

## Red and Green Sea Urchin Size Limits

The size limits for sea urchins (test shell diameter exclusive of spines) are as follows:

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	MAXIMUM SIZE LIMIT
Red Sea Urchins	3.25 inches	5.0 inches
Green Sea Urchins	2.25 inches	None

Sea urchins are very long-lived animals requiring special consideration when managing fisheries for them. For example, the red sea urchin can live over 100 years! The size restrictions in Washington State are in place to protect spawning populations of both species. The 2.25" minimum size restriction for green sea urchin ensures that the species has a chance to spawn at least once in its lifetime before being harvested. The slot limit for red sea urchin functions in a similar way, but with a twist: the 3.25" minimum size restriction ensures that the species has a chance to spawn at least once in its lifetime before being harvested, while the 5" maximum size restriction ensures that the largest red sea urchin, the animals with the greatest reproductive capacity, will be around to create future generations of sea urchins and to provide for harvesters in a sustainable way.

