
Summary

Meeting dates: August 5, 2016

Agenda item: Wild Future Update and 2017 Legislative Proposals – Briefing and Decision

Presenter(s): Jennifer Quan, Government Affairs Director and Raquel Crosier, Legislative Liaison

Background summary:

Washington's Wild Future is a multi-year initiative being led by Director Jim Unsworth. The initiative is focused on building a stronger and more effective state agency that is better aligned with our customers and better equipped to tackle complex management issues into the future.

During this briefing, Government Affairs Director Jennifer Quan, will review how the agency has packaged the ideas we heard during our Wild Future listening sessions and will discuss the agency's next steps. Staff will provide background on the agency's current budget problem statement, highlight efficiencies that we have put into place to help ourselves and provide information on the types of programs and services that may be at risk as well as what is to be gained pending the outcome of the 2017 legislative session.

Legislative Liaison Raquel Crosier will walk through five proposals for agency request legislation for the 2017 legislative session. These legislative proposals include:

- Recreational License Revenue
 - Commercial License Revenue
 - Promotion of Recreation on Private Lands
 - Fish Protection for Healthy Fisheries (HPA)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species Management
-

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

Approval of agency request legislation for the 2017 legislative session.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Thorough stakeholder outreach has been conducted on each of these bills. Feedback has been collected at public meetings, through an online feedback form and through targeted outreach to key stakeholder groups and agency advisory groups. The agency has already taken steps to advance many ideas that we heard during the Wild Future listening sessions and have packaged those that will require additional resources into our legislative proposals.

Action requested:

Approval of 2017 agency request legislation.

Draft motion language:

I move to approve the proposed 2017 agency request legislative packages as proposed.

Justification for Commission action:

The agency will need to submit the 2017 request legislation to OFM and the Governor's office by mid-September.

Communications Plan:

Agency staff will continue to work closely with key stakeholders and the public to gather feedback and provide information on these legislative initiatives. Feedback is being collected through the agency website.

WDFW Efficiencies *DRAFT*

Since 2009 – the great recession – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has worked to maintain almost all recreational and commercial opportunities despite losing 160 employees and over \$50 million in state general funding. Through this, we have worked to be responsible stewards of state dollars while maintaining services. Now, if we are unable to identify ongoing stable funding, some services are at risk.

Below summarizes some of the major actions that have been taken to gain WDFW efficiencies and save state dollars.

STAFFING & PROGRAM FUNCTION

Moving Salaries to grant & short-term project funding

As tax dollars have decreased where possible permanent employee salaries have been shifted to more unstable and unpredictable funding sources

Consolidation and Realignment

- Hunter Education
 - Realignment of conflict specialists statewide to streamline and bring uniformity to addressing wildlife conflict
- Hatchery Complexes
 - Consolidation of hatcheries management under fewer complexes, driven by budget reductions
- Habitat Biologist Diversification
 - Reducing field specialists & cross training biologist in regulatory, and technical assistance/customer service (protection and restoration) to adapt to smaller budgets
- Number of temporary employees reduced and consolidated to career seasonal (reduced cost of Unemployment)

Example Efficiencies Gained:

- 22% increase in # certified instructors
- 31% increase in # new instructors
- 15% increase in instructor volunteer hours donated (>27,000/year)
- 19% increase in # classes offered
- 1.3% decrease in annual rate of student no-shows (currently 15%)
- 33% decrease in Hunter Education Deferrals

Reduce and Eliminated Services

- Education
 - Angler Education
 - Youth Expo
 - Marine Education
 - Salmon in the classroom

Specific Impacts: Reduced recruitment and Community Relations

- Student classroom visits – 41 w/1,098 students
- Student field trips and beach walks – 10 w/690 students
- Organizational trainings (workshops for teachers, private and governmental agencies) – 2 w/27 attendees
- Family Programs – 3 with 104 attendees
- Educational connections with youth, adults, and seniors of diverse backgrounds (e.g., Somalis, Hispanics, Russians, and Asian-Pacific Islander) - 14 with 6,698 attendees

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS & ADJUSTMENTS

Technology

- Mobile Workforce Development– e.g., Apps, CODY
- Bear Permits
- Project Management
- Electronic Billing

Communications

- Pooling Cell Phone Minutes
- Eliminate Landline/Mobile Redundancies

Vehicles

- Motor Pool
- DOT Fueling

Trainings

- Virtual/On line

Deferred Maintenance

- Technology Infrastructure
- Equipment
- Facilities
- Lands and Water Access

LEAN

- Purchasing Cards
- Managed Print

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

WDFW Facility Improvements

Strategic Use of Space

- More use of shared space and creation of multifunctional areas
- Field staff out of office greater than 50% do not get personal workspace
- Touch down stations for field/visiting staff

Facilities Infrastructure Investment

WDFW has increased funding for facilities and infrastructure and leveraged capital budget investment with federal grants for habitat restoration projects. Projects focused on improving staff and public safety; maintain facility and production operations; improving energy efficiencies; and reducing our deferred maintenance and repair backlog, while at the same time improving recreational access and providing for habitat protection.

Completed Work-In-Place:

- FY11-13 = \$31.3M
- FY13-15 = \$70.1M
- FY15-17 (through May 16) = \$28.0M

Complete Projects sample:

- Voights Creek Hatchery
- Deschutes Watershed Center (Pioneer Park Hatchery)
- 15 Water & Wildlife Viewing Access Sights
- Tucannon Restoration
- 6 miles of Elk Fence
- 18 Major Hatchery Projects
- Fir Island Farms Estuary Restoration

PARTNERSHIPS & INNOVATIONS

Leases and colocation

- Co-locate office space w/ other agencies (~20 statewide)
- Hatchery and Access Site Management
 - McKernan Hatchery

Citizen Science and Volunteer

- Wildlife Surveys lead to increased data with volunteer time

Example Surveys

Ferruginous Hawk:

- Volunteers drove 2,407 miles / surveyed 132 historic territories/ documented 12 ferruginous hawk nest sites-

Common Loon:

- Volunteers surveyed 17 loon lakes/ collected data on loon presence, pairing, nests and nest success

WDFW/Audubon Sagebrush Songbird Surveys (using eBird Northwest):

- 115 volunteers surveyed 66 sites = 158 new observations of 3 focal species

Forest Management Plan (generate revenue):

- Reprioritized efforts on WDFW at-risk forests to achieve ecological and fire risk goals, **AND**
- Generate Revenue - ~\$1M expected in revenue this next year-



Recreational Fishing and Hunting

- General
- Inflationary clause
- Direction to use license revenues to fund fishing and hunting activities only

- Hunting
- 10% fee increase across all license types
- Harvest reporting requirement for all tags, penalty assessed for each failure to report
- Hunter education graduate coupon
- Stand-alone damage license/tags for deer, bear, elk

Annual revenue: \$3M (user fees)

- Fishing
- 10-20% fee increase across most license types
- Catch record card fee for each species: salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and halibut
- Increase cost of charter stamp (includes a multi-species catch record card)
- Revision of youth and senior definitions to be consistent with hunting
- Modifies dedicated accounts to be proportion of eligible licenses (except biotoxin)
- Smelt fishing license

Annual revenue: \$12M (user fees)

Commercial Fishing

- Deposit all commercial license revenue and landing tax into the State Wildlife Account
- Increase fee across all commercial licenses and eliminates non-resident fees
- New license types: annual crew license and temp crew
- Expanding record keeping for imported species of concern
- Regulatory streamlining for fish buying/dealing
- Single fee for both residents and non-residents
- Inflationary clause

GF-S: \$1.1M
 New commercial fees: \$1M
 Fish food excise tax transfer: \$2.5M
Annual revenue: \$4.6M

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Non-resident recreational boater fee
- Paddle sport sticker
- Aquatic conveyance fee
- Public Utility Tax diversion
- Commercial shipping vessel fee
- Public private partnerships

GF-S: \$1M
 User fees: \$750K
 Shipping industry fees: \$1.3M
Annual revenue: \$3.1M (Phase 1: 17-19)

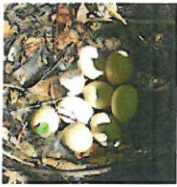
Hydraulic Project Approvals

- Removes the HPA program sunset
- Promotes civil compliance
- Repeals single-family residence bulkhead section
- Restructures fee from flat to project-cost-based
- Increases streamlined habitat project sponsors and eligible project types

Annual revenue: \$2M

Liability Immunity

- Provides liability immunity to private landowners who allow recreational access for free or a fee of less than \$50 annually.



Washington's **WILD**Future

FISHING



Improving Washington's Fisheries

In 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) asked people throughout the state to share their thoughts on what the department is doing right and where it can improve in the coming years. Thousands of people responded to WDFW's Wild Future initiative, commenting on issues ranging from the complexity of our fishing rules to the desire for more recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.

Based on input received from thousands of people across the state, WDFW has developed proposals regarding management of Washington's fish populations and the recreational and commercial fisheries they support.

