

# Chapter 220-88E WAC

## HAGFISH FISHERY

### WAC

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**WAC 220-88E-010 Designation of the hagfish pot fishery as an emerging commercial fishery.** The director designates the hagfish pot fishery as an emerging commercial fishery for which use of a vessel is required. It is unlawful to fish for, possess, or deliver hagfish taken for commercial purposes unless the fisher has a valid emerging commercial fishery license and a hagfish pot trial fishery permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 05-21-067 (Order 05-245), § 220-88E-010, filed 10/14/05, effective 11/14/05.]

**WAC 220-88E-020 Emerging commercial fishery—Eligibility for trial fishery permits—Incidental catch.** (1) An individual may not hold more than one Washington hagfish pot trial permit.

(2) Hagfish pot trial fishery permits are not transferable. Only the vessel designated on the emerging commercial fishery license and hagfish pot trial fishery permit may be used to fish for or deliver hagfish.

(3) A hagfish trial fishery permit will be issued only to a natural person who has a valid emerging commercial fishery license.

(4) Incidental catch:

(a) It is unlawful to retain any species other than hagfish.

(b) All species other than hagfish must be carefully handled and returned to the water promptly.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 05-21-067 (Order 05-245), § 220-88E-020, filed 10/14/05, effective 11/14/05.]

**WAC 220-88E-030 Hagfish pot trial fishery—Season and gear.** It is unlawful to fish for hagfish for commercial purposes except as provided in this section:

(1) Season - Open year-round to hagfish pot gear only.

(2) Area - Open only in Pacific Ocean waters greater than 50 fathoms in depth.

(3) Gear restrictions:

(a) Maximum of 100 hagfish pots per permit. Pots may be fished individually or on a common ground line.

(b) Hagfish pot gear requirements:

(i) Maximum entrance tunnel size of eleven square inches. Entrance tunnels may be of any shape.

(ii) Each pot is required to have at least one escape exit of at least nine and one-half square inches in opening and which must be constructed of 120 thread size or smaller untreated cotton twine.

(c) Buoy requirements: Hag fish pot gear must be buoyed. Marker buoys must be floating and visible on the surface of the water, equipped with a pole, flag, radar reflec-

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tor and operating light, and marked with the clear identification of the permittee. If ground lines are used, ground line end marker buoys must display the number of pots on the ground line.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 06-21-034 (Order 06-263), § 220-88E-030, filed 10/10/06, effective 11/10/06; 05-21-067 (Order 05-245), § 220-88E-030, filed 10/14/05, effective 11/14/05.]

**WAC 220-88E-040 Hagfish pot trial fishery—Logbook required.** It is unlawful for a participant in the hagfish pot trial fishery to fail to maintain and submit a legible, accurate, and complete harvest log for all hagfish fishing activity. Logs will be submitted such that the department receives them no later than the tenth day following the end of each calendar month. Participants in the hagfish pot trial fishery must use a Hagfish Harvest Logbook provided by the department to record all of their hagfish fishing activity. Failure to submit logbook information may result in revocation of a participant's hagfish pot trial fishery permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 09-14-031, § 220-88E-040, filed 6/24/09, effective 7/25/09; 05-21-067 (Order 05-245), § 220-88E-040, filed 10/14/05, effective 11/14/05.]