

WSR 24-04-076  
EMERGENCY RULES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-13—Filed February 2, 2024, 4:16 p.m., effective February 5, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: February 5, 2024.

Purpose: Closes commercial harvest of green urchins in Districts 3 and 4, and red urchins in District 3. Clarifies language regarding weekly harvest limits.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-75000C; 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 urchins in Districts 3 and 4, and red sea urchins in Sea Urchin District 3, on February 5, 2024. 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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: February 2, 2024.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-340-75000D Commercial sea urchin fisheries.** Effective February 5, 2024, 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 red sea urchin harvest only, seven days-per-week: Sea Urchin District 1, District 2, District 4.
3. The following areas are open for green sea urchin harvest only, seven days-per-week: Sea Urchin District 1.
4. It is unlawful for any harvester to fish for, take, or possess for commercial purposes more than 1,500 pounds per species of red sea urchin or green sea urchin per license for each weekly fishery opening period.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective February 5, 2024:

WAC 220-340-75000C Commercial sea urchin fisheries.  
(23-273)