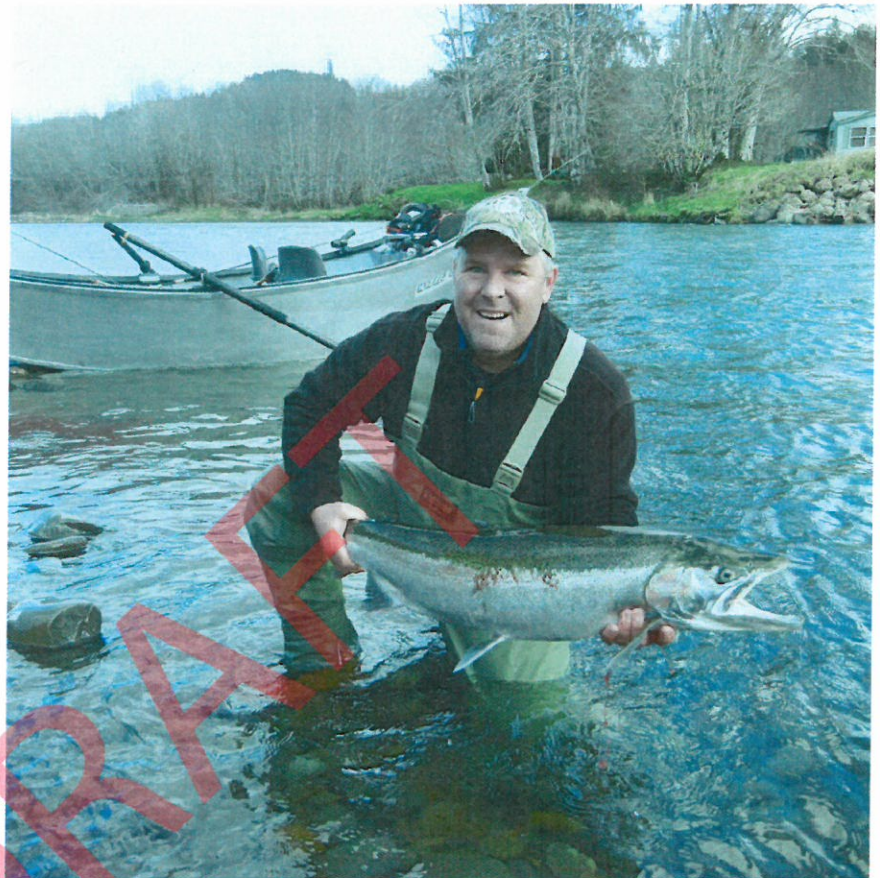
Maintaining and Expanding Fisheries

Numerous sport and commercial fisheries – such as those for salmon, halibut and coastal rockfish – are managed under catch quotas or guidelines. Federal permits also are required to provide fishing opportunities in marine and fresh water areas where there are threatened or endangered fish species.

Significant monitoring, sampling and analysis is necessary to ensure fisheries stay within catch quotas and protected species are not harmed.

To continue to meet these requirements, WDFW is proposing to increase monitoring and sampling efforts, as well as add technical staff to help manage fisheries. Those proposals include:

- **Monitoring and evaluating** fish populations and fisheries in the Columbia River and tributaries, ocean and



coastal waters, and Puget Sound. (\$6.5 million General Fund-State and Wildlife Account-State)

- **Negotiating and implementing** management plans for Columbia River and Puget Sound fisheries. (\$597,000 GF-S and WL-S)
- **Renewing an endorsement** required to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. (\$3.3 million in endorsement revenue)
- **Maintaining hatchery production** in the lower Columbia River. (\$1.3 million GF-S and WL-S)
- **Enforcing laws designed to protect fish and wildlife**, including efforts to suppress a growing black market for seafood that threatens the sustainability of the resource and the health and safety of consumers. (\$442,000 GF-S, FY 17-19; \$442,000 GF-S in FY 19-21 and FY 21-23)

Protecting Habitat

Without sufficient spawning and rearing habitat to sustain fish populations, many fisheries simply would not be available. Maintaining and enhancing fishing opportunities requires WDFW to bolster its ability to protect fish habitat, including work to:

- **Complete an inventory of high-priority fish passage barriers** in western Washington and develop a systematic plan for correcting them. (\$600,000 GF-S, FY 17-19; \$600,000 GF-S, FY 19-21)
- **Restore critical fish habitat** by providing additional support for Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, the network of citizen volunteers who help conduct restoration projects in partnership with counties, cities and tribes around the state. (\$1.4 million WL-S)
- **Recover steelhead populations**, including efforts to determine the causes of poor juvenile steelhead survival in Puget Sound. (\$930,000 GF-S and other source FY 17-19; \$382,000 GF-S, FY 19-21)
- **Protect critical fish habitat** by increasing technical assistance to shoreline landowners working on projects permitted under an Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) and boosting enforcement to ensure that everyone required to obtain an HPA does so and follows the permit conditions when working around shorelines. (\$3.4 million GF-S, WL-S and other source)
- **Monitor and study** predation of chinook and sockeye in Lake Washington (\$287,000 WL-S); and monitor salmon and steelhead populations in several other areas. (\$473,000 GF-S and WL-S)

Developing New Fishing Opportunities

Anglers also expressed a desire for new salmon and steelhead fisheries, which WDFW is currently working to develop. The department is proposing to seek additional funding for:

- **Skagit River and Baker Lake fisheries** – Adding a new recreational catch-and-release fishery for steelhead returning to the Skagit River, and expanding the recreational sockeye fishery in the river and at Baker Lake. (\$625,000 GF-S)
- **Puget Sound and coastal hatchery fish** – Increasing hatchery production of salmon and steelhead in Puget Sound and coastal facilities to improve fishing opportunities for the recreational and commercial fleets. (\$2.4 million GF-S and WL-S)
- **Lower Columbia River salmon** – Increasing monitoring efforts to allow for more opportunities to fish for salmon and steelhead on lower Columbia River. (\$1.7 million GF-S and WL-S)

- **Hood Canal salmon** – Developing a hatchery fall chinook fishery in Hood Canal. (\$116,000 GF-S)
- **Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay salmon** – Improving escapement estimates and catch accounting to allow for more fishing opportunities. (\$680,000 GF-S and WL-S)
- **Orderly fisheries** – Key to providing fishing opportunities is enforcement of laws – such as catch limits and gear restrictions – designed to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat. Proposed new opportunities would require additional enforcement to protect public safety and the resource. (\$600,000 GF-S and WL-S)

Maintaining Hatcheries

Washington has invested millions of dollars to build and operate the state's 82 fish hatcheries, which are valued at more than \$1.5 billion. But the state spends less than \$500,000 annually to maintain them.

This lack of maintenance has resulted in costly emergency repairs, failing infrastructure, increased safety risks, and reduced fish production. The department is proposing to seek additional funds to:

- **Maintain the state's facilities** and continue producing hatchery fish – the main driver in many of Washington's fisheries. (\$2.7 million GF-S and WL-S)

Simplifying Regulations and Enhancing Outreach

Anglers and others expressed a desire for the department to simplify fishing rules and present them more clearly. Over the years, fishing regulations in Washington have evolved into some of the most complex in the world. This is a result of numerous factors, particularly the challenge of managing waters where there are a variety of fish species, some of which are harvestable while others are protected.

These complicated fishing regulations not only prove difficult for some seasoned anglers, but are also largely viewed as an obstacle for people considering the sport. To help address this issue, WDFW is working to simplify recreational fishing rules and improve the readability of the regulations pamphlet. Meanwhile, the department also is proposing to seek additional funds to:

- **Continue development of a mobile application** for fishing regulations that will allow anglers to quickly determine the current rules for a particular body of water. The GPS-enabled application would also feature a real-time notification of emergency changes to fishing rules. (\$658,000 WL-S)
- **Expand outreach and education efforts** to help get youth interested in the sport of fishing. (\$115,000 WL-S)



Washington's **WILD**Future

FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL



License revenue is needed to maintain and increase fishing

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is considering options for increasing fishing and hunting license revenue to help close the gap between future expenditures and projected funding.

Increased revenue also will help the department respond to anglers' desire to maintain and enhance opportunities. The proposal outlined here would generate about \$12 million per year.

A key goal of the proposal is to set fees that more accurately reflect fisheries management costs, including the relatively high cost of managing salmon, steelhead, and other fisheries in waters where some fish stocks are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The proposal also would reduce barriers for youth and senior anglers; improve species management and data collection; and more closely align with fees in neighboring states. Finally, the proposal would modestly increase fees for popular, low-cost fisheries and help keep pace with inflation, to avoid significant periodic increases in the future.



WDFW user submitted photo

How would the proposal alter the current recreational fishing license structure?

- **It would align license fees to reflect the cost of providing fishing opportunities.** Some recreational fisheries, such as salmon and steelhead, are more expensive to manage than others, such as inland lake trout and warm-water species. These fee options would reflect those differences by setting higher rates for fisheries that cost more to manage.
- **Senior citizens would qualify for discounted fees at age 65** instead of the current 70. The qualifying age for senior hunting licenses is already set at 65, so this change would ensure consistency across both types of licenses.
- **More young people would be able to fish for free.** Washingtonians recognize the importance of increasing the number of young people who participate in outdoor recreation. Currently, the requirement to purchase a license begins at age 15. This proposal would raise the threshold to age 16, and the department would offer free licenses to those 15 and under. A new proposal would allow youth fishers to record their catch on a mentor's catch record card (within applicable bag limits) or purchase a separate catch record card at half-price and have their own bag limit.
- **Anglers would purchase catch record cards for specific species.** The department uses catch cards to track the harvest of select fish species. Currently, a single catch record card for all four species is provided free of charge with the purchase of a fishing license. The proposal would establish individual catch record cards for four species.
- **Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement.** The price of the endorsement would increase by \$1 to match the price charged in Oregon. New funding would support a grant program to enhance fishing opportunities and habitat improvements.
- **Non-residents would pay higher fees.** The department's proposal is designed to capture additional out-of-state revenue without setting rates so high that they would discourage vacationers from coming to the Evergreen State.
- **Inflation.** The proposal would provide for an inflation adjustment every two years. This would allow WDFW to maintain ongoing operations without having to seek larger increases every few years to address the erosion of buying power.

