

2017 Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes – Puget Sound Public Beaches

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
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Olympia, Washington

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WA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time
Commission presentation August 4-5, 2017

Presentation Outline

- Why changes are needed
- Public input/comment
- Proposed season changes
- Minimum size change; standardizing size limits
- Questions
- Public Testimony



Need for changes

- Changes in clam and oyster abundance
- Prevent overharvest of the state's share
- Changes in projected effort and catch
 - Distribution of extreme low tides to maximize opportunity
- Changes in water quality, public health concerns
- Housekeeping (language clarification) changes



Public input

- Rule change proposals:
 - Posted on Department website and hotline
 - E-mailed to recreational fishing information contact list (appx. 1,700 contacts)
- Public comment opportunity will occur on August 4, 2017.



2017 Proposed Season Changes – Increases

Location	Proposed 2017 Season	Season Length Increase	Species	Rationale
Drayton West	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3 months	All bivalves	Resource-based, DOH
Fort Flagler State Park	Jan. 1 – Apr 15 July 1 – Dec 31	6 months	All bivalves	Biomass increase
Freeland County Park	Jan. 1 - May 15	2 months	All bivalves	Resource-based
Indian Island County Park	Aug. 15 – Sept. 30	0.5 month	All bivalves	Resource-based
North Bay (Case Inlet)	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	2 month	All bivalves	Settlement agreement
Point Whitney Tidelands	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	0.5 months	Clams & Mussels	Resource-based
Port Gamble Heritage Tidelands	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	6 months	All bivalves	Landowner negotiations
Potlatch State Park & Potlatch DNR	April 1 – August 31	1.5 months	All bivalves	Resource-based
Quilcene Bay Tidelands	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	3 months	All bivalves	Resource-based
Sequim Bay State Park	Jan. 1 – June 30	3 months	All bivalves	Resource-based
Twanoh State Park	July 15 – Sept. 30	0.5 month	Clams & Mussels	Resource-based

2017 Proposed Season Changes – Decreases

Location	Proposed 2017 Season	Season Length Decrease	Species	Rationale
Penrose Point State Park	Mar. 1 – Apr. 30	- 0.5 months	All bivalves	Pressure reduction
Port Townsend Ship Canal	Jan. 1 – June 15	- 1.5 months	All bivalves	Reduction in biomass
West Penn Cove	June 1 – Dec. 31	- 5.0 months	All bivalves	Pressure reduction/ butter clams

2017 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes - Public Health

Change Made	Clam and Oyster Beaches Affected	Season Length
Permanently Closing	2 clam; 4 oyster	48 month decrease
Upgraded to Open	2	24 month increase

- Reasons for changes include:
 - Codify existing health closures or upgrades
 - Request from state and/or county health jurisdiction or State Parks
 - General housekeeping including name corrections and clarifications

2017 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes - Public Health

Location	Proposed 2017 Season	Season Length Change (months)	Species	Rationale
Cultus Bay	CLOSED	-12.0	All bivalves	Pollution
Gertrude Island	CLOSED	-12.0	Oysters	Pollution; previously closed for clams
McNeil Island	CLOSED	-12.0	Oysters	State correctional facility; previously closed for clams
North Fort Lewis	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	+12.0	All bivalves	DOH upgrade
Oak Harbor	CLOSED	-12.0	All bivalves	Pollution
South Gordon Point	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	+12.0	All bivalves	DOH upgrade

2017 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes - Administrative

Change Made	Clam Beaches Affected	Season Length	Oyster Beaches Affected	Season Length
Removed	5	Same	5	Same
OTS Text Change	20	Same	20	Same

*For beach specifics refer to Attachment D in the provided summary

2017 Clam—Unlawful Acts WAC

- Increasing size limit for Quilcene Bay WDFW Tidelands
 - Co-managers agree: lack of conservation need for smaller size limit
 - Standardizes minimum clam size on all public beaches to 1.5”
 - Smaller clam gauge not commercially available

*For beach specifics refer to Attachment D in the provided summary



Questions?

