ELWHA FISHERIES OFFICE

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September 16, 2026

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Annual Regulation
Commercial and Subsistence Sea Urchin Regulations
S26-064

1. SPECIES

Red sea urchins – *Mesocentrotus franciscanus*
Green sea urchins – *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*

2. FISHING AREAS

Marine Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 20B, 22A, 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 26A (Lower Elwha U & A areas in that portion of 26A south and west of the southern tip of Possession Point on Whidbey Island 27A, 27B (north of an east-west line from Ayock Pt.) and 29.

3. OPEN TIMES AND AREAS

All above areas are open to Commercial Urchin harvest September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027 or until the respective treaty quotas have been reached.

The sea urchin management areas are designated as follows:

A) Red Sea Urchins
San Juan Island Region:
This area includes District 1, Northern San Juan Islands, (Marine Fish and Shellfish (MFSF) Catch Reporting Area 20B, and those waters of Area 22A north of a line projected east-west one-quarter mile north of Lime Kiln Light on San Juan Island and west of a line projected true north from Limestone Point on San Juan Island); and District 2, Southern San Juan Islands, (those waters of Area 22A south of a line projected east-west one-quarter mile north of Lime Kiln Light on San Juan Island, and Areas 23A).

Admiralty Inlet:
This Area includes MFSF Catch Reporting Areas 23B, 25A, and 25B

Strait of Juan de Fuca Region:

This area includes District 3, Port Angeles (those waters of Area 23C east of a line projected true north from 123 degrees 48.3 minutes west longitude, and Area 23D); District 4, Sekiu, (those waters of Area 23C west of a line projected true north from 123 degrees 52.7 minutes west longitude); and District 5, Neah Bay, (Area 29 east of a line projected true north from Rasmussen Creek).

B) Green Sea Urchins
San Juan Island Region:
MFSF Catch Reporting Areas 20B, 22A, 23A

Admiralty Inlet:
This Area includes MFSF Catch Reporting Areas 23B, 25A, and 25B

Strait of Juan de Fuca Region:
MFSF Catch Reporting Areas 23C, 23D, and 29 east of a line projected true north from Rasmussen Creek.

Tribal harvesters are responsible for knowing the current applicable regulations. Information on specific openings and closures shall be available at the Tribal Fisheries Office.

4. CLOSED AREAS

The following research/management areas will remain closed to fishing for the duration of the 2026-2027 sea urchin season:

A) Those waters of San Juan Channel and Upright Channel within the following lines; north and west of a line from the northernmost point of Turn Island on San Juan Island to Flat Point on Lopez Island and thence projected from Flat Point true west to Shaw Island, north of a line projected from the northernmost point of Turn Island true west to San Juan Island, west of a line from Neck Point on Shaw Island to Steep Point on Orcas Island, and south of a line from Steep Point on Orcas Island to Limestone Point on San Juan Island.

B) Those waters of Haro Strait north of a line projected east-west one-half mile south of Eagle Point on San Juan Island and south of a line projected east-west one-quarter mile north of Lime Kiln Light on San Juan Island.

C) Argyle Lagoon: Those University of Washington-owned tidelands and all bedlands enclosed by the inner spit of Argyle Lagoon on San Juan Island.

D) Those waters within one-quarter mile of Tatoosh Island.

E) Those waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the vicinity of Low Point west of a line projected true north from the shoreline at 123 degrees 48.3 minutes west longitude to the international border, and east of a line projected true north from the

shoreline at 123 degrees 52.7 minutes west longitude to the international border.

F) Those waters of Eagle Harbor west of a line projected from Wing Point to Eagle Harbor Creosote Light Number 1, then projected due west to the shore on Bainbridge Island.

G) The waters of Sinclair Inlet west of a line projected southerly from the easternmost point of Point Turner to landfall directly below the Veteran's Home in Annapolis.

H) All waters of Hale Passage and Wollochet Bay within the following lines: west of a line projected true south from the shoreline near Point Fosdick at 122 degrees 35 minutes west longitude to 47 degrees 14 minutes north latitude, and thence projected true west to the shoreline of Fox Island, and east of a line projected true south from the shoreline near Green Point at 122 degrees 41 minutes west longitude to 47 degrees 16.5 minutes north latitude, and thence projected true east to the shoreline of Fox Island.

5. GEAR LIMITATIONS

Harvest is restricted to hand held gear that does not penetrate the shell.

6. HARVEST LIMITATIONS

Harvest limits for each urchin species within each management region will conform to the total Treaty share as indicated in section 8 of the 2026-2027 Sea Urchin Harvest Management Plan, and are summarized as follows:

A) Red Sea Urchins:
1. Districts 1 San Juan Islands: 57,000pounds
2. District 2 Admiralty Inlet 16,549 pounds
3. District 3 Port Angeles; 62,945 pounds
4. District 4 Sekiu: 44,892 pounds

B) Green Sea Urchins
1. San Juan Islands: 87,919 pounds
2. District 2 Admiralty Inlet 64.646 pounds
3. Strait of Juan De Fuca: 50,000 pounds

Size limits for sea urchins (diameter exclusive of spines) are as follows:

A) Red Sea Urchins
1. San Jaun Area—Minimum 3.25 inches; Maximum 5.0 inches
2. Admiralty Inlet--- Minimum 3.25 inches; Maximum 5.0 inches
3. Strait of Juan de Fuca Area—Minimum 3.25 inches; Maximum 5.0 inches

B) Green Sea Urchins
All Area—Minimum size limit of 2.25 inches

Sea urchins shall not be taken from water shallower than fifteen feet below mean lower low water.

7. OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Divers may harvest sea urchins using surface supplied or self-contained breathing apparatus. All divers and vessels shall adhere to OSHA commercial diving operation standards. All divers must have open water certification by NAUA, PADI or a comparable program.
Expected effort is five vessels.

8. COMMERCIAL URCHIN DIVER REGISTRATION

All tribal sea urchin harvesters participating in the 2026-2027 commercial sea urchin fishery must register at the Fisheries Office prior to participating in the fishery. At the time of registering, the name of the harvester and diving vessel shall be reported.

9. COMMERCIAL CATCH REPORTING

All commercial and take-home catches shall also be reported on Treaty Indian Fish Receiving tickets as specified in the Tribal Fisheries Ordinance.

10. EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

The above regulations may be amended at any time by emergency regulations. Prior to harvest, each fisher shall check with the Fisheries Office for emergency regulation changes.

11. AUTHORITY

This regulation is promulgated by the Lower Elwha Fisheries Manager under authority specified by the Lower Elwha Klallam Fishing Ordinance Third Edition.

Charlene Lauderback
Harvest Manager
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe