

**WSR 24-19-005
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 24-173—Filed September 4, 2024, 4:36 p.m., effective September 4, 2024, 4:36 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: This emergency rule closes commercial sea cucumber harvest in District 5 after attaining the state share.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-73000R; and amending WAC 220-340-730.

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 emergency rule closes sea cucumber harvest in District 5 to prevent overharvest because the quotas have been reached. Harvestable surpluses of sea cucumbers exist in the districts specified. 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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: September 4, 2024.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-73000S Sea cucumbers Effective immediately, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-340-730 regarding Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber harvest seasons and landing limits shall be as described herein. All other provisions of WAC 220-340-730 not addressed herein, and unless otherwise amended, remain in effect:

(1) Sea cucumber harvest using shellfish diver gear is allowed in Sea Cucumber Districts 1 and 2-1 Monday through Sunday of each week.

(2) It is unlawful for any harvester to fish for, take, or possess for commercial purposes more than 1,500 pounds of sea cucumber per license for each weekly fishery opening period.

(3) The maximum cumulative landing of sea cucumbers from August 5 through November 17, 2024, is 9,300 pounds per valid designated sea cucumber harvest license.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:

WAC 220-340-73000R Sea cucumbers (24-164)