

Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)
2025 Recreational Clam and Oyster Seasons

Rules amended as part of this rulemaking:

WAC 220-330-110, Clams other than razor clams, mussels – Areas and seasons; and
WAC 220-330-140, Oysters – Areas and seasons

Rules repealed as part of this rulemaking:

None.

Rules created as part of this rulemaking:

None.

1. Background/Summary of Project:

The department must annually amend recreational clam and oyster season rules on some public tidelands. Such amendments are designed to perpetuate shellfish resources while maximizing recreational fishing opportunity.

2. Reasons for adopting the rule:

For 2025, in response to shellfish population changes, shifts in recreational effort, conservation issues, accounting for the fluctuating annual tidal calendar, and negotiations with Treaty tribes and other state agencies, staff are recommending clam and oyster season changes to 10 public beaches. Of the proposed changes, two beaches will feature longer clam and oyster seasons and two will have a longer oyster season compared to 2024. Four beaches will have shorter clam and oyster seasons and one beach will have a shorter clam season. One beach will retain the same length of season, but be shifted to start and end one month earlier. One additional beach will remain closed due to ongoing state park construction (although this is not a change from 2024).

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

Two beaches (Fort Flagler State Park and Sequim Bay State Park) will retain the same seasons as 2024, rather than the originally-proposed 1-month extensions—due to conservation concerns.

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

Season change recommendations were coordinated where appropriate with Washington State Parks staff. All season change recommendations were announced on the agency rulemaking web site. Announcements of, and links to the rulemaking project were also posted on additional agency web pages. A recreational fishing listserv was notified of the project, and a public

engagement website was created to encourage public input. A public hearing was held on February 25, 2025. No public testimony was given regarding the rule changes.

Two written comments were received, both by a single anonymous commenter. One was asking WDFW to encourage harvesters to refill their dig holes, and the other asking WDFW to remind beach visitors about proper dog waste disposal.