

Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)

Recreational Clam and Oyster Seasons

WAC 220-330-110, Clams other than razor clams, mussels – Areas and seasons; and

WAC 220-330-140, 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. Public health considerations and in-house administrative changes were also considered. Such amendments are designed to perpetuate shellfish resources while maximizing recreational fishing opportunity. For 2018, intertidal bivalve staff recommends that one beach has a longer seasons compared to 2017 and four beaches have shorter seasons. In addition, one beach will be closed at the request of State Parks. Due to public health considerations, one beach season will be reduced by 5 months and a portion of one beach will be closed year-round. As a result of upgrades to water quality, one beach that had been under year-round closure will be open for 7 months. Eight beaches will have revised text in the WACs.

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

None.

C. 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 Department held a public rule change hearing on May 5, 2018. No written comments were received and no public testimony was given regarding the rule changes.