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Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

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Fish Program Statewide Customer Service

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

(360) 902-2700 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.)

For fishing regulation questions, e-mail: fishregs@dfw.wa.gov

For all other questions or comments, e-mail: fishpgm@dfw.wa.gov

Internet address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Other WDFW Customer Service

WDFW Licensing: (360) 902-2464

WDFW Habitat: (360) 902-2534

WDFW Wildlife: (360) 902-2515

WDFW Enforcement: (360) 902-2936

Regional Offices (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.)

Spokane (509) 892-1001 2315 N Discovery Pl., Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566

Ephrata (509) 754-4624 1550 Alder St. NW, Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

Yakima (509) 575-2740 1701 S 24th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902-5720

Mill Creek (425) 775-1311 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012-1541

Vancouver* (360) 696-6211 2108 Grand Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661-4624

Montesano* (360) 249-4628 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563-9618

*These offices operate 24-hour local recreational information lines which can be accessed by calling the listed telephone numbers and listening to the instructions.

Hotline Numbers

Fishing Hotline: (360) 902-2500

Shellfish Rule Change toll-free Hotline: (866) 880-5431

For non-emergency violations/poaching: Call WDFW toll-free 1-877-933-9847 (1-877-WDFW-TIP). See page 13.

To report commercial derelict fishing gear: Call toll-free (855) 542-3935

To report fish kills, oil or hazardous material spills, contact:

Department of Emergency Management: (800) 258-5990

Department of Health Contact Information

To check on Contaminants in Fish Advisories: (877) 485-7316

To check on Shellfish Advisories (Marine Toxins/PSP): (800) 562-5632

or www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm

Fishing & Shellfishing Rules in State and National Parks, Federal Lands, Indian Reservations and Canada

Contact Olympic National Park at (360) 565-3000 or <http://www.nps.gov/olym/index.htm>, Gifford Pinchot National Forest at (360) 891-5000 or www.fs.fed.us/gpnf, Mt. Rainier National Park at (360) 569-2211, or North Cascades National Park at (360) 854-7200. For rules and other information that apply within the parks, call State Parks (360) 902-8500.

State licenses and rules apply on National Forest lands.

Before fishing on Indian reservations, contact the tribe for the necessary permits and rules. Quinault Indian Nation (360) 276-8211; Colville Confederated Tribes (509) 634-2110; Puyallap Tribe of Indians (253) 845-7747; Puyallup Tribal shellfish permits and rules (253) 573-7909; Yakama Nation (509) 865-5121; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (360) 466-3163; Makah Tribe (360) 645-2201; Kalispell Tribe (509) 445-1147.

An access permit is required to fish waters on the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Reservation. For fishing Nisqually River on base, call: (253) 967-6277. For fishing waters on McChord field call (253) 982-3913.

General inquiries about Canadian fishing regulations and licensing, call (604) 666-0384 or fax (604) 666-1847.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact (360) 902-2200 or TTY (800) 833-6388.

This pamphlet is also available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>

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A Message From the Director and Commission Chair



Dr. Jim Unsworth,
Director,
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife



Dr. Bradley Smith
Chair,
Washington Fish and
Wildlife Commission

Welcome to another wonderful year of fishing in Washington. We are fortunate to live in a state with such diverse and abundant fishing opportunities. Whether you live on the east or west side of the state, own a boat or fish from the shore, there's something for everyone.

Several strong runs of salmon are expected back to Washington's waters this year, including roughly 900,000 fall Chinook to the Columbia River and more than 6.5 million pink salmon to Puget Sound. Washington's lakes and streams are also sure to draw anglers looking to land a trout or bass.

Razor clam digging continues to draw millions of visitors to Washington's coast each year. Shellfish harvesters have plenty of additional options with crab, shrimp and oysters available throughout Puget Sound.

Here at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, we know fishing is popular in the state. About 1.5 million fishing licenses were sold last year in Washington. But we want to encourage you to introduce a friend or family member to the sport the next time you head out.

We're doing our best to maintain or create fishing opportunities for you. Each year, staff and volunteers stock trout in lakes far and wide, from alpine gems to urban favorites. Many of the lakes are stocked with trout weighing 1.5 to 11 pounds apiece. WDFW's Fish Washington website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/washington/>) allows anglers to find out which lakes are stocked.

That's good information to have when taking kids fishing. Children 14 years of age and younger can fish for free, which makes fishing a fun,

low-cost family outing. WDFW, with the help of businesses, organizations and volunteers, also helps with dozens of youth fishing events at lakes across Washington state. These events – which are listed on WDFW's website – take place on specific dates at lakes that are stocked with fish prior to the event.

