State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Mailing Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

June 9, 2022

Dear Commercial Harvesters and Buyers of Fish and Shellfish:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on our April 22, 2022 letter explaining that additional rulemaking is needed to improve the mobile electronic catch reporting application being developed by The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), called WA-Tix.

Proposed regulations would allow WDFW to require the use of smartphone location services[1], which will record the geolocation[2] of each transaction using the application and is necessary for fishery enforcement. Requiring that location can be determined when completing an electronic fish ticket using a mobile application like WA-Tix will ensure that deliveries reported in this way meet the same reporting and enforceability standards as currently in place for paper and electronic fish tickets (E-tix).

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will receive a briefing on this rule proposal at their meeting on June 24 and 25th at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia, Washington. More information on the rulemaking process and links to provide public comment can be found here:
https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development/electronic-fish-receiving-tickets

Please note, buyers currently using e-Tix through a voluntary agreement authorized by WDFW are encouraged to continue using e-Tix for electronic fish ticket reporting. Please contact Aaron Dufault or Heather Hall if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Chief Steve Bear
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[1] Location services – allows applications and websites to gather user information based on the current location of a mobile device

[2] Geolocation – refers to the geographic location of a user or computing device.