

2016 Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes – Puget Sound Public Beaches

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Olympia, Washington



WA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time
Commission presentation Feb. 26-27, 2016

Presentation Outline

- Why changes are needed
- Public input/comment
- Proposed season changes
- Questions
- Public Testimony

Why Annual Season Changes are Needed

- Changes in clam and oyster abundance
- Overharvest of the states share during previous season
- Changes in projected effort and catch
- Changes in water quality and public health concerns
- Housekeeping(language clarification) changes

Public Input

- Rule change proposals posted on Department website and hotline
- Rule change proposal e-mailed to recreational fishing information contact list (approximately 1,700 contacts)
- Public comment opportunity will occur on February 26-27, 2016

2016 Proposed Clam and Oyster Season Changes – Increases

Location	Proposed 2016 Season	Season Length Increase	Species
Port Gamble Heritage Tidelands	January 1 – June 30	6 months	Both
Belfair	January 1 – December 31	4 months	Clam
Point Whitney Tidelands	January 1 – March 15	2.5 months	Clam
Drayton West	February 1 – October 31	2 months	Both
Sequim Bay State Park	April 1 – June 30	2 months	Both
Freeland County Park	March 1 – May 15	1 month	Both
Point Whitney Lagoon	January 1 – April 30	1 month	Clam
Twanoh State Park	August 1 – September 30	1 month	Clam
P.T. Ship Canal	January 1 – July 31	0.5 month	Both

2016 Proposed Clam and Oyster Season Changes – Decreases

Location	Proposed 2016 Season	Season Length Decrease	Species
Indian Island County Park	August 15 – September 15	- 0.5 month	Both
Oak Bay County Park	May 1 – May 31	- 1 month	Both
Fort Flagler State Park	May 15 – August 31	- 4 months	Both

2016 Proposed Clam and Oyster Season Changes – Shifts

Location	Proposed 2016 Season	Season Shift	Species
Potlatch DNR	April 1 – July 15	0 month	Both
Potlatch State Park	April 1 – July 15	0 month	Both

2016 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes - Public Health

Change Made	Clam and Oyster Beaches Affected	Season Length
Permanently Closing	19	72 month decrease

- Reasons for closure include:
 - Codify existing health closures
 - Request from state and/or county health jurisdiction or state parks
 - General housekeeping

*For beach specifics refer to Attachment C in the provided summary

2016 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes - Administrative

Change Made	Clam Beaches Affected	Season Length	Oyster Beaches Affected	Season Length
Removed	5	Same	6	Same
OTS Text Change	10	Same	12	Same

*For beach specifics refer to Attachment D in the provided summary



Questions