

**Puget Sound Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes –
(Briefing/Public Hearing)**

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Summary

Meeting dates: February 26-27, 2016

Agenda item: Puget Sound Recreational Clam and Oyster Season Changes – (Briefing/Public Hearing)

Presenter(s): Philippa Kohn, Puget Sound Intertidal Bivalve Program Manager, Fish Program

Background summary:

Changes to the recreational clam and oyster seasons on Puget Sound public beaches are recommended annually in order to maximize recreational opportunity while preventing overharvest of the state harvest shares. Season changes are recommended based on the results of annual clam and oyster population surveys, expected recreational effort, the frequency of low tides, and taking into consideration public health concerns and administrative needs. For 2016, shellfish staff recommend clam and oyster season changes to 14 public beaches based on survey and effort information (Attachments A and B respectively). Of these proposed 14 changes, 9 beaches will have longer seasons compared to 2015, 3 will have shorter seasons, and 2 will have their opening dates shifted. In addition, there will be season and/or WAC language changes to 19 clam and oyster beaches based on public health considerations (Attachment C), and to 18 beaches to meet in-house administrative needs (Attachment D). Specifics on these changes are outlined in the attached tables.

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

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Season change recommendations were coordinated where appropriate with Washington State Department of Health and Washington State Parks staff. All season change recommendations were announced on the agency web site and the Shellfish Rule Change phone hotline.

Action requested:

Briefing and public comment only

Draft motion language:

None

Justification for Commission action:

This action is justified under RCW 77.12.047.

Communications Plan:

Agency web site and Shellfish Rule Change phone hotline, news releases, beach signage, and the 2016-2017 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet.

Attachment A. 2016 Recreational Clam Season Changes for Public Beaches in Puget Sound

| Beach Name | Recommended 2016 Season | | Proposed Season Length (months) | 2015 Clam Season | | 2015 Season Length (months) | Season Change (months) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Open | Close | | Open | Close | | |
| Port Gamble Heritage Tidelands | January 1, 2016 | June 30, 2016 | 6.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| Belfair State Park | January 1, 2016 | December 31, 2016 | 12.0 | January 1, 2015 | August 31, 2015 | 8.0 | 4.0 |
| Point Whitney Tidelands | January 1, 2016 | March 15, 2016 | 2.4 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Drayton West | February 1, 2016 | October 31, 2016 | 9.0 | April 1, 2015 | October 31, 2015 | 7.0 | 2.0 |
| Sequim Bay State Park | April 1, 2016 | June 30, 2016 | 3.0 | May 1, 2015 | May 31, 2015 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Freeland CP | March 1, 2016 | May 15, 2016 | 2.5 | April 1, 2015 | May 15, 2015 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| Point Whitney Lagoon | January 1, 2016 | April 30, 2016 | 3.9 | January 1, 2015 | March 31, 2015 | 2.9 | 1.0 |
| Twanoh State Park | August 1, 2016 | September 30, 2016 | 2.0 | September 1, 2015 | September 30, 2015 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Port Townsend Ship Canal | January 1, 2016 | July 31, 2016 | 7.0 | January 1, 2015 | July 15, 2015 | 6.4 | 0.6 |
| Potlatch DNR | April 1, 2016 | July 15, 2016 | 3.5 | June 1, 2015 | September 15, 2015 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Potlatch State Park | April 1, 2016 | July 15, 2016 | 3.5 | June 1, 2015 | September 15, 2015 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Indian Island CP | August 15, 2016 | September 15, 2016 | 1.0 | July 1, 2015 | August 15, 2015 | 1.5 | -0.5 |
| Oak Bay County Park | May 1, 2016 | May 31, 2016 | 1.0 | April 1, 2015 | May 31, 2015 | 2.0 | -1.0 |
| Fort Flagler State Park | May 15, 2016 | August 31, 2016 | 3.6 | May 15, 2015 | December 31, 2015 | 7.6 | -4.0 |

Attachment B. 2016 Recreational Oyster Season Changes for Public Beaches in Puget Sound

| Beach Name | Recommended 2016 Season | | Proposed Season Length (months) | 2015 Oyster Season | | 2015 Season Length (months) | Season Change (months) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Open | Close | | Open | Close | | |
| Port Gamble Heritage Tidelands | January 1, 2016 | June 30, 2016 | 6.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| Drayton West | February 1, 2016 | October 31, 2016 | 9.0 | April 1, 2015 | October 31, 2015 | 7.0 | 2.0 |
| Sequim Bay State Park | April 1, 2016 | June 30, 2016 | 3.0 | May 1, 2015 | May 31, 2015 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Freeland County Park | March 1, 2016 | May 15, 2016 | 2.5 | April 1, 2015 | May 15, 2015 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| Port Townsend Ship Canal | January 1, 2016 | July 31, 2016 | 7.0 | January 1, 2015 | July 15, 2015 | 6.4 | 0.6 |
| Potlatch DNR | April 1, 2016 | July 15, 2016 | 3.5 | June 1, 2015 | September 15, 2015 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Potlatch State Park | April 1, 2016 | July 15, 2016 | 3.5 | June 1, 2015 | September 15, 2015 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Indian Island CP | August 15, 2016 | September 15, 2016 | 1.0 | July 1, 2015 | August 15, 2015 | 1.5 | -0.5 |
| Oak Bay County Park | May 1, 2016 | May 31, 2016 | 1.0 | April 1, 2015 | May 31, 2015 | 2.0 | -1.0 |
| Fort Flagler State Park | May 15, 2016 | August 31, 2016 | 3.6 | May 15, 2015 | December 31, 2015 | 7.6 | -4.0 |

