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**“GREEN SHEET”**

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**Meeting:** January 7-8, 2011, Commission Meeting

**Agenda Item #11:** Puget Sound Crab Fishery Overview – Briefing

**Staff Contact:** Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

**Presenter/s:** Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

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**Background:**

A revised Puget Sound crab policy (Policy C-3609) was adopted in October 2010 that increases recreational opportunity and provides for a base season design for the recreational fishery from year to year. To adhere to Policy C-3609, changes are needed in the recreational fishery regulations adopted by the Commission in 2005. The Commission held a public hearing on proposed amendments to **WAC 220-56-330, Crab—areas and seasons**, at its December 2-4, 2010, Commission meeting in Olympia, and will consider amendment adoption at its February 4-5, 2011, meeting in Olympia.

This briefing will provide the Commission supplementary background information relating to the proposed amendments to WAC 220-56-330. The briefing will provide an overview of the following topics:

1. 3-S management strategy to ensure conservation of Puget Sound Dungeness crab;
2. Puget Sound commercial Dungeness crab fishery;
3. West coast commercial Dungeness crab fisheries and markets;
4. Puget Sound recreational Dungeness crab fisheries;
5. Proposed area-specific implementation of Puget Sound crab policy;
6. Projected catches and economic analysis of proposed recreational fishing rules; and
7. Communication, education, and enforcement strategies to improve compliance with fishing regulations.

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**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

Included above.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Included above.

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**Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):**

None at this time; the Commission will consider adoption of amendments to WAC 220-56-330 at its February 4-5, 2011, meeting in Olympia.

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