Blair and Rebecca Rothwell,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Shoreline Management Act (SMA) implementing rules published in the CR-102 released in September 2026. We (WDFW) support the proposed rule changes and appreciate the conservation-oriented language in these revisions, which will strengthen protections for shoreline natural resources including fish, wildlife, and ecosystems consistent with the intent of the Act.

We support the efforts Ecology has taken to make substantial improvements to the shoreline management implementing rules including new sections that address the impact of sea level rise and increased storm severity. We appreciate the level of collaboration we've had with Ecology to date and look forward to continuing to work together during implementation guidance development and the upcoming Shoreline Master Program periodic review cycle.

Sincerely,

Chris Conklin, Program Director
Habitat Program

CC: Kelly Still, Deputy Program Director of Divisions
Chuck Stambaugh-Bowey, Deputy Program Director of Regions
Kara Whittaker, Ecosystem Services Division Manager
Sean Williams, Land Use Conservation and Policy Section Manager
Liz Bockstiegel, Climate Resilience Planner