Fishing License Fee Proposal for 17-19

Resident License	Current Out-the-Door	Proposed Out-the-Door
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$55.35	\$64.92
Annual Freshwater	\$29.50	\$34.12
Annual Saltwater	\$30.05	\$33.57
Annual Shellfish	\$17.40	\$26.20
Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$17.00
Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$17.00
Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$11.50
Catch Record Card Halibut Puget Sound	\$0.00	\$11.50
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$18.50
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$13.00
Razor Clam Annual	\$14.10	\$24.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$16.50
1-Day Temp (Combo) Res	\$11.35	\$19.82
3-Day Temp (Combo) Res	\$19.05	\$32.08
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$8.75
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sturg or Hal	\$0.00	\$6.00
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$8.75
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Hal or Sturg	\$0.00	\$6.00
Charter Stamp	\$8.50	\$15.00
Guide Stamp	\$8.50	\$15.00

Resident License	Current Out-the-Door	Proposed Out-the-Door
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$124.65	\$144.12
Annual Freshwater	\$84.50	\$101.00
Annual Saltwater	\$59.75	\$65.19
Annual Shellfish	\$36.10	\$58.10
Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$22.50
Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$22.50
Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$17.50
Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$17.50
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$18.50
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$13.00
Razor Clam Annual	\$21.80	\$39.40
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$16.50
1-Day Temp (Combo)	\$20.15	\$28.07
3-Day Temp Non-Res	\$35.55	\$50.62
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$11.50
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sturg or Hal	\$0.00	\$8.75
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$11.50
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Hal or Sturg	\$0.00	\$8.75
Charter Stamp	\$8.50	\$15.00
Guide Stamp	\$8.50	\$15.00

SENIOR (Out-the-Door)	Current Fee 65-69	Current Fee for 70+	Proposed Fee 65 and Over
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$55.35	N/A	\$28.95
Annual Freshwater	\$29.50	\$7.50	\$10.80
Annual Saltwater	\$30.05	\$8.05	\$11.35
Annual Shellfish	\$17.40	\$7.50	\$10.80
Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17.00
Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17.00
Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11.50
Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11.50
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$17.00
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$3.80	\$11.50
Razor Clam Annual	\$14.10	\$13.00	\$24.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$7.10	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$6.00	\$7.10
1-Day Temp (Combo) Res	\$11.35	\$11.35	\$18.50
3-Day Temp (Combo) Res	\$19.05	\$19.05	\$27.30
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.75
1-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sturg or Hal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.00
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Sal or Stlh	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.75
3-Day Temp Catch Record Card Hal or Sturg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.00

YOUTH (Out-the-Door)	Current Fee 0-14	Current Fee for 15	Proposed Fee 15 and Under
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$0.00	\$8.05	\$0.00
Annual Freshwater	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Saltwater	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Shellfish	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.75
Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.75
Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.00
Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.00
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$0.00	\$8.75	\$8.75
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$0.00	N/A	\$6.00
Razor Clam Annual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$0.00	\$9.70	\$0.00
Columbia River Endorsement	\$0.00	\$7.10	\$0.00
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$14.80	\$17.00

* **Note:** Currently, a single catch record card for all four species is provided free of charge with the purchase of a fishing license.



Washington's **WILD**Future

HUNTING



Improving the hunting experience

In 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) asked people throughout the state to comment on what the department is doing right and where it can improve in the coming years. Thousands of people responded to WDFW's Wild Future initiative, providing ideas on issues ranging from salmon seasons to wolf management.

Comments from hunters focused on several themes, including greater access to private lands, simplified hunting regulations, and mobile technologies. The department drew on this feedback in developing the following proposals to meet public expectations for the future.

Increase access to private hunting lands

No issue drew a greater response among hunters involved in the Wild Future initiative than the loss of free access to industrial timberlands. To address this issue, WDFW is considering various incentives that would encourage timber companies to hold access fees to moderate levels.

In addition, the department hopes to increase access to other private lands through agreements with private landowners. This initiative would expand the impact of several options offered through the Private Lands Access Program, including "Feel Free to Hunt" and "Hunt by Reservation", which have opened hundreds of thousands of privately owned acres to hunting in recent years. New funding would also provide for additional enforcement on lands opened to hunting. (\$2.3 million Wildlife Account-State)

Develop mobile app for hunters

The department is seeking to develop a mobile hunting app – free for all hunting license buyers – to give the public easier access to hunting data on mobile devices. This



technology would provide access to regulations and other online information in the field. Mobile apps can also help in the management of game species. (\$250,000 Wildlife Account-State)

Develop safe target-shooting range in central Washington

Dispersed target shooting within the boundaries of some WDFW wildlife areas has been a chronic management challenge. The public supports target shooting options in central Washington, but the lack of suitable facilities has contributed to significant litter problems, and wildfires can be caused by target shooting in dry landscapes. To address these issues, the department is planning to request funds to develop a contained, regulated shooting range in Central Washington that could be used for hunter education and law enforcement training as well as general target shooting. (\$500,000 capital construction funds, \$200,000 Wildlife Account-State)

Increase habitat management to support game animals

The department plans to seek funding for two habitat biologist positions to ensure that critical habitats, such as deer and elk winter range, are protected into the future. (\$421,000 Wildlife Account-State)

License fee increase would help maintain and expand hunting opportunities

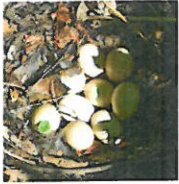
To help pay for some of those improvements and bridge the gap between future expenditures and projected funding, WDFW is proposing to increase fees for all hunting license types by about 10 percent.

The proposal also would include these changes:

- Students who pass an approved hunter education class would receive a \$20 coupon that could be applied toward their first hunting license.
- A “Hunt by Reservation” fee would authorize WDFW to charge a modest fee to offset the cost of managing the increasingly popular Hunt by Reservation program, which enables hunters to reserve a space to hunt on selected private lands.
- An administrative penalty fee would be applied for each species to encourage harvest reporting. Currently, a hunter failing to report across all tag types are assessed a single penalty.
- The migratory bird permit fee would increase from \$17 to \$28. Revenue from this permit is used to buy and develop migratory bird habitat and to produce and protect migratory birds in Washington. The proposed state fee would match the cost of the federal duck stamp, which was recently increased.
- In the future, fees for most license types would be adjusted for inflation every two years. This would enable the department to maintain hunting opportunities without experiencing the loss of buying power that occurs when inflationary impacts compound over time.

Resident hunting license fees - 10% increase	Current	Proposed
Big Game Hunter Purchases a Deer, Elk, Bear, Cougar License	\$95.50	\$104.85
Big Game and Small Game Hunter Purchases Deer, Elk, Bear, Cougar and Small Game	\$117.50	\$129.05
Turkey and Migratory Bird Hunter Purchases Small Game, Turkey Tag and Migratory Bird	\$73.40	\$87.29
Deer and Turkey Hunter Purchases Deer, Small Game and Turkey Tag	\$82.80	\$90.83
Canada Goose Hunter (SW WA) Purchases Small Game, Migratory Bird Hunt Authorization	\$70.70	\$84.37

Note: All prices are “out the door” – including dealer and transaction fees



Washington's **WILD**Future

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL



License revenue is needed to maintain and increase fishing

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is considering options for increasing commercial fishing license revenue to help close the gap between future expenditures and projected funding. These options are part of a package that also includes proposed increases in recreational fishing and hunting license fees.

Increased revenue also will help the department respond to the commercial fishing industry's desire to maintain and enhance fisheries that are vital to the state's economy and to dozens of Washington's communities.

The department's proposal, which would require legislative approval, would generate about \$4.6 million in new revenue per year. About \$1 million would come from license fee changes; the remaining \$3.6 million would come from the state General Fund and from redirecting revenue from current commercial license fees and an existing fish landing excise tax into the state Wildlife Account.

In developing the proposal, fishery managers used fee structures in neighboring states as a starting point for establishing a new framework for commercial fishing license fees in Washington.



How would the proposal alter the current commercial fishing license structure?

- **Provide an equitable fee structure.** A key goal of the proposal is to set fees that more accurately reflect the value of the fishery and management costs, including the relatively high cost of managing salmon seasons and other fisheries in waters where some fish stocks are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- **It would align commercial fishing license fees for residents and non-residents.** Currently, fees for non-resident commercial fishing licenses are higher than those for residents. The department is proposing changes that would equalize these fees.
- **Crew members would now need to be licensed.** Requiring all crew members to have a license to participate in commercial fisheries, similar to a requirement in Alaska and Oregon.
- **Provide for an inflation adjustment every two years.** This would allow WDFW to maintain ongoing operations without having to seek larger increases every few years to address erosion of buying power.
- **Redirect revenue from commercial fishing license sales and an excise tax on landings of specific species.** Revenue from the sale of commercial fishing licenses and from landings of enhanced food fish, including salmon and shellfish, would go to the non-restricted state Wildlife Account, instead of into the state General Fund.
- **Streamline license requirements for fish buyers and processors.** Under the proposal, people would need to purchase a base license (Fish Dealer's License) to broker and/or process fish and shellfish. Commercial buyers who purchase fish and shellfish from harvesters would then also be required to purchase a Wholesale Fish Buyer's Endorsement. Separately, commercial fishers who would like to sell their catch directly to market would need to purchase a Limited Fish Seller's Endorsement when buying their annual commercial fishing license.

