



Biological Resources

The Columbia River is home to many fish, plants, and animals including endangered species and species of concern. The Columbia River is also home to important habitats such as shorelines and wetlands.

The study analyzed:

- Potential impacts from noise, ground disturbance, and pile-driving and dredging activities during construction.
- Increased noise, changes to habitat, shoreline erosion, spills, and coal dust deposition from terminal operations and increased rail and vessel transportation.



Several common bird species, such as the great blue heron shown above, were recorded near the project areas during site visits

The study found:

- Construction – Construction of the proposed export terminal could result in temporary impacts related to shading aquatic habitat, displacing wildlife, potential hazardous materials spills, dredging and pile removal. The temporary construction impacts are not likely to substantially affect biological resources. Construction could increase noise levels but mitigation measures could reduce impacts on fish and marine mammals. Construction would result in the permanent removal of terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- Operations – The proposed export terminal would shade aquatic habitat and affect fish and aquatic vegetation and habitat. Coal dust could affect fish, wildlife, and vegetation.
- Rail Traffic - The increase in rail traffic could result in coal dust deposition, affecting vegetation, wildlife, and fish.
- Vessel Traffic - The increased vessel traffic in the lower Columbia River could result in fish being stranded on beaches because of wakes from vessels and an increased risk of vessel strikes of seals and sea lions.

What could be done to reduce impacts?

- Decrease noise impacts from pile-driving by using best available methods, such as bubble curtains or other similar noise reduction technology.
- Monitor for signs of distress from fish and wildlife during pile-driving and dredging activities and conduct surveys for key fish species such as eulachon.
- Monitor and reduce coal dust during operations at the project area.
- Conduct surveys for rare plants and aquatic plants before construction starts and determine an appropriate course of action if any are found.
- Develop and implement a revegetation plan.