



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Subject of possible rule making:** Commercial and recreational fishing in Puget Sound.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCWs 77.04.020 and 77.12.047

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** The department is considering the creation of one or more Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Puget Sound. A MPA is a legally defined area where recreational and commercial fishing is restricted or prohibited. Creation of a network of MPAs is a major component of the department's Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan. The goals of the new MPAs are to conserve fish resources, promote biodiversity, and provide increased underwater viewing opportunities.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has listed three rockfish species as "Endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). State and federal agencies are now developing conservation plans to recover these species. As stated above, WDFW is creating a network of MPAs as a major component of the department's Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan. WDFW will work with NMFS in developing the MPAs and rockfish conservation plan.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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Phone (360) 902-2930; fax (360) 902-2155; e-mail [Lori.Preuss@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Lori.Preuss@dfw.wa.gov).

Contact by October 15, 2010. Expected proposal filing date is October 20, 2010.

**DATE**  
August 18, 2010

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Lori Preuss

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Rules Coordinator

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