
“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting dates: June 1, Commission Meeting

Agenda item #10: Commercial Sea Cucumbers/Sea Urchins (Briefing/Public Hearing)

Staff Contact: Rich Childers

Presenter/s: Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, 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 permits 20 each by August of 2013. Stakeholders and department staff are recommending increasing the maximum bid price to \$20,000 for sea urchin permits and \$60,000 for sea cucumber permits. This rule change will promote sales of permits back to the department to meet license reduction goals.

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 permits and \$60,000 for sea cucumber permits.

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

Briefing and public comment only

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

Communication Plan:

Direct letter to industry stakeholders.
