

WSR 25-01-016
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-278—Filed December 5, 2024, 5:16 p.m., effective December 6, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: December 6, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule will open a winter recreational crab season in Marine Area 10 and maintain other previously announced Puget Sound recreational crab seasons.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-330-04000R; and amending WAC 220-330-040.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: This rule opens the recreational crab season in Marine Area 10. Agreement between comanagers was recently reached to increase the quota in Marine Area 10. Summer recreational harvest estimates indicate that sufficient quota remains in Marine Area 10 to open recreational crab harvest beginning December 6. Marine Areas 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, 5, 6, 7, 8-1, 8-2, 9, and 12 north of a line projected true east from Ayock Point have been open since October 1, and will remain open through December 31, 2024. Marine Area 11 has been open since November 4, and will remain open through December 31, 2024. Marine Area 12 south of a line projected due east from Ayock Point and Marine Area 13 will remain closed until further notice. This rule is necessary to ensure an orderly fishery, manage the fishery within court-ordered sharing requirements, and meet conservation objectives. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: December 5, 2024.

Amy Windrope
for Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-330-04000S Crab—Areas and seasons—Personal use. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-330-040, effective December 6 through December 31, 2024, it is unlawful to fish for crab for personal use in Puget Sound in all waters of Marine Areas 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, 5, 6, 7, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, except as provided herein:

(1) **Marine areas 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, 5, 6, 8-1, 8-2, and 9:** Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(2) **Those waters of Marine Area 7 south** and west of a line projected from Village Point, Lummi Island, through the navigation buoy just east of Matia Island, thence to the buoy at Clements Reef, thence to the easternmost point of Patos Island, thence running along the northern shore of Patos Island to the westernmost point of Patos Island, thence true west to the international boundary and south of a line that extends from Point Francis on Portage Island, through the marker just north of Inati Bay on Lummi Island to Lummi Island: Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(3) **Those waters of Marine Area 7 north** and east of a line projected from Village Point, Lummi Island through the navigation buoy just east of Matia Island thence to the buoy at Clements Reef thence to the easternmost point of Patos Island, running along the northern shoreline of Patos Island and from the westernmost point of Patos Island true west to the international boundary and north of a line that extends from Point Francis on Portage Island, through the marker just north of Inati Bay on Lummi Island to Lummi Island: Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(4) **Marine Area 10:** Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(5) **Marine Area 11:** Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(6) **The portion of Marine Area 12 north of a line projected due east from Ayock Point:** Effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, through 11:59 p.m. December 31, it is permissible to fish for crab for personal use seven days a week.

(7) **The portion of Marine Area 12 south of a line projected due east from Ayock Point:** Closed until further notice.

(8) **Marine Area 13:** Closed until further notice.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective December 6, 2024:

WAC 220-330-04000R Crab—Areas and seasons—Personal use.
(24-253)