

Geoduck Diver License Application and Issuance Process



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Trisha Anderson, Business Analyst, Licensing Division
Bob Sizemore, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

Outline

- Objective
- Background on Geoduck Fishery
- RCW 77.65.410 Geoduck Diver License
- Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070
- Questions and Public Hearing



Objective

- Review proposed changes to WAC 220-340-070 effective license year 2019
- Clarify the process for issuing new Geoduck Diver licenses



Geoduck Fishery Background

- Geoduck harvested 2,322,814 pounds in calendar year 2017
- 2017 harvest is worth ex-vessel value of \$29,749,335
- We coordinate with DNR to announce open fisheries

*Values are state landings only



Geoduck Dive License RCW 77.65.410

- Geoduck harvesting must be done by the license holder
- Licenses are nontransferable and valid for the calendar year
- Effective Jan 1st, 2015, geoduck diver licenses are limited to 77 per calendar year
- License holders must be part of the DNR's geoduck harvest agreement plan
- License holders must complete the geoduck diver safety program

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Overview

- Updating DFW Licensing contact information
- Changing the deadline for new applicants
- Clarifying how we issue new licenses
- Improving the fee collection process for new applicants

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Changing the deadline for new applicants

- Current deadline is Dec 31st
- Keeping Dec 31st as the deadline for renewal applicants
- Changing deadline for new applicants to Jan 10th
- Holding a drawing 10 business days after Jan 10th for new applicants

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Clarifying how we issue new licenses

- When not all 77 licenses are renewed, new licenses become available
- Depending on how many new licenses are available, we will hold a drawing or issue licenses 10 business days after Jan 10th
- In the event that licenses remain after the initial drawing, we will issue licenses (first come first serve) or hold a drawing depending on if multiple applicants exceed available licenses

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Improving the fee collection process for new applicants

- Currently, fees for the application and license are collected by the Dec 31st deadline for new applicants
- The revised Jan 10th deadline allows the new applicant to find out if new licenses will be available before applying
- The license fee is only required if the new applicant is selected

Public Comment

- Published a CR-102 on Aug 18th, 2017
- Sent letters to Geoduck Divers on Sept 22nd, 2017 about proposed WAC changes and Oct 27th hearing date
- Public feedback Oct 26th, 2017 requesting that we keep the renewal applicant deadline for Dec 31st
- Requested to post-pone FWC hearing for Oct 27th, 2017 in order to follow up with Geoduck Divers
- Held a meeting with Geoduck Divers on Dec 19th, 2017
- Published a Supplemental CR-102 on Feb 7th, 2018 with input from Geoduck Divers
- Sent letters to Geoduck Divers on Feb 14th, 2018 about proposed WAC changes and April 13th hearing date
- No public comments or concerns on Supplemental CR-102

Questions and Public Hearing



Information is subject to change. April 14, 2018, WDFW
Commission Meeting Presentation