

# Shoreline Management Act Rulemaking Public Listening Sessions



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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September 23, 2024



# Agenda

- Ecology presentation providing an overview on Shoreline Management Act Rulemaking
- Open meeting for attendees to provide feedback and input

# Information about the rulemaking

- Use this QR code to get to our web page:
- Then scroll down to this section:

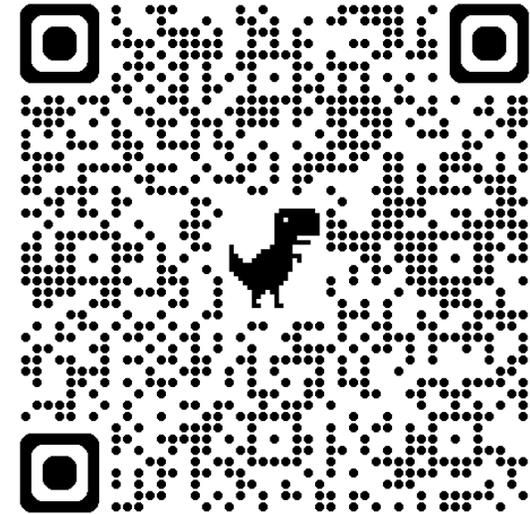
## Announcement phase (CR-101)

Filing date:

May 2, 2024

### Announcement documents

- [Announcement Notice - CR-101 form](#)
- [Shoreline Management Act rulemaking overview](#)



- Click on “Shoreline Management Act rulemaking overview.”
- [Shoreline Management Act rulemaking overview](#)

# Rulemaking Timeline

| Date                       | Activity  |
|----------------------------|---|
| May 2, 2024                | Announced rulemaking (filed the CR-101 form)                          |
| May 2024 – Summer 2025     | Hold stakeholder and partner engagement                               |
| Fall 2024 – Spring 2025    | Develop draft rules   |
| Spring 2025                | Informal comment period on draft rules                                |
| Summer 2025                | Revise draft rules based on comments                                  |
| Fall 2025                  | Prepare for rules proposal  |
| January 2026               | Propose rules (file the CR-102 form)                                  |
| February 2026 – March 2026 | Hold at least four public hearings and a 60-day formal comment period |
| Spring 2026                | Review and respond to comments; revise draft rules                    |
| Summer 2026                | Adopt rules (file the CR-103)   |
| Summer 2026                | Rules effective (usually 31 days after filing)                        |

# Shoreline Management Act (SMA)



Protect the environment  
& public health



Promote public access



Plan for shoreline uses

# Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

These are the WACs (rules) we will be amending:

- [Chapter 173-18 WAC](#): Shoreline Management Act—Streams and rivers constituting shorelines of the state
- [Chapter 173-20 WAC](#): Shoreline Management Act—Lakes constituting shorelines of the state
- [Chapter 173-22 WAC](#): Adoption of designations of shorelands and wetlands associated with shorelines of the state
- [Chapter 173-26 WAC](#): State master program approval/amendment procedures and master program guidelines
- [Chapter 173-27 WAC](#): Shoreline management permit and enforcement procedures

# Why are we amending these rules?



To address issues that we have identified through the review, adoption, and implementation of shoreline master programs (SMPs).



To provide guidelines for local governments to address the impact of sea level rise and increased storm severity in SMPs. HB 1181 (RCW 90.58.630)

# Objectives for the sea level rise element



Increase resilience of people, property, shoreline natural resources, and the environment



Shoreline Management Act in the context of shoreline change



Establish process requirements



Establish content requirements

# Opportunities this rulemaking provides

- Support better implementation of the SMA
- Clarify requirements and address areas of confusion
- Increase resilience to sea level rise



**We are looking for your  
feedback as we consider topics  
and issues to address in this  
SMA rulemaking effort**

# Topics we plan to consider

- Tribal engagement
- Riparian management
- Stream channel migration zones
- Critical area protection
- Preservation of archaeological, historical, and cultural resources
- Federal Coastal Zone Management Act consistency

# Topics we plan to consider

- Shoreline modifications such as mooring buoys, septic systems, and outfalls
- Shoreline stabilization methods such as hard armoring and soft alternatives
- Voluntary shoreline restoration
- Sea level rise and storm severity
- SMA/SMP compliance and enforcement
- No net loss of shoreline ecological functions

# Ideas for comments

- Shoreline management issues you would like to see addressed through rule amendments
- Priorities for addressing the impact of sea level rise through shoreline master programs
- Input on existing language in the rules

# Providing written comments

- QR code for eComment:

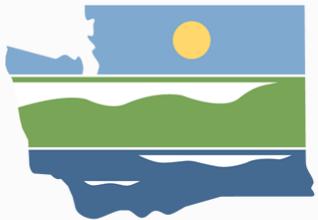


- [eComment](#)



**We want to hear from you!  
Please provide your input.**

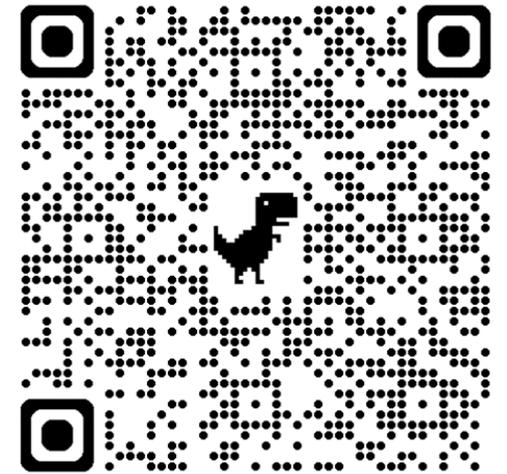




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# Thank you!

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