

Dive Fishery Rule Changes Rule Briefing & Public Hearing

Agenda Item # 8

Dive Fishery Rules Changes - WACs

- WAC 220-52-069, Scallop fishery
- WAC 220-52-071, Sea cucumbers
- WAC 220-52-073, Sea urchins
- New section, WAC 220-16-101, Definitions—
Shellfish dive gear
- New section, WAC 220-16-102, Definitions—
Hand held tool

Prospect diving or participating in other dive fisheries with geoduck equipment onboard provides opportunity for poaching



Overview of Proposed Changes

- Prohibits geoduck harvest gear onboard vessels engaged in commercial sea urchin, sea cucumber, and scallop dive fisheries to reduce illegal harvest of geoducks
- Extends preventative measures already in place in the commercial geoduck fishery to other commercial shellfish dive fisheries

Overview of Proposed Changes

- Defines “shellfish dive gear” and “hand held tool” to further clarify the types of gear allowed on vessels engaged in commercial shellfish dive fisheries
- Allows the director to set sea urchin size limits by emergency rule to promote resource conservation while maintaining harvest opportunities

Overview of Proposed Changes

- General technical changes:
 - Organizational and language improvements to make the rules uniform and ensure clarity, consistency, and readability
 - Additional detail added to WAC titles to better communicate rule contents

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Geoduck Dive Fishery



Public/Stakeholder Outreach

- WDFW staff shared the proposed changes with stakeholders
- Some stakeholders want the rules to more clearly state what gear is prohibited – “geoduck dive gear”
- WDFW Enforcement and fisheries managers are currently discussing refining the definition of “geoduck dive gear” with stakeholders

Walk-through of the rule changes

Questions?