

**WSR 23-23-151
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE**

[Order 23-260—Filed November 20, 2023, 5:01 p.m., effective November 27, 2023]

Effective Date of Rule: November 27, 2023.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to close commercial harvest of green sea urchin in District 2.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-75000Y; and amending WAC 220-340-750.

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 harvest of green sea urchins in Sea Urchin District 2 on November 27, 2023. The Washington department of fish and wildlife projects the quota for green sea urchin in District 2 will be taken by the end of the day November 26, 2023. This action is necessary to prevent overharvest of green sea urchin in District 2.

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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: November 20, 2023.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-75000Z Commercial sea urchin fisheries. Effective November 27, 2023, until further notice, the provisions of WAC 220-340-750 regarding commercial harvest of sea urchins shall be modified as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-340-750 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

(1) It is unlawful for any person to fish for, take, or possess for commercial purposes any green sea urchins less than 2.25 inches; or red sea urchins measuring less than 3.25 inches or greater than 5

inches. All measurements are caliper measurements of the largest shell (test) diameter, exclusive of the spines.

(2) The following areas are open for green sea urchin harvest only, seven days-per-week: Sea Urchin District 1, District 3, District 4.

(3) The maximum cumulative landings for green sea urchins for each weekly fishery opening period is 1,500 pounds per valid designated sea urchin harvest license.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective November 27, 2023:

WAC 220-340-75000Y Commercial sea urchin fisheries.
(23-246)