

WSR 21-16-047
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-131—Filed July 28, 2021, 7:53 a.m., effective August 2, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: August 2, 2021.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber seasons.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: 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 opens harvest of sea cucumber in Sea Cucumber Management Districts 1, 2, and 5 (catch reporting areas 28A, 28B, 28C, 28D). Harvestable surpluses of sea cucumber exist in these specified districts, based on scientific surveys and stock assessment review among biologists outside of areas closed to harvest. This opener is pursuant to fulfill obligations of state and tribal comanager agreements. Immediate adoption of this rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare. Observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to public interest. 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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: July 27, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-73000X Commercial sea cucumber fishery. Effective August 2, 2021 and until further notice, or until this rule expires on November 25, 2021 pursuant to RCW 34.05.350, the following provisions of WAC 220-340-730 regarding Puget Sound commercial sea cucumber harvest and sales shall be described below. 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 District 1, Monday through Sunday of each week.

(2) Sea cucumber harvest using shellfish diver gear is allowed in the following catch reporting areas of Sea Cucumber District 2, Monday through Sunday of each week: 29, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 23A, 23D, and 23C east of a line projected true north from the shoreline at 123 degrees 48.3 minutes west longitude, and west of a line projected true north from the shoreline at 123 degrees 52.7 minutes west longitude.

(3) Sea cucumber harvest using shellfish diver gear is allowed in the following catch reporting areas of Sea Cucumber District 5, Monday through Sunday of each week: 28B, 28C, 28D, and 28A except for all waters of Hale Passage and Wollochet Bay within the following lines: west of a line projected true south from the shoreline near Point Fosdick at 122 degrees 35 minutes west longitude to 47 degrees 14 minutes north latitude, and thence projected true west to the shoreline of Fox Island, and east of a line projected true south from the shoreline near Green Point at 122 degrees 41 minutes west longitude to 47 degrees 16.5 minutes north latitude, and thence projected true east to the shoreline of Fox Island.

(4) The maximum cumulative landing of sea cucumbers for each weekly fishery opening period is 1,800 pounds per valid designated sea cucumber harvest license.

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