

**WSR 21-02-078**  
**PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Filed January 5, 2021, 4:30 p.m.]

**Subject of Possible Rule Making:** The department is considering amending current Puget Sound commercial fishing rules resulting from stakeholder recommendations made during the North of Falcon process.

**Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

**Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish:** The Puget Sound commercial salmon fishing rules based on North of Falcon recommendations that change from year to year to reflect resource availability and to achieve conservation goals. Amendments to recreational fishing rules are needed to implement the agreed upon changes.

**Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and the National Marine Fisheries Service. These agencies, as well as the Washington department of fish and wildlife, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Pacific Salmon Commission, all provide input and/or take part in the North of Falcon meetings and recommendations.

**Process for Developing New Rule:** Agency study.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Rules Coordinator, P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98501-3200, phone 360-870-6975, fax 360-902-2155, email Rules.Coordinator@dfw.wa.gov.

January 5, 2021  
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