Attachment C. 2016 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes Based on Public Health Considerations

| Beach Name | Species* | Recommended 2016 Season | | Proposed Season Length (months) | 2015 Season | | Season Length | Season Change (months) | Rationale |
|---|----------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Open | Close | | Open | Close | | | |
| Blake Island SP Marina | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Blake Island SP Marina | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Blowers Bluff North | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Blowers Bluff North | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Budd Inlet | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Budd Inlet | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Chimacum Creek Tidelands | C | 1/1/2016 | 12/31/2016 | 12.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Chimacum Creek Tidelands | O | 1/1/2016 | 12/31/2016 | 12.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Dosewallips State Park South | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Dosewallips State Park South | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Lofall | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Lofall | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Long Point West | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Long Point West | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | 0.0 | DOH Boundary-- Addition |
| Oak Harbor Beach Park | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pollution-- Addition |
| Pitship Point | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pollution |
| Saltair Beach (Kingston Ferry Terminal) | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Saltair Beach (Kingston Ferry Terminal) | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Semiahmoo Marina | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pollution-- Addition |
| Semiahmoo Marina | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pollution-- Addition |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|--------|-----|----------|------------|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Evergreen Rotary Park (Port Washington Narrows) | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Evergreen Rotary Park (Port Washington Narrows) | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Fudge Point State Park | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | State Parks Request |
| Fudge Point State Park | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | State Parks Request |
| Lent Landing (Port Washington narrows) | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Lent Landing (Port Washington Narrows) | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| March Point Recreation Area | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Pollution-- Addition |
| March Point Recreation Area | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Pollution-- Addition |
| Pat Carey Vista Park | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Pat Carey Vista Park | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Salt Creek Recreation Area | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Codifies Clallam County's Regulation |
| Salt Creek Recreation Area | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | -12.0 | Codifies Clallam County's Regulation |
| Old Mill County Park (Silverdale) | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | | | | | Pollution-- Addition |
| Old Mill County Park (Silverdale) | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | | | | | Pollution-- Addition |
| Pleasant Harbor WDFW Boat Launch | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | | DOH Request -- Addition |
| Pleasant Harbor WDFW Boat Launch | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | --- | --- | --- | | DOH Request-- Addition |
| Point No Point South | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | | | | | Kitsap County Health Request |
| Point No Point South | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | | | | | Kitsap County Health Request |

*Under species, C= clam and O=oyster

Attachment D. 2016 Clam and Oyster WAC Changes Based on Housekeeping Needs

| Beach Name | Species* | Recommended 2016 Season | | Proposed Season Length (months) | 2015 Season | | Season Length | Season Change (months) | Rationale |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Open | Close | | Open | Close | | | |
| Ala Spit | C | 5/1/2016 | 5/31/2016 | 1.0 | 5/1/2015 | 5/1/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Ala Spit | O | 5/1/2016 | 5/31/2016 | 1.0 | 5/1/2015 | 5/31/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Bangor | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Federally owned |
| Dosewallips State Park | C | 1/1/2016 | 12/31/2016 | 12.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Dosewallips State Park | O | 1/1/2016 | 12/31/2016 | 12.0 | 1/1/2015 | 12/31/2015 | 12.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| East San de Fuca | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| East San de Fuca | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Harrington Beach | C | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Privately owned |
| Harrington Beach | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Privately owned |
| Little Clam Bay | C | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Federally owned |
| Little Clam Bay | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Federally owned |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----|----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| North Bay | C | 5/1/2016 | 5/31/2016 | 1.0 | 5/1/2015 | 5/31/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| | | 9/1/2016 | 9/30/2016 | 1.0 | 9/1/2015 | 9/30/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | |
| North Bay | O | 5/1/2016 | 5/31/2016 | 1.0 | 5/1/2015 | 5/31/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| | | 9/1/2016 | 9/30/2016 | 1.0 | 9/1/2015 | 9/30/2015 | 1.0 | 0.0 | |
| Northeast Cultus Bay | C | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Didn't exist |
| Northeast Cultus Bay | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Didn't exist |
| Oyster Reserves | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Pleasant Harbor State Park | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Port Angeles Coast Guard | C | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Federally owned |
| Port Angeles Coast Guard | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Federally owned |
| Port Angeles Harbor | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Port Angeles Harbor | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Samish Bay | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Samish Bay | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Sinclair Inlet | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Sinclair Inlet | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Skagit Bay Estuary Wildlife Areas | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Skagit Bay Estuary Wildlife Areas | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| South Oro Bay | C | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Mapping correction |
| South Oro Bay | O | REMOVE | REMOVE | --- | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | Mapping correction |
| Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area | C | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |
| Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area | O | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | CLOSED | CLOSED | 0.0 | 0.0 | WAC text change |

**Under species, C= clam and O=oyster*