

Geoduck Diver License Application and Issuance Process



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Outline

- Objective
- Geoduck Fishery Background
- Geoduck Diver License RCW 77.65.410
- Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070
- Questions and Public Hearing



Objective

- Amending WAC 220-340-070 effective 2018
- Clarifying the process to issue new licenses.
 - Changing renewal and new applicant submittal dates to improve efficiency.
 - Clarifying the drawing and first come first serve process, which is currently ambiguous.

Geoduck Fishery Background

- Geoduck harvested 2,548,320 pounds in calendar year 2016.
- 2016 harvest is worth ex-vessel value of \$24,693,817.
- We coordinate with DNR to announce open fisheries.



Geoduck Dive License RCW 77.65.410

- Geoduck harvesting must be done by the license holder.
- Licenses are nontransferable and valid for the calendar year.
- Effective Jan 1st, 2015, geoduck diver licenses are limited to 77 per calendar year.
- License holders must be part of the DNR's geoduck harvest agreement plan.
- License holders must complete the geoduck diver safety program.

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Overview

- Updating DFW Licensing contact information
- Changing application submittal timeframes
- Clarifying how we issue new licenses
- Improving efficiency for new applicants

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Changing application submittal timeframes

- Current deadline Dec 31st
- Future submittal timeframe for renewal applicants
Oct 1st to Oct 31st
- Future submittal timeframe for new applicants
Nov 8th to Nov 15th

Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Clarifying how we issue new licenses

- When not all 77 licenses are renewed, new licenses become available
- Depending on how many new licenses are available, we will hold a drawing or issue licenses for Nov 15th new applicants
- In the event that licenses remain after Nov 15th,
 - Issue first come first serve (calendar date); or
 - Drawing held if multiple applicants exceed available licenses

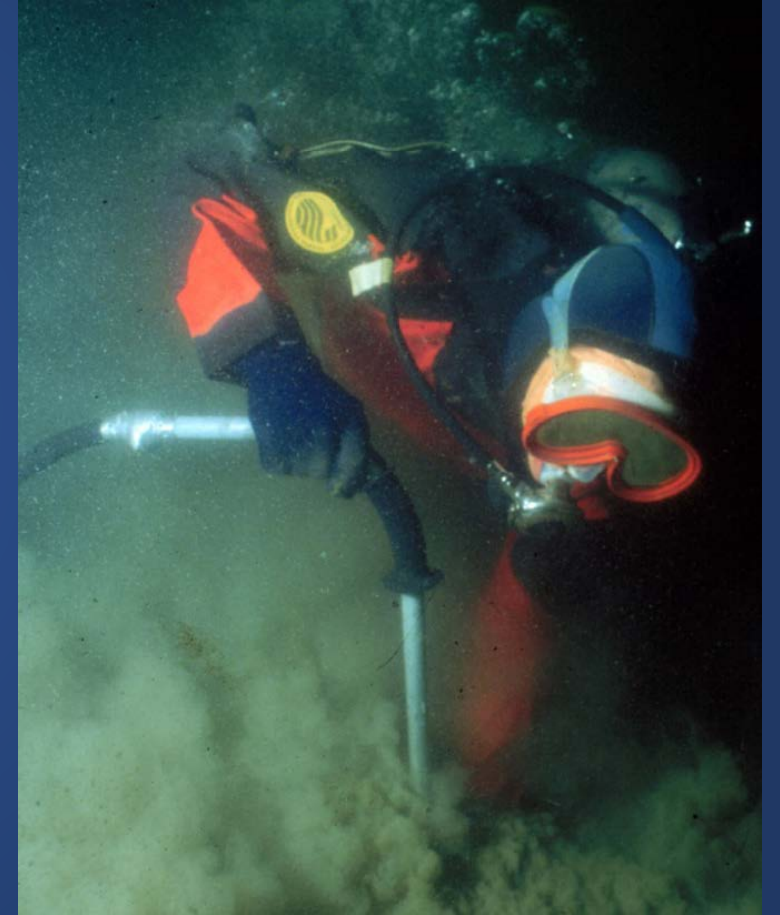
Proposed Changes to WAC 220-340-070

Improving efficiency for new applicants

- Currently application and license fee collected upfront
- Proposing application fee accepted only when new licenses become available
- Proposing license fee only required if selected
- Allows licenses to be issued in time to be included in the DNR bid process.

Public Comment

- Published a CR-102 on Aug 18th, 2017
- Sent letters to Geoduck Diver Commercial Fishers on Sept 22nd, 2017.
- No public comments or concerns received.



Questions and Public Hearing

