

## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** June 21, 2013

**Agenda item:** Commercial Sea Cucumbers/Sea Urchins (rule action)

**Presenter(s):** Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

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**Background summary:**

To meet the objective of RCW 77.70.150 and 77.70.190, the department maintains an industry funded commercial license buy-back program for the sea cucumber and sea urchin fishery. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of sea urchin and sea cucumber permits to 20 each by 2013. As per RCW 77.70.150 and 77.70.190 both buy-back programs expire on December 31, 2013. To maximize the use of all funds collected and deposited into the buy-back account prior to the December 31 sunset, department staff are recommending the following modifications to WACs 220-95-100 and 220-95-110:

- I. Change the date that license holders can offer their license for buy-back from August 1 to December 1 and the purchase date to January 31;
- II. Allow the Department Director to establish the maximum bid price for both sea cucumber and sea urchin licenses based on industry recommendations and implement the bid price through the emergency rule process.

These rule changes will promote sales of licenses back to the department to meet the license reduction goals.

The Department is requesting Commission action on proposed changes to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110 that will change the date that license holders can offer their license for buy-back to December 1 and allow the Director to establish the maximum bid price for both sea cucumber and sea urchin licenses based on industry recommendations.

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

These rule changes will modify the dates for the process of soliciting bids and purchasing commercial sea cucumber and sea urchin licenses and provide authority to the Director for setting the maximum bid price for buy-back program.

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

The department solicited input from industry stakeholders and advisory groups. Stakeholders support these rule changes.

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**Action requested:**

Commission action on proposed rule changes to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110

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**Draft motion language:**

Move to adopt permanent amendments to WAC 220-95-100 and 220-95-110 as recommended by Department staff.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

This action is justified under RCW 77.12.047.

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**Communications Plan:**

Department staff will communicate with Industry advisory groups and send a letter to all license holders.