Commercial Fishing License Fee Proposal for 2017-19

License Type	Current Resident Fee Out-the-Door	Current Non-Res Fee Out-the-Door	Proposed Fee Out-the-Door
Baitfish			
Baitfish Lampara	\$255	\$365	\$365
Baitfish Purse Seine	\$600	\$1,055	\$600
Food Fish			
Carp Gear	\$200	\$255	\$255
Food Fish Drag Seine	\$200	\$255	\$255
Non-Salmon Ocean Delivery	\$250	\$340	\$400
Columbia River Smelt Gear	\$450	\$755	\$450
Non-Puget Sound Food Fish Trawl	\$310	\$475	\$475
Puget Sound Whiting Trawl	\$400	\$625	\$625
Sardine Purse Seine	\$290	\$400	\$400
Coastal Hagfish Pot	\$290	\$400	\$400
Herring			
Herring Dip Bag Net	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Drag Seine	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Gill Net	\$280	\$380	\$345
Herring Lampara	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Purse Seine	\$280	\$380	\$345
Salmon			
Salmon Ocean Delivery	\$585	\$890	\$585
Puget Sound Salmon Gill Net	\$585	\$890	\$750
Puget Sound Salmon Purse Seine	\$735	\$1,190	\$750
Puget Sound Salmon Reef Net	\$585	\$890	\$750
Salmon Troll	\$585	\$890	\$735
Grays Harbor Salmon Gill Net	\$585	\$890	\$585
Willapa Bay Salmon Gill Net	\$585	\$890	\$585
Columbia River Beach Seine	\$290	\$400	\$400
Columbia River Purse Seine	\$290	\$400	\$400

License Type	Current Resident Fee Out-the-Door	Current Non-Res Fee Out-the-Door	Proposed Fee Out-the-Door
Shellfish/Other			
Ocean Delivery Pink Shrimp	\$255	\$405	\$405
Sea Cucumber Dive	\$235	\$290	\$400
Sea Urchin Dive	\$235	\$290	\$400
Puget Sound Shrimp Pots	\$290	\$400	\$400
Puget Sound Shrimp Trawl Perm	\$290	\$400	\$400
Burrowing Shrimp	\$290	\$400	\$290
Wild Shellfish Emerging	\$290	\$400	\$400
Geoduck Dive	\$255	\$365	\$400
Geoduck Tract	\$70	\$70	\$100
Oyster Reserve	\$200	\$255	\$255
Non-Shrimp Shellfish Pots	\$200	\$255	\$255
Squid Gear	\$255	\$365	\$365
Willapa Razor Clam Digger	\$235	\$290	\$235
Dungeness Coastal Crab Pots (Perm)	\$520	\$745	\$550
Pots Dungeness Crab Puget Sound	\$235	\$290	\$290
Coastal Shrimp Pots	\$290	\$400	\$400
Charter License			
Salmon Charter	\$620	\$925	\$700
Non-salmon Charter	\$330	\$480	\$400
Salmon Roe	\$165	\$165	\$165
Guides			
Food Fish Guide	\$220	\$800	\$480
Game Fish Guide	\$250	\$670	\$480
Game & Food Fish Guide Combo	\$435	\$1,435	\$800
Miscellaneous			
Alternate Operator	\$105	\$105	\$205
Aquatic Farm Registrant	\$105	\$105	\$105
Emerging Commercial Fisheries	\$290	\$400	\$290
Commercial Crew Member - Annual	n/a	n/a	\$101
Commercial Crew Member - 5 day Temp	n/a	n/a	\$29.50

Fish Dealers & Processors	Current Fee Out-the-Door
Wholesale Fish Dealer	\$355
Fish Buyer's License	\$200
Direct Retail Endorsement	\$155
Anadromous Game Fish Buyer	\$70

Fish Dealers & Processors	Proposed Fee Out-the-Door
Fish Dealer's License	\$550
Wholesale Fish Buyer's Endorsement	\$275
Limited Fish Seller's Endorsement	\$175



Washington's **WILD**Future **CONSERVATION**



Conserving fish, wildlife and habitat for future generations

In 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) asked people throughout the state to share their thoughts on what the department is doing right and where it can improve in the coming years. Thousands of people responded to WDFW's Wild Future initiative, commenting on issues ranging from land management to wolf recovery.

Few themes, however, ran deeper than the critical importance of conserving the state's fish, wildlife and natural habitat for future generations. Based on that showing of support, WDFW has developed proposals to address challenges ranging from the management of non-hunted species to removing fish-passage barriers.

Maintain support for non-hunted wildlife

In addition to managing game species such as deer and elk, WDFW supports hundreds of non-hunted species native to Washington state. These "non-game" species make up a large portion of the bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species in Washington. They play a critical role in the state's ecosystem and help to generate significant watchable wildlife tourism spending.

As Washington's growing human population exerts increasing pressure on these species, state wildlife managers see an urgent need to preserve the diversity of Washington's wildlife and take steps to avoid federal actions under the Endangered Species Act that can limit the uses of private and public land.

For many years, the state has funded these types of activities through the sale of personalized license plates and a specialty plate that features an image of a killer whale (orca). However, projected revenue from these sources is expected to



fall \$1.2 million short of current levels in the next two-year budget cycle.

WDFW will seek \$1.2 million from the State General Fund in 2017 to continue ongoing efforts to recover, monitor, and conserve fish and wildlife species before they are at risk of dying out. Further enhancements are described below with other options for 2019-23.

Remove barriers to salmon migration

A critical component of restoring salmon and steelhead populations is ensuring that these fish can reach their historic spawning grounds. Since 1999, the department and partner organizations have removed more than 6,600 fish-blocking culverts around the state, yet thousands more continue to impede fish passage.

To support salmon and steelhead recovery – as well as fisheries for those species – the department plans to seek funding in 2017 to:

- Complete an inventory of high-priority fish passage barriers in western Washington, which will serve as the basis for a plan (and a capital funding request) to correct them. (\$600,000 General Fund-State)

- Provide additional support for Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, the network of citizen volunteers who do the hands-on work of replacing culverts and conducting other restoration projects in partnership with counties, cities and tribes around the state. (\$1.4 million State Wildlife Account)

Improve the effectiveness of Hydraulic Project Approvals

Since 1943, the state's Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) program has played a key role in protecting fish life by regulating construction projects and other work in or near Washington waters. To support the goals of the HPA program, the department will request funds in 2017 to:

- Increase the number of habitat biologists available to provide technical assistance to shoreline landowners working on projects permitted under an HPA. (\$1.7 million from multiple sources)
- Increase the number of WDFW enforcement officers and establish a dedicated code enforcement program to ensure that everyone required to obtain an HPA does so and follows the permit conditions when working around shorelines. (\$1.25 million from multiple sources)

Fully compensate counties for tax revenue lost to state land purchases

WDFW owns and manages 33 wildlife areas whose highest priority is to preserve habitat for fish and wildlife. These lands and waters cover about 1 million acres statewide. They support education and academic research, as well as wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, and many other forms of recreation.

Each year, the department provides Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to the counties where its lands are located to compensate for the loss of local property taxes, which cannot be levied on state-owned lands. However, the 2012 Legislature froze those payments at the levels paid to the counties in 2009. As a result, some local officials, primarily in eastern Washington, have withheld support for WDFW land purchases.

WDFW plans to ask state lawmakers in 2017 to remove the payment cap and allow 13 counties to receive PILT under open-space tax rates, as recommended in a 2013 study conducted by Department of Revenue in collaboration with the Office of Financial Management and WDFW. The department plans to ask lawmakers to increase current PILT funding of \$3.2 million by \$1.3 million in 2017-19 and another \$1.7 million in 2019-21 to provide full funding to all counties.

Hunters and conservation

Hunters have long supported wildlife and habitat conservation. In addition to getting involved in conservation in their local communities, hunters purchase state recreation licenses and since the 1930s have paid a federal tax on sporting firearms and ammunition whose proceeds are used to protect the habitat of big game species. Hunting issues – and the department's hunting license fee proposal – are discussed in greater detail in the Wild Future hunting fact sheet.

Options for 2019-23

The department plans to develop specific proposals for funding in the next two to four years to:

- Improve roads and trails, gates and fences, weed control and other basic land-management activities necessary to maintain state wildlife areas and restore WDFW's reputation among other property owners as a "good neighbor."
- Ensure the department's law enforcement staffing levels increase when WDFW acquires new lands.
- Add staff to work with communities to protect habitat in urban areas and forests.
- Expand efforts to help local land managers protect fish and wildlife.
- Increase the enforcement of laws that protect non-hunted wildlife from habitat destruction, poaching, and other activities that undermine recovery efforts.
- Add a veterinarian and habitat biologists to the WDFW staff to support efforts to protect non-hunted species, and engage citizen scientists and the public in those initiatives.
- Provide state funding for the department's Karelian Bear Dog program, which has been funded solely by donations since its inception.
- Eradicate marijuana being grown illegally on WDFW lands.
- Expand partnerships with local governments, private landowners, and non-profit organizations to protect and improve native wildlife habitat.

DRAFT
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2017 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

OVERVIEW

Draft Bill Title: AN ACT Relating to increasing revenue to the state wildlife account by adjusting recreational fishing and hunting fees; amending RCW 77.08.010; 77.12.184; 77.12.190; 77.15.460; 77.32.010; 77.32.050; 77.32.070; 77.32.237; 77.32.350; 77.32.370; 77.32.430; 77.32.440; 77.32.450; 77.32.460; 77.32.470; 77.32.480; 77.32.520; 77.32.530; 77.32.575; 77.32.580; 77.65.460; adding new sections to 77.12 RCW and 77.32 RCW; and repealing RCW 77.32.238; 77.32.400.

Statement of Need:

Fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing generate billions of dollars of economic activity each year and support thousands of jobs across the state. Recent state and federal budget cuts, coupled with increasingly complex and costly operating and management requirements have resulted in an agency-wide operational deficit. In order to preserve fishing and hunting opportunities, this proposal increases the agency's reliance on revenue from the sale of recreational fishing and hunting licenses.

This legislation aims to enhance fishing, hunting and conservation by increasing the department's current license sales authority, increasing license fees across all license types and directing hunting and recreational fishing license revenue to activities that directly support hunting and recreational fishing.

Primary existing activities funded with hunting license/tag/endorsements revenue include game population surveys, development of harvest regulations, WDFW land management, private lands access, and enforcement. Revenue is needed to offset a structural deficit and to offer enhancements to hunters including maintaining and improving access to private industrial timberlands, improve target shooting infrastructure on WDFW lands, and build a mobile application for hunting regulations and opportunities. The Department is proposing a 10% increase in hunting licenses and endorsements to generate the needed revenue. The Department is also proposing: a discount for recent hunter education graduates; the creation of stand-alone damage tags for deer, elk, and bear; a new fee to operate the hunt by reservation system; new fees associated with the collection and possession of birds of prey used in falconry; clarification that on-line raffle hunt sales is not on-line gambling; and increases the cost of migratory bird permit to provide the state with match to a recent increase to the federal duck stamp.

