

WSR 26-05-071
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 26-24—Filed February 17, 2026, 2:46 p.m., effective February 17, 2026, 2:46 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to amend commercial crab fishing in Puget Sound:

WAC 220-340-45500J closes Region 1 to commercial crab harvest effective one hour after official sunset on February 17, 2026.

WAC 220-340-47000K updates pot limits assigned to open periods in WAC 220-340-45500J.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-340-45500I and 220-340-47000J; and amending WAC 220-340-455 and 220-340-470.

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 Region 1 to commercial harvest effective one hour after sunset on February 17, 2026, following projected quota attainment. The state has remaining share to catch after accounting for recreational seasons in Regions 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4. These provisions are in conformity with agreed to management plans with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound commercial season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated with applicable treaty tribes and outlined in the management plans. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules. Further adjustment of season structure may be made pending updated harvest data.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 2, Amended 0, Repealed 2.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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 17, 2026.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45500J Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound. Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-455; effective immediately, until further notice:

Harvest of Dungeness crab in Puget Sound is permitted during the "Open period" indicated in the following table. Harvest for these areas is permitted starting one hour before official sunrise until further notice, unless otherwise indicated below. Any closures take effect one hour after official sunset unless otherwise indicated.

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-110)	Open Period
Region 1, MFSF Catch Areas 21A, 21B, and 22B	Immediately through February 17, 2026.
Region 1, Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Areas 22A, 20A, and 20B	Immediately through February 17, 2026.
Region 2E, excluding Everett Flats CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(3))	Closed.
Region 2E, Everett Flats CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(3))	Closed.
Region 2W, not including Port Townsend Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(5))	Closed.
Region 2W, Port Townsend Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(5))	Closed.
Subregion 3-1	Closed.
Subregion 3-2, not including Discovery Bay CSMA (WAC 220-230-120 (1)(a)), Sequim Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(6)), or the Port Angeles Harbor CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(4)).	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 3-2, Discovery Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120 (1)(a))	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 3-2, Sequim Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(6))	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 3-2, the Port Angeles Harbor CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(4)).	Closed.
Subregion 3-3	Immediately, until further notice.
Subregion 3-4	Immediately, until further notice.

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-47000K Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Puget Sound and Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas. Notwithstanding the provisions of 220-340-470, effective immediately, until further notice:

Effective during the "Open Period" listed in WAC 220-340-45500J, it is unlawful for any person to harvest crabs with more than the "Pot limit" per license per buoy tag number indicated within each "geographical management unit".

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-110)	Pot limit
Region 1, MFSF Catch Areas 21A, 21B, and 22B	30
Region 1, Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Areas 22A, 20A, and 20B	30
Region 2E, excluding Everett Flats CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(3))	0
Region 2E, Everett Flats CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(3))	0
Region 2W, not including Port Townsend Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(5))	0
Region 2W, Port Townsend Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(5))	0
Subregion 3-1	0

Geographical Management Unit (WAC 220-320-110)	Pot limit
Subregion 3-2, not including Discovery Bay CSMA (WAC 220-230-120 (1)(a)), Sequim Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(6)), or the Port Angeles Harbor CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(4)).	70
Subregion 3-2, Discovery Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120 (1)(a))	20
Subregion 3-2, Sequim Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(6))	20
Subregion 3-2, the Port Angeles Harbor CSMA (WAC 220-320-120(4)).	0
Subregion 3-3	50
Subregion 3-4	50

Reviser's note: The typographical error in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appears in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

- WAC 220-340-45500I Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Puget Sound and Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas. (26-10)
- WAC 220-340-47000J Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Puget Sound and Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas. (26-13)