

Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)

Recreational Clam and Oyster Seasons

WAC 220-56-350, Clams other than razor clams, mussels – Areas and seasons; and

WAC 220-56-380, Oysters – Areas and seasons.

A. Reasons for adopting the rule:

The department must annually amend recreational clam and oyster season rules on some public tidelands in response to shellfish population changes, shifts in recreational effort, conservation issues, and negotiations with treaty tribes and other state agencies. Such amendments are designed to perpetuate shellfish resources while maximizing recreational fishing opportunity. For 2015, staff are recommending clam and oyster season changes to 19 public beaches. Of the 19 proposed changes, four beaches will have longer seasons compared to 2014, eight will have shorter seasons, two beaches will have their opening dates shifted, four beaches will be opened due to improvements in water quality, and one beach is being closed as per state-tribal harvest agreement due to lack of clam and oyster resource.

Differences between the text of the proposed rule and the text of the rule as adopted:

None.

B. Summary of comments and WDFW response and consideration for the comments:

Season change recommendations were coordinated where appropriate with Washington State Department of Health and Washington State Parks staff. All season change recommendations were announced on the agency web site and the Shellfish Rule Change phone hotline. The Fish & Wildlife Commission held a public rule change hearing on March 20, 2015. No written comments were received and no public testimony was given regarding the rule changes.