

Concise Explanatory Statement

Shellfish species

Rules amended as part of this rulemaking:

WAC 220-12-020

1. Background/Summary of Project:

The purpose of this amended rule is to add three shellfish species to the list of classified shellfish in WAC 220-12-020; the new species include Paralithodes platypus, Paralithodes camtschaticus and Lithodes aequispinus.

2. Reasons for Rulemaking

By adding the three shellfish species, the department is trying to better regulate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries (“IUU”) which negatively impact conservation and undermine legitimate King Crab markets. The rule requires that brokers and original receivers who currently conduct business in Washington state must obtain a wholesale fish dealers license and maintain and produce records for inspection by Fish and Wildlife Police. This will make regulation of the IUU more manageable and enforceable.

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

There is no difference between the text of the proposed rule and the text of the rule as adopted.

4. Public comments and WDFW response to comments

The department received two letters of support from industry for this rule – a June 24, 2016 letter from the North Pacific Crab Association and a June 27, 2016 letter from the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers Association. Otherwise, there was no public comment.