



HPA Rule Making to Require an Individual HPA to Conduct Suction Dredging in Washington

In April 2018, the Fish and Wildlife Commission directed Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff to initiate rule making activity to:

- Require a standard individual Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for suction dredging in Washington waters;
- Remove suction dredging as an authorized activity in the Gold and Fish Pamphlet; and
- Identify methods to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during transport of suction dredging equipment.

The Hydraulic Code Rules contain requirements to protect fish from the effects of small scale mineral prospecting equipment. Those rules are distributed in the Gold and Fish Pamphlet and people conducting mineral prospecting by following the rules in the pamphlet currently aren't required to obtain an HPA permit. However, because no individual permits are needed, WDFW is unable to track how many prospectors use the pamphlet to conduct prospecting. The Commission wants to better understand the numbers, locations, and duration of suction dredging activity in Washington to ensure WDFW is protecting fish.

Rules will be developed that:

- Create an application method for suction dredging;
- Identify prospector reporting methods to enable WDFW to determine the numbers and locations of prospectors engaged in suction dredging; and

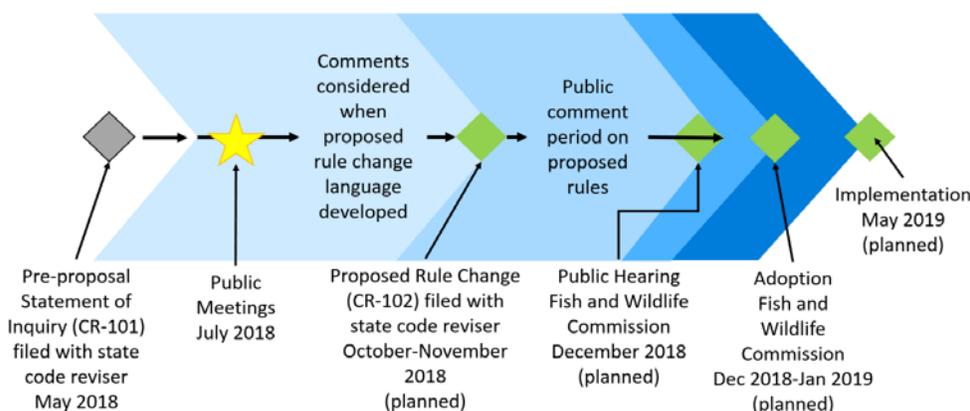
- Outline methods to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species through suction dredge use.

WDFW is gathering ideas from agencies, tribes, prospectors, and other interested people. Public meetings are planned as follows:

July 16, 7-9 pm Wenatchee	July 17, 7-9 pm Spokane
Port of Chelan County Confluence Technology Center 285 Technology Center Way Wenatchee, WA 98801	CenterPlace Regional Event Center 2426 North Discovery Place Spokane Valley, WA 99210
July 19, 7-9 pm Olympia	July 25, 7-9 pm Everett
Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501	Everett Community College, Jackson Conference Room 2000 Tower Street Everett, WA 98201

WDFW will then draft rules and initiate the formal rule-making process. The proposed rules and associated analyses will be available for public review and comment, and the Commission will hold a public hearing. If the proposed rules are adopted by the Commission, they could become effective in late spring 2019.

Timeline



Contact

General questions or comments about HPA rule making
HPARules@dfw.wa.gov

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

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