Washington's coastal and inland waters offer premier salmon, steelhead, and trout fisheries for recreational anglers which generate several hundred million of annual economic benefits. These recreational opportunities, jobs, and economic benefits are now at risk due to declines in hatchery production, a deteriorating and poorly maintained hatchery system, challenges in Endangered Species Act (ESA) permitting, higher standards for fishery monitoring, declines in federal funding, and inadequate enforcement. Relying primarily upon user fees, this package invests in hatchery production, maintains hatchery facilities, fishery monitoring, enforcement, restoration of critical fish habitat, and provides capacity to ensure sustainable recreational fisheries.

Almost all recreational fish licenses are amended. The primary revenue generator is through the sale of species-specific catch record cards, which would have anglers paying more for the opportunities that cost more to manage. This also enhances the Department's ability to collect harvest information. The definition of youth is increased from 15 to 16 and the age for senior anglers is reduced from 70 to 65 in order to promote both

recruitment and retention. In addition, the proposal allows for youth to either purchase half-price catch record cards or record their catch on an adult catch record card (and the catch applies towards the adult's daily bag limit). The fee for charter stamp is increased, and a new multi-species catch record card will be issued along with the charter stamp.

In the assessment of recreational fishing and hunting fees included in the proposal, the department considered the relative cost of recreational opportunities in adjacent states; placed a value on reducing barriers and keeping costs low for youth, senior, and disabled customers; and sought modest increases in fees for low-cost fisheries while proposing higher fees for those fisheries that are more costly to manage (i.e those protected under the federal Endangered Species Act).

There are several dedicated accounts that have fixed fees applied to certain recreational license documents. To keep pace with this license increase (and any increases in the future), the proposal includes a shift to a fixed proportion of the appropriate licenses to achieve the revenue. For several revenue sources, the current methodology to assess the amount that is applied to each license is through an annual survey of anglers to gauge their intent to participate in certain fisheries, which was then used as the basis for the proportion of revenue that was deposited in the account. The proposal eliminates that extra process, and instead uses a fixed proportion for the eligible license types that would yield:

- A 10% increase in current biennial amount for Puget Sound Enhancement.
- A 10% increase in current biennial amount deposited into the Warm Water Gamefish Account.
- A biennial increase of \$1.4M to RFEG.
- Maintenance of current ratio of revenue for eastern WA pheasant, derelict gear, and rockfish research accounts.
- Biotoxin fee would not be adjusted as this was recently amended by the legislature.

The proposal maintains the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead endorsement and eliminates the references to the pilot program. The fee is increased so that the out-the-door price matches with a comparable endorsement offered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The proposal provides clear authority to sell department merchandise and advertising that will aid and support marketing and promotional efforts.

Finally, the Department is proposing a biennial inflation mechanism to avoid significant periodic increases in the future. The inflation percentage would be incorporated in even calendars to account for eligible maintenance level funding increases that we adopted in the biennial operating budget (in odd calendar years). With the proposed modifications to the dedicated accounts, the revenue generated in the future will result in proportional increases to those specific investment areas.

The proposed legislation meets the Governor's Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment to support protecting healthy fish and wildlife species.

Agency Contacts:

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Eric Gardner, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program, (360) 902-2693

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Owen Rowe, Budget Director, (360) 902-2204

POLICY IMPACTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Summary Description</u>
1	Amends RCW 77.08.010 to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amend Subsection (58) such that “senior” means a person sixty-five years old or older for hunting or fishing.• Amend Subsection (80) such that “youth” means a person under sixteen years old for hunting or fishing.
2	New section is added to RCW 77.12 that allows the Department to raise all recreational and commercial fees in Title 77 on even numbered years to cover the cost from biennial omnibus operating budgets, and outlines conditions for doing so.
3	Amends 77.12.184 to provide authority for department to sell advertisements and department merchandise.
4	Amends 77.12.190 to restrict use of revenue generated from sale of hunting and recreational fishing licenses to be used on activities that support hunting, fishing, or conservation efforts that benefit hunting or fishing.
5	Amends RCW 77.15.460 by technical edits on Section (1); clarifies connection to new proposed 77.32.237 in (2)(b) and eliminates (2)(c) due to proposed changes to 77.32.237 and persons with disabilities and their companion will be permitted by commission rule.
6	Amends RCW 77.32.010(1) to strike smelt from the list of species exempt from needing a recreational license to harvest.
7	Amends RCW 77.32.050 to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor technical edits.• Strike Subsection (2) to eliminate expired language associated with the transaction fee/surcharge from the 09-11 biennium.• Adds a subsection indicating that revenue generated from sale of hunting and recreational fishing licenses must be used consistent with 77.12.190.• Eliminates waiver of application fee if department utilizes the automated licensing system.
8	Amends RCW 77.32.070 to eliminate a cap on the administrative penalty to no more than \$10. A hunter would now have an administrative penalty assessed for each tag they failed to report their harvest activity.
9	Amends 77.32.237 to provide authority to the Commission to promulgate rules to establish eligibility criteria for persons with disabilities and to regulate the conduct of persons with disabilities participating in fish and wildlife related recreation activities and their permitted companions.
10	Repeals RCW 77.32.238 (since this will be done by rule per amended 77.32.237).
11	Amends 77.32.256 to establish that the department can assess a fee for a duplicative catch record card.
12	Amends RCW 77.32.350 to increase fee for the migratory bird permit from \$15 to \$25. Additional revenue will be used to match recent increase in federal duck stamp and is departure from the other proposed 10% increases to other hunting licenses and endorsements.
13	Amends RCW 77.32.370 to increase by 10% the current application fee to enter a drawing for a special hunting season permit or authorization. A new Subsection (4) is added that would allow hunters who were drawn for multiple categories of special hunt for a species, to pay \$10 to return a permit and have their points restored.
14	Repeals RCW 77.32.400 (since this will be done by rule per amended 77.32.237).
15	Amends RCW 77.32.430 to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (1) Eliminates the statement regarding no charge for initial catch record card.

- (2) Allows youth to either purchase their own catch record card or record their catch on the mentor's catch record card (with applicable bag limits) and sets the new fees at:
- (3)(A) \$15 for salmon for residents, \$20 for salmon for nonresidents. A temporary salmon catch record card is \$7.50 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.
- (3)(B) \$15 for steelhead for residents, \$20 for steelhead for nonresidents, \$7.50 for youth and disabled resident. A temporary steelhead catch record card is \$7.50 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.
- (3)(C) \$10 for sturgeon for residents and \$15 for sturgeon for nonresidents. A temporary sturgeon catch record card is \$5.00 for residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents.
- (3)(D) \$10 for Puget Sound halibut for residents, \$15 for Puget Sound halibut for nonresidents. A temporary Puget Sound halibut catch record card is \$5.00 for residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents.
- (4) Amends the fees for Puget Sound crab from \$7.50 to \$15 and temporary Puget Sound crab is increased from \$3 to \$10.
- (5) Clarifies that a charter-specific catch record card is included in the cost of the charter stamp license and valid for one day and includes all catch record card species in other license types.
- (7)(a) Changes a fixed rate to a percentage for the revenue for the removal of derelict shellfish agree, similar to other dedicated accounts.

16 Amends RCW 77.32.450 to do the following:

- Add a 10% increase to all of the big game hunting packages.
- Create a stand-alone license/tag hunt privilege for damage deer, damage elk, and damage bear for \$20 each.

Creates a stand-alone license for Master Hunter deer and elk.

17 • Amends RCW 77.32.460 to increase small game and turkey tag fees by 10%.

18 Creates new section in 77.32 RCW to allow a one-time \$20 discount to resident graduates of a hunter education course.

19 Creates a new section in 77.32 RCW to authorize the department to develop and maintain a hunt by reservation system and to collect a fee of \$10 per reservation.

20 Creates a new section in 77.32 RCW to allow the commission to adopt rules to regulate falconry, to establish a two-year license to collect and possess birds of prey for \$75 for youth, \$150 for residents, and \$250 for nonresidents, and defines birds of prey.

21 Amends RCW 77.32.470 to do the following:

- (1) Increases age to require a fishing license from 15 to 16.
- (2)(a) Increases the fee for combination fishing license for residents from \$45 to \$54; for nonresidents from \$108 to \$126; plus eliminates the fixed rate to a proportion for the rockfish account (addressed in subsection 16).
- (2)(b) Increases the fee for saltwater fishing license for residents from \$25 to \$30; for nonresidents from \$52 to \$58; plus eliminates the fixed rate to a proportion for the rockfish account (addressed in subsection 16).
- (2)(c) Increases the fee for freshwater fishing license for residents from \$25 to \$30; for nonresidents from \$75 to \$90.
- (3)(a) Eliminate the 2-day temporary license; and sets fees for 1 day temporary from \$8 to \$16 for residents and from \$16 to \$22 for nonresidents; and sets fees for 3 day temporary from \$15 to \$27 for residents and from \$30 to \$44 for nonresidents.
- (3)(b) One day charter stamp is increased from \$8 to \$15.
- (3)(e) is struck as it is addressed in subsection 16.
- (4) Family fishing weekend is eliminated (there are other avenues for similar discounts).
- (5) Clarified commission authority to combine licenses up to existing price in statute and

provided the director authority to offer promotions for hunting and fishing licenses below the individual or summed prices in statute.

(6) Fee for two-pole is increased from \$13 to \$15 for residents and nonresidents and increased from \$5 to \$6 for seniors.

