

Fishery Closure near WSDOT Ferry Terminals

Delegation of Rulemaking Authority to the Director

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Background

- State ferries encountering crab and shrimp fishing gear and commercial purse seine fishing and gillnets on their designated routes.
- WSDOT operates 19 terminals in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.
- Efforts to discourage these activities near ferry terminals have been unsuccessful.



Summary of Rule-Making Proposal

- Ferries are particularly susceptible to damage caused by these fishing gear-types when approaching and departing their terminal.
- Proposed rule would prohibit crab and shrimp fishing gear and commercial purse seine fishing and gillnetting near all WSDOT ferry terminals
- Closures would prohibit these fishing activities within 400 yards straight out from the end of the ferry terminal dock and 100 yards on each side of the terminal.



Request of the Commission

- Given the limited scope of these closure areas is not expected to substantively impact fishing opportunity.
- Formally closing these areas to the use of these fishing gears provides needed authority for WDFW police to actively remove pot gear and to require commercial vessels fishing these gears to move away from the closed areas.
- Staff recommend delegating this rule making activity to the Director





QUESTIONS?

Example Closure Area

Port Townsend Ferry Terminal



Example Closure Area Cont.

Port Townsend – Coupeville Ferry



Proposed motion language for delegation.

In support of the recommendation of the Fish Committee, I move to delegate rule-making authority to the Director for the purpose of undertaking rule making to create fishing closures for certain gear-types around ferry terminal in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.

