



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Subject of possible rule making: Amend Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery rules to permanently adopt quick reporting requirements in the Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: A permanent rule change adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission established a fixed annual quota of 60,000 lbs. in the Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery. This fixed quota means that the department now needs in-season catch tracking to ensure overharvest does not occur. As such, the department filed an emergency rule amending WAC 220-49-005 that established "quick reporting" procedures for the Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery. Requiring fishers to "quick report" their catch by 2:00 p.m. the day after harvest allows fishery managers to track harvest in near real-time. This proposed rulemaking would make quick reporting requirements permanent in the Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery in response to the fixed quota adopted by the Commission.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:
None.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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Contact by December 11, 2015. Expected proposal filing on or after December 18, 2015.

DATE
November 3, 2015

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Joanna Eide

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

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