- 22 • Amends 77.32.480 to increase cost of combo fishing license for disabled anglers from \$5 to \$6.50.
- 23 Amends 77.32.520 to do the following:
- (3)(a) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed license for a resident sixteen (increased from fifteen) years of age or older is increased from \$10 to \$18.
 - (3)(b) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed license for a nonresident sixteen (increased from fifteen) years of age or older is increased from \$27 to \$47.
 - (3)(c) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed license for a resident senior is increased from \$5 to \$8.
 - (4) The fee for an annual razor clam license is increased from \$8 for residents to \$17, from \$15 for nonresidents to \$31, and from \$8 for seniors to \$20.
- (5) The fee for a three-day razor clam license is increased from \$5 to \$13.
- 24 • Amends RCW 77.32.530(2) Adds a sentence clarifying that online raffles administered by the Department is not considered online gambling under 9.46 RCW.
- 25 Amends RCW 77.32.575 to increase cost of the various western Washington pheasant fee by 10% and changes title from permit to license throughout.
- 26 Amends RCW 77.32.580 to increase the cost of the Columbia river salmon and steelhead endorsement by \$0.91 (to align with Oregon's out-the-door price for similar endorsement).
- 27 Repeals expiration dates on 77.12.712, 77.12.714, 77.12.716, and 77.12.718 to make the Columbia river salmon and steelhead endorsement permanent.
- 28 New section stating this act will take effect July 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Agency Fiscal Impact:

Increasing recreational fishing fees effective July 1, 2017, is expected to generate approximately \$12M per fiscal year to the WDFW State Wildlife Account.

Increasing recreational hunting fees effective July 1, 2017, is expected to generate approximately \$3M per fiscal year to the WDFW State Wildlife Account.

Affected Agencies:

Name	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership		
Wendy Brown, RCO		
Department of Revenue		

Affected Stakeholders:

In 2015, the Department began to reach out to people across the state to gather perspectives on the priorities that should drive WDFW forward over the next several years. The Department titled the initiative, "Washington's Wild Future: A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife." The Department conducted seven regional public "listening forums," received thousands of emails, reviewed social media posts and online comments, and met with advisory committees, legislators, and other groups.

Name	Affiliation	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Liz Hamilton	Northwest Sports fishing Industry Association		
Heith Heikila, Carl Burke	Costal Conservation Association Fish Northwest		
Bill Clark, Greg Bafundo, Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited Hunters Heritage Safari Club International Forterra		
Tom Bugert, Mo McBroom Darcy Nonemaker	The Nature Conservancy Washington Environmental Coalition		
Jacques White	Long Live the Kings		

DRAFT
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2017 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

OVERVIEW

Draft Bill Title: AN ACT Relating to increasing revenue to the state wildlife account by adjusting commercial fishing licenses, depositing all commercial license revenue into the state wildlife account, depositing enhanced food fish excise tax into the state wildlife account, and streamlining license requirements for commercial fish buying, dealing, and record keeping; amending RCWs in 77.08, 77.12, 77.15, 77.65, 77.70, and 82.27.

Statement of Need:

Commercial fishing and seafood processing generates hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity each year and supports thousands of jobs in Washington State. This proposal supports commercial fisheries by amending the department's current commercial fishing license sales authority and by depositing license fees and excise tax on enhanced food fish into the State Wildlife Account.

This proposal increases the cost of nearly all commercial license types, creates an annual and five-day commercial crew member license and aligns non-resident and resident license costs in order to be compliant with interstate commerce laws. The proposed commercial fishing fee increase maintains competitiveness with adjacent states and better aligns our investments in fisheries.

The commercial seafood buying and dealing framework in RCW 77.65 is a 60 year patchwork of legislative modifications and additions that has resulted in overlapping activities regulated by different license types, inconsistencies in accountability, and confusion. There is a need to simplify, combine and in some cases eliminate certain licenses and endorsements to provide greater clarity to the industry and streamline regulated activity.

This proposal strengthens regulation and tracking of illegal, unreported, or unregulated fisheries (IUU) which negatively impact conservation and undermine legitimate local and global seafood markets. The Russian king crab fishery is at the top of the unsustainable fishery list, and directly competes with Alaskan and Washington crab fisheries. Failing to control the importation of illegally harvested Russian king crab drives down and has resulted in an estimated \$600 million loss in crab related revenues since 2000. This proposal provides more regulatory leverage over imported species of concern by expanding record keeping requirements in RCW 77.15.568 to include species classified by the Department in rule.

The proposed legislation meets the Governor's Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment to support protecting healthy fish and wildlife species.

Agency Contact(s):

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Craig Burley, Fish Management Division, Fish Program (360) 902-2784

Owen Rowe, Budget Director, (360) 902-2204

Deputy Chief Mike Cenci, Enforcement Program, (360) 902-2938

POLICY IMPACTS

Section **Summary Description**

- 1 Amends 77.08.010 to do the following:
 - Revises fish dealing/buying licenses titles.
- 2 Amends RCW 77.12.170 to allow revenue received from sale of all licenses in Title 77 to be deposited into the State Wildlife Account. This amended statute also allows the revenue from excise tax collected on enhanced food fish in RCW 82.27 to be deposited into the State Wildlife Account and clarifies that revenue collected will be used to support commercial
- 3 Amends RCW 77.12.177 and strikes reference of depositing commercial fishing licenses into the state general fund.
- 4 Amends RCW 77.15.500 to add the enforcement provision to enforce the requirement of a crewmember license when an individual works on any commercial vessel while operating in commercial fisheries regulated by the state of Washington. Failure to be licensed as a crewmember will be a second degree offense.
- 5 Amends RCW 77.15.565 to reflect new titles of Fish Dealer License and associated penalties.
- 6 Amends RCW 77.15.568 to include species classified by the Department, which will aid in enforcement of imported seafood and provides clear authority for the Department's officers.
- 7 Amends 77.15.620 to reflect new titles for fish dealers and associated activities and penalties.
- 8 Amends 77.15.630 to reflect new titles for fish dealers and associated requirements and penalties for catch accounting.
- 9 Amends 77.15.640 to reflect news titles of fish dealers and associated activities and penalties.
- 10 Adds a new section to 77.65 RCW that defines the parameters of the crewmember license, as well as contains details on how to purchase the license and costs to do so.
There are two crewmember license options available. The cost for an annual crewmember license is \$90.00, and the cost for a 5-consecutive-day license is \$25.00. The 10% automated licensing system transaction fees and dealer fees also apply (thus, out-the-door price is \$101.00 for annual and \$29.50 for 5-consecutive day license).
- 11 Amends RCW 77.65.010 to require that an individual who works as a crewmember on any commercial vessel operating in a commercial fishery regulated by the state of Washington, must have a crewmember license to do so.
- 12 Amend RCW 77.65.020 for fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 13 Amend RCW 77.65.090 to adjust fee and eliminate application fee reference.
- 14 Amend RCW 77.65.110 to clarify alternate operator license requirements and amend fees.
- 15 Amend RCW 77.65.150 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 16 Amend RCW 77.65.160 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 17 Amend RCW 77.65.170 to eliminate nonresident reference.
- 18 Amend RCW 77.65.190 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 19 Amend RCW 77.65.200 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 20 Amend RCW 77.65.210 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 21 Amend RCW 77.65.220 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.

- 22 Amend RCW 77.65.280 for fees and policy changes to streamline and reform wholesale fish dealer's license.
- 23 Amend RCW 77.65.290 to change title of wholesale fish dealer to fish dealer.
- 24 Amend RCW 77.65.300 to change title of wholesale fish dealer to buyer, and to indicate that they

- would need a fish buyer endorsement.
- 25 Amend RCW 77.65.310 to streamline and reform wholesale fish dealer's license.
- 26 Amend RCW 77.65.320 to streamline and reform wholesale fish dealer's license and clarify performance bond requirements for recording catch by dealers and limited fish seller's endorsement.
- 27 Amend RCW 77.65.330 for policy changes to streamline and reform wholesale fish dealer's license and clarify payment of liability.
- 28 Amend RCW 77.65.340 for fees and to streamline conditions for fish buyer's license.
- 29 Repeals RCW 77.65.350 and will insert function for salmon roe license with the charter license statute.
- 30 Repeal RCW 77.65.360 so that increases are no longer deposited to State General Fund.
- 31 Amend RCW 77.65.370 to allow guides to sell guide stamps to clients.
- 32 Amend RCW 77.65.390 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 33 Amend RCW 77.65.440 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 34 Amend RCW 77.65.480 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference and eliminate anadromous game fish buyer's license.
- 35 Amend 77.65.490 to strike reference for anadromous game fish buyer.
- 36 Amend 77.65.500 to strike reference for anadromous game fish buyer.
- 37 Amend RCW 77.65.510 for fees and policy changes; renaming functionality of direct retail endorsement to limited fish seller's endorsement.
- 38 Amend RCW 77.65.515 for policy changes; renaming functionality of direct retail endorsement to limited fish seller's endorsement.
- 39 Amend RCW 77.65.520 for policy changes; renaming functionality of direct retail endorsement to limited fish seller's endorsement.
- 40 Repeal RCW 77.65.900; an expired reference.
- 41 Amend RCW 77.70.080 to amend fees.
- 42 Amend RCW 77.70.150 for expired technical edits regarding sea urchin license reduction.
- 43 Amend RCW 77.70.190 for expired technical edits regarding sea cucumber license reduction.
- 44 Amend RCW 77.70.220 to adjust fees.
- 45 Amend RCW 77.70.260 to adjust fees.
- 46 Amend RCW 77.70.280 to adjust fees.
- 47 Amend RCW 77.70.300 to adjust fees.
- 48 Amend RCW 77.70.340 to adjust nonresident requirements.
- 49 Amend 77.70.490 to adjust fees and eliminate nonresident reference.
- 50 Amends RCW 82.27.020 to make an administrative correction to amend the excise tax rate for both sea urchins and sea cucumbers by removing the increased excise tax rate of 4.6% for both sea urchins and sea cucumbers which sunset on December 31, 2013 and returns the excise tax rate to 2.1%.
- 51 Amends RCW 82.27.070 to redirect the deposit of the excise tax collected for enhanced food fish under RCW 82.27.020 to the State Wildlife Account. Now that the license reduction goals for the sea urchin and sea cucumber fisheries have been met, this section also makes an administrative correction which removes the language that a portion of the excise tax derived from the tax on sea urchins and sea cucumbers be deposited in the sea cucumber and sea cucumber dive fishery accounts.
- 52 New section stating this act will take effect July 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Agency Fiscal Impact:

Increasing commercial license fees effective July 1, 2017, is expected to generate approximately \$1M per year to the WDFW State Wildlife Account. Shifting deposit of the current commercial fishing license annual fees from the State General Fund to the State Wildlife Account will result in a net gain of \$1.1M/year.

