
“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting dates: June 15, 2012, Commission meeting-conference call

Agenda item: Rule change action: Commercial Sea Cucumbers/Sea Urchins

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

Presenter/s: Bob Sizemore, Fish Program

Background:

To meet the objective of RCW 77.70.150 and 77.70.190, the department maintains a commercial license buy-back program for the sea cucumber and sea urchin fishery. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of sea urchin and sea cucumber licenses to 20 for each fishery by August of 2013. Department staff presented a rule change proposal to the Commission on June 1 to increase the maximum bid price to \$20,000 for sea urchin licenses and \$60,000 for sea cucumber licenses. This rule change will promote sales of licenses back to the department to meet license reduction goals.

The Department requests that the Commission adopt proposed changes to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110 to increase the maximum bid price for commercial sea urchin and sea cucumber license buy-back.

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

Increase the maximum bid price for commercial sea cucumber and sea urchin licenses.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department solicited comment from industry stakeholders in a November 2011 letter. Stakeholders responded by recommending increases of the maximum bid price to \$20,000 for sea urchin licenses and \$60,000 for sea cucumber licenses.

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

Commission action on proposed rule changes to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110.

Draft motion language:

Move to adopt permanent amendments to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110 as recommended by Department staff.

Justification for Commission action:

This is an industry stakeholder request to meets the intent and objectives of RCW 77.70.150 and 77.70.190.

Communication Plan:

Direct letter to industry stakeholders.
