

## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** April 12-13, 2013 Commission Meeting

**Agenda item #8:** Giant Pacific Octopus – Briefing

**Presenter(s):** Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager

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**Background summary:** The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) received three petitions requesting amendments to sportfishing rules to protect octopuses from recreational harvest.

These petitions were received after a giant pacific octopus was legally harvested from the waters of a popular dive site at Seacrest Park in West Elliot Bay.

At the December 21, 2012 Commission conference call the Commission directed the department to develop a series of management options, process and a schedule to address protection of the giant pacific octopus in waters of the Puget Sound for consideration and further direction.

At the January 11, 2013 Commission meeting staff provided a briefing addressing:

- Biology and status of GPO in Puget Sound
- Historical harvest of GPO in Puget Sound
- Current sportfishing regulations and legal harvest of GPO at Seacrest Park
- Proposed Process and Schedule
- Management options to consider for regulatory action

The Commission provided direction to staff to implement the process and schedule presented and to establish an ad hoc advisory group to develop recommendations regarding management options.

Staff will provide a briefing on the draft recommendations from the ad hoc advisory group and seek additional guidance on refinements of management options being considered.

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

Staff will request Commission guidance on refinements of management options being considered for regulatory action.

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

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has received three petitions requesting amendments to recreational fishing rules to protect giant pacific octopuses from harvest.

The Director Briefed the Commission regarding the incident and the Commission received public testimony at the November Commission Meeting.

Staff briefed the Commission regarding a proposed process, schedule and options to consider at the January 11, 2013 Commission meeting.

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**Action requested:**

Staff will request further Commission guidance on refinements of management options to consider for regulatory action.

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**Draft motion language:**

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**Justification for Commission action:**

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**Communications Plan:** Agency web site, news releases, ad hoc advisory group and public workshops.

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*Form revised 12/5/12*