Shifting deposit of excise tax revenue from the State General Fund to the State Wildlife Account will result in a net gain of \$2.5M/year.

Affected Agencies:

Name	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Department of Agriculture		

Affected Stakeholders:

In 2015, the Department began to reach out to people across the state to gather perspectives on the priorities that should drive WDFW forward over the next several years. The Department titled the initiative, "Washington's Wild Future: A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife." The Department conducted seven regional public "listening forums," received thousands of emails, reviewed social media posts and online comments, and met with advisory committees, legislators, and other groups.

Name	Affiliation	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Butch Smith	PS Anglers		
Steve Westrick	Westport Charters		
Irene Martin	Commercial Gillnetters Commercial Trawlers		
Joe Verdoes	Commercial Shrimpers		

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2017 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

OVERVIEW

Draft Bill Title: Expanding Hunting Access on Private Land

Statement of Need (objective): This legislation provides liability immunity to private landowners who provide hunting and fishing access on their property. This legislation promotes recreational access by allowing the Department to incentivize access on private land through the provision of resources to mitigate damages, enforcement oversight and through liability immunity and financial incentives.

Lead Program Contact(s):

Eric Gardner, eric.gardner@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2510
Raquel Crosier, Raquel.crosier@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2226

Lead AAG Contact(s): Joe Panesko, joep@atg.wa.gov, 360-586-0643

POLICY IMPACTS

RCW Sections(s): RCW 4.24.210 regarding Landowner Liability

Summary of Major Provisions and Impact on Existing Laws (by Section number):

RCW 4.24.210 Section 2 is amended to add language clarifying that landowners who work with the Department under cooperative agreements are included in the exemption from liability.

RCW 4.24.210 Section 3 is amended to add language clarifying that landowners providing vehicular access to their land will not be liable for unintentional injuries resulting from use of the roadway for recreational purposes.

Adds a new section to RCW 4.24.210 which allows private landowners to restrict access to their land if their access rules are violated by the public.

Adds a new exemption category to RCW 4.24.210 Section 4 to provide exemption from liability to private landowners that provide free or low cost (under \$50) access for hunting or fishing.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Agency Fiscal Impact: This legislation has no direct fiscal impact – it just provides an incentive through liability immunity. The agency is separately requesting funding to provide financial incentives and enforcement coverage to private landowners who provide access.

Affected Stakeholders:

Name	Affiliation	Summary of Position	Contact Information
	Hunter's Heritage		
	Safari Club		
	International		
	Trial Lawyers		
	Washington Forest		
	Protection Association		

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2017 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

OVERVIEW

Draft Bill Title: Fish Protection for Healthy Fisheries

Statement of Need (objective): This legislation is essential to the protection of fish and fish habitat to ensure future fisheries and a healthy aquatic environment. The proposed legislation streamlines our statutes and enhances the effectiveness of the program by eliminating redundancies in qualifying project types, adding new project types and increasing qualifying sponsors. This legislation also includes enhancements to the current civil authority; providing stop work authority and increasing the penalties to be consistent with other natural resource agencies penalty rates. This is necessary to address the majority of small violations of the law that result in impacts to fish, while assisting landowners to come into compliance without the need for prosecution as a gross misdemeanor. Lastly, the bill proposes a restructure the HPA fee in order to capture more revenue from those applications that require more time to process and to increase capacity in order to provide prompt customer service and improved compliance.

Lead Program Contact(s):

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Randi Thurston, Randi.thurston@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2602
Raquel Crosier, Raquel.crosier@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2226

Lead AAG Contact(s):

Neil Wise, neilw@atg.wa.gov, 360-664-8977
Martha Wehling, marthaw@atg.wa.gov, 360-753-6287

POLICY IMPACTS

RCW Sections(s):

Summary of Major Provisions and Impact on Existing Laws (by Section number):

This legislation revises RCW 77.55.021 Section 2b to clarify what type of plan details are required for a complete application.

This legislation repeals RCW 77.55.141 which requires a permit for marine beach front protective bulkheads or rock walls. The agency has adopted rules which will allow for the construction of single-family residence bulkheads based on demonstrated need.

This legislation repeals RCW 77.55.291 on civil penalties and replaces it with a new 77.55.291 entitled "Civil compliance."

- RCW 77.55.291 Section 1 defines what activities are considered unlawful and in violation of the hydraulic code.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 2 requires that a violation of a notice to comply or stop work order be punished as a separate offense than the underlying hydraulic code violation.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 3 identifies unlawful undertaking of hydraulic project activities as a gross misdemeanor.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 4 outlines the department's objective to achieve voluntary compliance wherever possible in dealing with HPA violations.

- RCW 77.55.291 Section 5 provides the department the flexibility either issue a notice to comply or a stop work order where necessary to prevent adverse impacts from hydraulic code violations. It also establishes the steps necessary for notifying violators that they have been issued a notice to comply or stop work order.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 6 allows the department to levy civil penalties of up to ten thousand dollars for violations of the hydraulic code. It also specifies that civil penalty notices must be accompanied with a notice of the basis of the penalty, the amount levied and the right of the person to an appeal.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 7 -9 maintains current language on appeals and penalty payments.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 10 directs the department to establish by rule a penalty schedule to take effect no later than Jan 1, 2018.
- RCW 77.55.291 Section 11 allows the department to apply for an administrative inspection warrant in order to ensure compliance.

This legislation removes the HPA application fee sunset date in section 77.55.321 and adjusts the HPA fee structure.

- RCW 77.55.321 Section 1 establishes a new fee structure to go into effect on July 1st 2018. The new fee structure would be based on project costs, instead of a flat \$150 fee. This is more consistent with other state agency permit fees, allows the department to collect at a higher rate for more complex projects, and will improve customer service. Applicants will be assessed a fee based on project cost in a tiered structure with less complex and lower cost projects costing \$150 to process and the most costly and complex projects costing \$4,925 to process.
- RCW 77.55.321 Section 2 adjusts the HPA exemptions adding an exemption for fish habitat enhancement projects as defined in RCW 77.55.181.
- RCW 77.55.321 Section 3 ensures that fees collected be deposited into the HPA account created in RCW 77.55.331.
- RCW 77.55.321 Section 4 establishes a process for adjusting the HPA fees based on inflation using the consumer price index.

This legislation establishes a new Compliance Assurance Program and dedicates funding for staffing that program in order to ensure inspection of permitted projects. The focus will be those projects that pose the highest risk to fish life (i.e. dredging, bank protection, culvert installation, and dock construction).

Legal Review:

FISCAL IMPACTS

Agency Fiscal Impact:

Project Costs	# HPAs	Fee	Annual Revenue
< \$5,000	420	\$150	63,000
\$5,000 - < \$10,000	240	\$295	70,800
\$10,000 - < \$25,000	560	\$595	333,200
\$25,000 - < \$100,000	500	\$915	457,500
\$100,000 - < \$500,000	140	\$2,750	385,000
>\$500,000 or general HPAs	140	\$4,925	689,500
Total	2000		1,999,000

HPA total does not include HPAs that are exempt from the fees

Affected Agencies:

Name	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Washington State Department of Transportation		Megan White whitem@wsdot.wa.gov
Washington Department of Natural Resources		Peter.goldmark@dnr.wa.gov

Affected Stakeholders:

Name	Affiliation	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Amy Carey	Sound Action		amy@soundaction.org
Bill Thomas	Pacific NW Prospectors		pnwprospector@comcast.net
Bruce Wishart	Sound Action		Bruce@comcast.net
Carl Burke	NW Sport Fishing Association		backbouncecb@comcast.net
Christine Brewer	Public Utilities		christine@olygov.com
Kim McDonald	Fish Not Gold		shelterwood55@comcast.net
Carl Schroeder	Association of Washington Counties		carls@awcnet.org
Tim Hyatt	Skagit River System Cooperative		thyatt@skagitcoop.org
Mike Ennis	Association of Washington Businesses		MikeE@AWB.ORG
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Ron Garner	Puget Sound Anglers		rgarner755@aol.com
Mark Cedargreen	Westport Charterboat Association		mvcedergreen@gmail.com
Mark Doumit	Washington Forest Protection Association		mdoumit@wfpa.org
Lance Winecka	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group		lancew@spsseg.org
Larry Wasserman	Swinomish Tribe		lwasserman@swinomish.nsn.us
Laura Berg	Washington State Association of Counties		lberg@wsac.org
Doug Levy	Recreational Boating Association of Washington		Levy4@msn.com
Jim Matthews	Yakima Nation		matj@yakamafish-nsn.gov
Joel Kawahara	Commercial Salmon Fisherman		joelkaw@earthlink.net
Justin Parker	NW Indian Fisheries Commission		jparker@nwifc.org
Karen Walters	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe		KWalter@muckleshoot.nsn.us
Heath Heikkila	Coastal Conservation Association		heath@cascadepublicaffairs.com

Heather Trim	Futurewise	Heather@futurewise.org
Jerry O'Keefe	Washington Public Ports Association	gokeefe@washingtonports.org
Jerry Vanderwood	Association of General Contractors	jvanderwood@agcwa.com
Tom Davis	Washington State Farm Bureau	tdavis@wsfb.com
Gary Rowe	Washington State Association of Counties	growe@wsac.org
Gregg Bafundo	Trout Unlimited	Gbafundo@tu.org

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2017 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

OVERVIEW

Draft Bill Title: Aquatic Invasive Species Management

Statement of Need (objective): Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are a serious threat to Washington State's economy, native species and landscape. In particular, the Northwest is the last region in the United States that remains free on Zebra and Quagga mussels. An infestation here could devastate numerous water-dependent industries including irrigated agriculture, hydropower, and even surface water intakes for urban drinking water supplies. If we do not succeed in preventing a Zebra and Quagga mussel infestation, annual response costs are projected to exceed \$500 million. Preventing AIS infestations also preserves the state's investments in habitat restoration to support salmon recovery, protects our state's shellfish industry, and prevents further harm to threatened and endangered species. This legislative proposal provides funding to expand our state's management, prevention and enforcement efforts in order to protect our water resources from harmful aquatic species.

