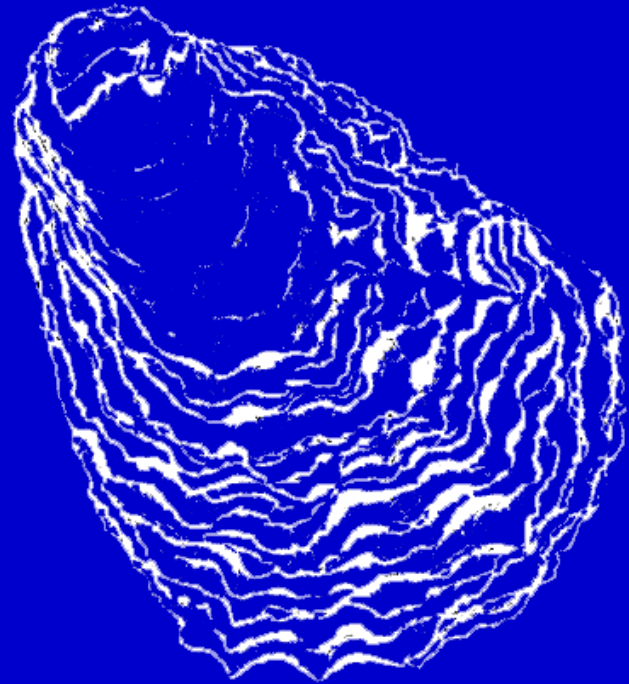
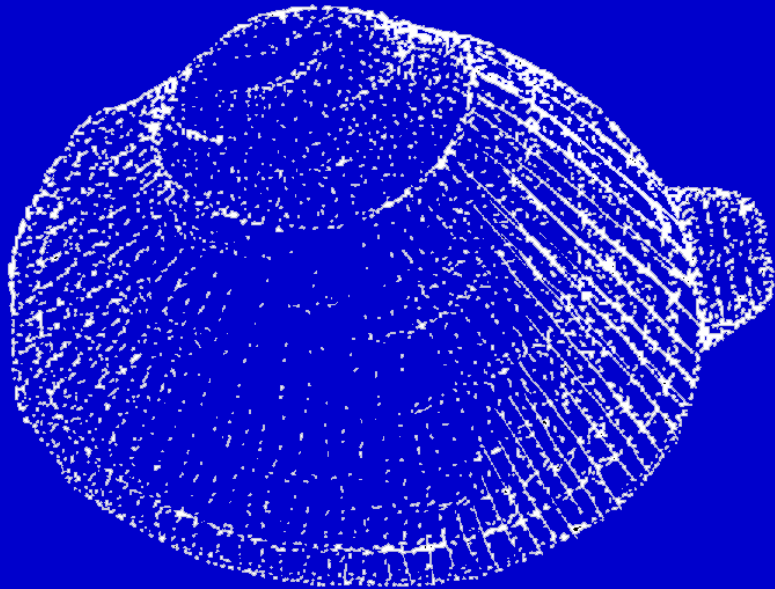


2015 Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes for Puget Sound Public Beaches



Rich Childers; Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

March 20, 2015

Presentation Outline

- **Cooperative management of shellfish in Puget Sound Washington;**
- **Mandates for cooperative management and harvest sharing of intertidal shellfish resources;**
- **Why changes are needed;**
- **Public input/comment;**
- **Proposed season changes;**
- **Questions;**
- **Public testimony;**

Process Of Cooperative Shellfisheries Management in Puget Sound Washington

- Co-managers = WDFW - WDNR - WDOH - State Parks - 14 Tribes
- Annual harvest management agreements developed by State/Tribal fisheries managers for:
 - ❖ Intertidal clams and oysters
 - ❖ Subtidal geoduck clam
 - ❖ Dungeness crab
 - ❖ Shrimp (4 species)
 - ❖ Sea urchins (2 species)
 - ❖ Sea cucumbers
 - ❖ Squid
 - ❖ Crayfish

SHELLFISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (Revised 2002)

- “The primary objective of this Implementation Plan is to provide a framework, principles, and course of action for effective cooperative management of the shellfish resources subject to Treaty harvest under the Court's decision of December 20, 1994.”
- “In effectuating the rights of the Tribes to take shellfish under the Treaties, this Order also recognizes the State's responsibilities for conservation of public shellfish resources, subject to the Treaty right to take fish at usual and accustomed places.”
- “Each Tribe may take, from natural beds, up to fifty percent of the sustainable harvest biomass of any shellfish species within the usual and accustomed areas for that Tribe.”
- “For intertidal areas, the sustainable harvest biomass shall be shared on a **bed by bed basis**, or on other established boundaries of a public land parcel for sharing the shellfish.”

SHELLFISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (Revised 2002)

“The sustainable harvest biomass of a shellfish bed or shellfish resource subject to the Treaty right shall be determined on an annualized basis or other agreed periodic basis.”

WDFW conducting intertidal bivalve surveys on public tideland



Why Annual Season Changes are Needed

- Changes in the clam and oyster abundance
- Overharvest of the State's share during previous season
- Changes in projected effort and catch
- Changes in water quality

Public Input

- Rule change proposals posted on Department website and hotline
- Rule change proposals e-mailed to the recreational fishing information contact list (approximately 1,700 contacts)
- No comments or public input received

2015 Proposed Clam Season Changes (WAC 220-56-350)

Location	Proposed 2015 Season	Change
Dosewallips State Park	January 1-December 31	5.5 month increase
Potlatch State Park + DNR Portion	June 1- September 15	1.5 month increase
Point Whitney Lagoon	January 1- March 31	0.5 month increase
North Tabook Point	Closed	12 month decrease
Fort Flagler State Park	May 15- December 31	3.5 month decrease
Fry Cove County Park	May 1- May 31	3.5 month decrease
Belfair State Park	January 1- May 31	3.0 month decrease
Sequim Bay State Park	May 1- May 31	2.0 month decrease
Indian Island County Park	July 1- August 15	1.0 month decrease
Oak Bay County Park	April 1- May 31	1.0 month decrease
Port Townsend Ship Canal	January 1- July 15	0.5 month decrease
Twanoh State Park	September 1- September 30	0.5 month decrease
Purdy Spit County Park	April 1- April 30	season dates shifted
North Bay (Case Inlet)	May 1 – May 31 September 1 – September 30	season dates shifted

2015 Proposed Oyster Season Changes (WAC 220-56-380)

Location	Proposed 2015 Season	Change
Potlatch State Park + DNR Portion	June 1- September 15	1.5 month increase
North Tabook Point	Closed	12 month decrease
Fort Flagler State Park	May 15- December 31	3.5 month decrease
Frye Cove County Park	May 1- May 31	3.5 month decrease
Sequim Bay State Park	May 1- May 31	2.0 month decrease
Indian Island County Park	July 1- August 15	1.0 month decrease
Oak Bay County Park	April 1- May 31	1.0 month decrease
Port Townsend Ship Canal	January 1- July 15	0.5 month decrease
Purdy Spit County Park	April 1- April 30	season dates shifted
North Bay (Case Inlet)	May 1 – May 31 September.1 – September 30	season dates shifted

2015 Proposed Clam & Oyster Season Changes Due to Water Quality Improvements (WACs 220-56-380,350)

Location	Proposed 2015 Season	Change
Draton West	April 1- October 31	7 month increase
Freeland County Park	April 1-May 15	1.5 month increase
North Point Hudson	January 1-December 31	12 month increase
South Point Wilson	January 1-December 31	12 month increase

Questions

