

## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** March 14, 2014 (conference call)

**Agenda item:** Puget Sound Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes (rule change action)

**Presenter(s):** Rich Childers, Puget sound shellfish Manager, Fish Program

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**Background summary:**

Changes to the recreational clam and oyster seasons on Puget Sound public beaches are recommended annually in order to maximize recreational opportunity while preventing overharvest of the state shares. Season changes are recommended based on the results of annual clam and oyster population surveys, expected recreational effort, and the frequency of low tides. For 2014, staff are recommending clam and oyster season changes to 20 public beaches. Of the 20 proposed changes, five beaches will have longer seasons compared to 2013, six will have shorter seasons, three beaches will have their opening dates shifted, five beaches will be opened due to improvements in water quality, and one beach is being closed in compliance with Bainbridge Island municipal codes. Specific changes for each of the 20 beaches are attached.

Staff presented the above rule change proposals to the Commission at a public hearing on February 7, 2014.

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**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

None

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Season change recommendations were coordinated where appropriate with Washington State Parks staff. All season change recommendations were announced on the agency web site and the Shellfish Rule Change phone hotline. No comments have been received from the public.

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**Action requested:**

Commission action on proposed rule changes to WAC 220-56-350 Clam Seasons and WAC 220-56-380 Oyster Seasons

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**Draft motion language:**

Move to adopt permanent amendments to WAC 220-56-350 and WAC 220-56-380 as recommended by Department staff (attached).

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**Justification for Commission action:**

This action is justified under RCW 77.12.047.

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**Communications Plan:**

Agency web site and Shellfish Rule Change phone hotline, news releases, beach signage, and

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the 2013-2014 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet.

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*Form revised 12/5/12*

