



Washington's **WILD**Future

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL



License revenue is critical to maintaining and increasing fishing

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 participated in this initiative, called "Washington's Wild Future: A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife."



People in the commercial industry focused on several themes, including a desire to maintain and enhance fisheries that are vital to the state's economy and to dozens of Washington's communities. The department drew on this feedback, as well as a need to help close the gap between future expenditures and projected funding, in developing its proposals that were discussed at several public workshops in August 2016.

The proposal would generate about \$4 million in revenue per year. About \$700,000 would come from license fee changes; the remaining \$3.3 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. These proposals were submitted to the Governor's Office in September for consideration during the 2017 legislative session.

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—except family members—to have a license to participate in commercial fisheries, similar to a requirement in Alaska and Oregon.
- **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
Puget Sound Whiting Trawl	\$400	\$625	\$400
Sardine Purse Seine	\$290	\$400	\$400
Herring			
Herring Dip Bag Net	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Drag Seine	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Gill Net	\$280	\$380	\$380
Herring Lampara	\$245	\$345	\$345
Herring Purse Seine	\$280	\$380	\$380
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	\$700
Grays Harbor/Columbia River Salmon Gill Net	\$585	\$890	\$585
Willapa Bay/Columbia River Salmon Gill Net	\$585	\$890	\$585

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 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
Dungeness Crab Puget Sound Pots	\$235	\$290	\$290
Spot Shrimp Coastal	\$290	\$400	\$360
Charter License			
Salmon Charter	\$620	\$925	\$700
Non-salmon Charter	\$330	\$480	\$400
Charter Stamp	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$11
Guide Stamp	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$11
Guides			
Food Fish Guide	\$220	\$800	\$480
Game Fish Guide	\$250	\$670	\$480
Miscellaneous			
Alternate Operator	\$105	\$105	\$205
Emerging Commercial Fisheries	\$290	\$400	\$400
Commercial Crew Member--Annual	n/a	n/a	\$101
Commercial Crew Member--5 Day Temp	n/a	n/a	\$29.50

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

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