In 2014 the legislature provided the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) with a key set of authorities necessary to address AIS threats under the prevention and enforcement programs, but did not fund implementation. In 2015 the legislature provided funding for the Department in partnership with the Washington Invasive Species Council to convene an AIS Funding Advisory Committee (Committee) to consider potential funding mechanisms for recommendation to the legislature during the 2017 legislative session. Committee participation included representatives from marine and freshwater groups and water-dependent industries including: recreational boaters, paddle sports, commercial vessels, shipping vessels, ports, hydropower producers, the shellfish industry, tribal and city governments, and environmental groups. The Committee finalized their report in June of 2016 with a recommendation for a combination of general fund, user fees, and public-private partnerships to create a stable funding base. Those recommendations are included in this proposal and include:

- a) a redirection of the Public Utility Tax
- b) a new AIS prevention permit for small watercraft
- c) a new AIS prevention permit for aquatic conveyances, and
- d) language authorizing the Department to enter into private/public partnerships to accomplish AIS program objectives.

Although the risk of AIS in Washington is significant across its 70,000 miles of rivers, 8,000 lakes, and 3,000 miles of coastline, Washington's AIS program prevention, enforcement, and ballast water efforts remain significantly underfunded. Based on an assessment of unique state risks, the Department estimates that \$5.2 million/year is needed to fund the full range of prevention, enforcement, and response activities needed to protect Washington from AIS. Annual program base funding for the 2015-17 biennium was approximately \$910,000, which is very low compared to many other states with AIS programs. In fact, a 2014 survey of twelve western states and two western Canadian provinces showed Washington's program ranking near the bottom in funding, with California and Minnesota's programs being the highest at \$8.9 and \$10.7 million per year respectfully. Lack of a healthy state AIS prevention program already has caused at least one local jurisdiction to initiate their own AIS program and fees: the Lake Whatcom Management Program, administered by the City of Bellingham, charges up to \$50/year to use Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. These patchwork approaches can quickly proliferate, as seen in California which has approximately 80 separate local AIS management fees.

The proposed legislation meets the Governor’s Goal 2: Prosperous Economy because invasive species could threaten Washington’s growth. It also meets the Governor’s Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment to support salmon recovery and prevent further harm to Washington’s endangered species.

Lead Program Contact(s):

- Allen Pleus, Aquatic Invasive Species Unit Lead, Fish Program, (360) 902-2724
- Scott Bird, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, Enforcement Program (360) 902-2403
- Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, Director’s Office, (360) 902-2723
- Raquel Crosier, Legislative Liaison, Director’s Office, (360) 902-2226
- Owen Rowe, Budget Office, (360) 902-2204
- Lynn Needham, Accounts Receivable, (360) 902-2874

Lead AAG Contact(s): Joe Panesko, Assistant Attorney General, (360) 586-0643

POLICY IMPACTS

RCW Sections(s): adds a new section to RCWs 77.135 and 77.120; amends RCW 43.43.400, 88.02.640, 82.16.020, 77.120.110, 77.120.070, 77.135.010, and 77.135.160; and repeals RCW 77.12.879

Summary of Major Provisions and Impact on Existing Laws (by Section number):

PART 1. AIS Management: AIS, BW, and Biofouling Accounts

Section	Description
Sec. 101	Creates new AIS management account section under 77.135 RCW – consolidation of AIS prevention and AIS enforcement accounts; directs all AIS prevention and enforcement revenue sources to account
Sec. 102	Transfers funds from AIS Enforcement (WSP) and AIS Prevention (WDFW) to new AIS management account (Sec. 101) – keeps account buffer and reserves
Sec. 103	Amends RCW 43.43.400 to remove WSP AIS enforcement account to implement Sec. 101; removes legislative direction for WSP to develop and implement the AIS enforcement program; and maintains AIS duties to assist WDFW
Sec. 104	Amends RCW 88.02.640 DOL watercraft fee section to direct full \$2 AIS fee into new AIS management account to implement Sec. 101
Sec. 105	Amends RCW 77.120.110 ballast water account to include biofouling; adds ability to use account for permanent staff salaries; maintains exception to use penalty funds for permanent staff salaries; expands other use of account funds to carry out the purposes of the chapter.
Sec. 106	Amends RCW 77.120.070 to include ballast water penalties for not paying a user fee into account
Sec. 107	Repeals RCW 77.12.879 aquatic invasive species prevention account in lieu of new AIS management account to implement Sec. 101

Part 2. AIS Management: AIS, BW, and Biofouling Program Funding

Sec. 201	Amends RCW 82.16.020 to divert “light and power business” section of Public utility tax; phased biennium targets of: FY2017-19 @ \$0.5m/yr; FY19-21 @ \$1.0m/yr; FY21 and ongoing @ \$2.1m/yr
Sec. 202	Creates new AIS prevention permit for resident and non-resident small watercraft under chapter 77.135 RCW; applies only to resident small watercraft as defined in RCW 77.135.010 and as modified in Sec. 304; provides discounts for business, clubs,

	organizations with watercraft fleets; delays implementation until July 1, 2018
Sec. 203	Creates new AIS prevention permit for aquatic conveyances program section under chapter 77.135 RCW; applies only to non-resident registered watercraft and resident or non-resident seaplanes, commercial watercraft, and commercially transported watercraft as defined in RCW 77.135.010 and as modified in Sec. 304; provides OR/ID reciprocity option
Sec. 204	Creates new AIS prevention permit fee system under chapter 77.135 RCW: \$5 permit fee for small watercraft and group fee schedules; \$20 permit fee for aquatic conveyances; provides exemptions
Sec. 205	Creates new shipping vessel fee under chapter 77.120 RCW; \$100 annual fee + \$1,550 fee per vessel inspection; fees deposited into ballast water account; report required by Dec. 1, 2022
Sec. 206	Creates new private/public partnerships sections under chapter 77.120 RCW
Sec. 207	Creates new private/public partnerships sections under chapter 77.135 RCW

Part 3. AIS Management: Other Provisions

Sec. 301	Creates new biofouling management sub-program program under 77.120 RCW; adds authority to adopt program standards and requirements by rule; requires consultation through stakeholder forum; report required by Dec. 1, 2022
Sec. 302	77.120.070: Adds ability to issue penalties for failure to pay fee under Sec. 205 and unlawful biofouling management under Sec. 301
Sec. 303	Creates new AIS local management grant program under 77.135 RCW; cap of \$1M
Sec. 304	77.135.010: Adds new “commercially transported watercraft” definition; Amends “small watercraft” definition
Sec. 305	77.135.160: Extends the due date under section (4) for a department-authorized representative fee schedule.
Sec. 306	Adds effective start date

Legal Review: Joe Panesko, Assistant Attorney General, (360) 586-0643

FISCAL IMPACTS

Agency Fiscal Impact:

Affected Agencies:

Name	Summary of Position	Contact Information
WA State Patrol	Neutral, no fiscal impact	Captain Rob Huss, Legislative Liaison 360-596-4010; rob.huss@wsp.wa.gov
Recreation & Conservation	Support	Wendy Brown 360-902-3088; wendy.brown@invasivespecies.wa.gov
Dept. of Revenue	Neutral	David Duvall, Tax Specialist 360-534-1545, DavidD@dor.wa.gov

Affected Stakeholders:

Name	Affiliation	Summary of Position	Contact Information
Diane Cooper	Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association	Support	(360) 426-6178 dianec@taylorshellfish.com
Doug Levy	Recreational Boating Association of Washington	Support	(425) 922-3999 Levy4@MSN.com
Peter Schrappen	WA Marine Trade Association	Support	(206) 634-0911 peter@nmta.net
Brian Heinrich	City of Bellingham	Support	bmheinrich@cob.org
Tom Davis	WA Farm Bureau	Support	(360) 357-9975 x 110 tdavis@wsfb.com
Shaun Seaman	Chelan PUD	Support	Shaun.Seaman@chelanpud.org
Mike Schwisow	WA Water Resources Association	Support	(360) 705-1975 mschwisow@aol.com
David Fyfe	NW Indian Fisheries Commission	Support	dfyfe@nwifc.org
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians/Upper Columbia United Tribes	Support	jmaroney@knrd.org
Jerry Joyce	Seattle Audubon	Support	206-440-8688 moonjoyce@comcast.net
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited	Support	(206) 200-2840 emtbtckt@msn.com
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Jim Virgin	Chair, WA Parks Paddlesport Committee	Anticipated support	jvirgin.aca@gmail.com
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Michael Moore	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association	Concerns ¹	206-441-9700 mmoore@pmsaship.com
Gerry O'Keefe	WA Public Ports Association	Concerns ¹	(360) 943-0760 GOKeefe@washingtonports.org

¹ Not supportive of a shipping vessel user fee; neutral on other provisions