



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103E (July 2011)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350)

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Emergency Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules 15-451

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) 6:00 p.m. December 29, 2015

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Amend Puget Sound commercial crab fishing rules

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed: WAC 220-52-04000H, WAC 220-52-04600Q
 Amended: WAC 220-52-040, WAC 220-52-046
 Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020 and 77.12.047

Other authority:

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.
- That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for this finding: The provisions of this rule will close the commercial harvest in Region 2 East, Region 2 West and Region 3-2 of Puget Sound. We will reach the agreed allocation in those Regions at the date and times specified above. There is sufficient allocation in Region 1, Region 3-1 and Region 3-3 for them to remain open. These provisions are in conformity with agreed management plans and addendums with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound commercial season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated with applicable Treaty tribes and outlined in the management plans. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Date adopted: December 23, 2015

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

J W Unsworth

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: December 23, 2015

TIME: 2:22 PM

WSR 16-02-002

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>2</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>2</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-52-04000J Commercial crab fishery—Lawful and unlawful gear, methods, and other unlawful acts.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-52-040:

- (1) Effective immediately, until further notice, it is unlawful for any person to fish for crabs for commercial purposes with more than 50 pots per license per buoy tag number in Crab Management Region 1 and Region 3-1. Region 1 includes Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Areas 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B, 22A and 22B. Region 3-1 includes Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Areas 23A and 23B.
- (2) Effective immediately, until 6:00 p.m., December 31, 2015 it is unlawful for any person to fish for crabs for commercial purposes with more than 30 pots per license per buoy tag number in Crab Management Region 3-2. Region 3-2 includes Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Areas 25E, 25A and 23D.
- (3) The remaining buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for inspection.
- (4) Effective 6:00 p.m., December 29, 2015, and until further notice, Crab Management Region 2 East and Region 2 West are closed. Region 2 East includes all waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D and 26A East. Region 2 West includes all waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 25D, 25B and 26A West.
- (5) Effective 6:00 p.m., December 31, 2015, until further notice, Crab Management Region 3-2 will be closed. Region 3-2 includes all waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 25E, 25A and 23D.
- (6) Additional area gear limits. The following Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas are restricted in the number of pots fished, operated, or used by a person or vessel, and it is unlawful for any person to use, maintain, operate, or control pots in excess of the following limits: No commercial gear is allowed in that portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of the 123° 7.0' longitude line projected from the new Dungeness light due south to the shore of Dungeness Bay.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-52-04600R Puget Sound crab fishery--Seasons and Areas.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-52-046:

- (1) Effective immediately, until further notice, it is permissible to fish for Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the following areas:
 - (a) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A between a line from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance of the Birch Bay Marina and a line from the same boat ramp to Birch Point.

- (b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22B in Fidalgo Bay south of a line projected from the red number 4 entrance buoy at Cape Sante Marina to the northern end of the eastern most oil dock.
- (c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Deer Harbor north of a line projected from Steep Point to Pole Pass.

(2) Effective 6:00 p.m. December 29, 2015, until further notice, the following areas are closed to commercial crab fishing:

- (a) That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of the 123° 7.0' longitude line projected from the new Dungeness light due south to the shore of Dungeness Bay.
- (b) That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 23D west of a line from the eastern tip of Ediz Hook to the ITT Rayonier Dock.
- (c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24A east of a line projected true north from the most westerly tip of Skagit Island and extending south to the most westerly tip of Hope Island, thence southeast to Seal Rocks, thence southeast to the green can buoy at the mouth of Swinomish Channel, thence easterly to the west side of Goat Island.
- (d) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A-W in Useless Bay north and east of a line from the south end of the Double Bluff State Park seawall (47°58.782'N, 122°30.840'W) projected 110 degrees true to the boulder on shore (47°57.690'N, 122°26.742'W).
- (e) Port Gardner: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line projected from the outermost tip of the ferry dock at Mukilteo, projected to the green #3 buoy at the mouth of the Snohomish River, and west of a line projected from that #3 buoy southward to the oil boom pier on the shoreline.
- (f) Possession Point to Glendale: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line that extends true north from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point to Possession Point, and west of a line from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point extending northward along the 200-foot depth contour to the Glendale dock.
- (g) Langley: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24C shoreward of the 400-foot depth contour within an area described by two lines projected northeasterly from Sandy Point and the entrance to the marina at Langley.

REPEALERS

The following sections of the Washington Administrative code are repealed effective 6:00 p.m. December 29, 2015:

- WAC 220-52-04000H Commercial crab fishery—Lawful and unlawful gear, methods, and other unlawful acts. (15-442)
- WAC 220-52-04600Q Puget Sound crab fishery--Seasons and Areas (15-442)

EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- (x) That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- () That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.
- () That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal years 2009, 2011, or 2012, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for finding: The provisions of this rule will close the commercial harvest in Region 2 East, Region 2 West and Region 3-2 of Puget Sound. We will reach the agreed allocation in those Regions at the date and times specified above. There is sufficient allocation in Region 1, Region 3-1 and Region 3-3 for them to remain open. These provisions are in conformity with agreed management plans and addendums with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound commercial season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated with applicable Treaty tribes and outlined in the management plans. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

(15-451, 12/23/2015)