Fishing-based adventures can be found across the state. Options range from chasing tiger muskies at Curlew Lake, camping and catching kokanee at Lake Washington or going steelhead fishing in the Methow River Valley. You'll find information on these trips and more suggestions on WDFW's "Great Getaways" webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/vacation/>.

We encourage you to get out on the water this year and enjoy the many great opportunities our state has to offer. Good luck and have a fantastic year of fishing.



GREAT GETAWAYS

Vacation planning
complete
with photos,
descriptions, and
fishing tips!

wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/vacation

New for 2015

General

The Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet will cover 12 months, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. This change in the pamphlet time frame will improve the Department's ability to complete the rule making process for salmon regulations as described in the Administrative Procedures Act (RCW 34.05). Due to conservation concerns, impacts from the anticipated statewide drought, unexpected harvestable fish, and other factors potentially affecting fisheries management, anglers are reminded that emergency rules may occur throughout the year and will supersede the rules contained in this pamphlet (see page 4).

Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin and Statewide - Beginning this year, Columbia Basin rivers are under a new management strategy that offers additional protection to fish stocks in streams. With this change, all rivers within the entire state (Puget Sound, Coast, Columbia Basin) now fall within this management strategy, which is often referred to as the "Stream Strategy." The basic rule is that all rivers, streams, and beaver ponds are **CLOSED** to fishing unless they are listed as open in the pamphlet (see pages 50-76). These tables detail **ALL** of the fishing opportunity in these drainages. All other waters in these drainages are **CLOSED** to fishing. Beaver ponds located within or connected to streams listed as open to TROUT and Other Game Fish follow the same rules as the stream, unless otherwise noted.

Mandatory Hatchery Steelhead Retention - As part of the Columbia River stream strategy, an additional measure was made to provide protection to fish stocks in streams where there is concern about hatchery and wild fish spawning together. This measure, referred to as "Mandatory Hatchery Steelhead Retention," requires that anglers keep the hatchery steelhead they catch. To encourage anglers to harvest more hatchery steelhead as the fish arrive back to natal streams/release sites, for many streams the daily limit increases from 2 to 3 hatchery steelhead. There is a definition on page 11 and additional instructions on pages 16-17. For streams where this rule applies, you will see:

Mandatory Hatchery Steelhead Retention directly below the water listing.

White Sturgeon

To address low adult abundance and size in Snake River white sturgeon populations, retention of sturgeon on the Snake River and its tributaries above Ice Harbor Dam has been closed to harvest. Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing will continue to be allowed for these waters. Retention is still allowed from February 1-July 31 below Ice Harbor Dam. See page 67.

SALMON

Respect Treaty Fisheries - Both state and tribal fishers often fish on the same body of water during the same time period with different fishing methods. Conflicts have arisen from both fishers that make it more difficult to exercise fishing rights, especially during pink salmon years when more fishers are on the water. Anglers are reminded to respect treaty fishers. Anglers must yield the river to a tribal drift net fisher as the net goes by. Failure to fish together will necessitate additional time and area closures for sport anglers to reduce those conflicts.

Pink Salmon Fisheries - In 2015 there will be abundant pink salmon fishing opportunities in the freshwater and marine areas of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as nearly 6.8 million pink salmon are forecasted to return to Puget Sound and 14.5 million to the Fraser River. In most Puget Sound marine areas, anglers may harvest an additional 2 pink salmon on top of the daily salmon limit. A new pink fishery has been added in the Dungeness Bay portion of Area 6 (see page 111), from July 16-August 15, and for the first time in 22 years North of Ayock Point in Area 12 (see page 125) will be open. Pink salmon fishing will be allowed in Elliott Bay (August 14-31 on Fridays-Sundays) within Area 10. Typical early openings and/or increased daily limits will occur in the Nooksack, Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup, and Nisqually rivers. Stillaguamish River does not have an increased daily limit due to a low forecast but still has a 2 salmon limit.

Mark Selective Fishery In-season Management - During many of the summer and winter seasons in Marine areas 5-13, there are mark selective fisheries (MSF) in which wild chinook must be released. These fisheries are agreed-to by WDFW and Tribal co-managers with specific criteria for management, such as total encounter (harvested and released) guidelines. If these criteria are exceeded, fisheries may need to be modified or closed to limit impacts on wild stocks. The List of Agreed-To Fisheries and sampling plans can be found at: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/tribal/2015-16agreement.pdf.

Mark Selective Chinook Fishery Changes in Puget Sound - Specific Puget Sound marine areas and time periods were adjusted or converted from non-selective to MSF to help protect wild chinook returning. MSF regulations have changed this year for Area 5 (see page 109) and Area 6 (see page 111). Area 9 summer Chinook fishery will open on July 16 as a quota fishery (see page 119). Area 10 summer fishery (excluding Sinclair Inlet and year-round piers) will be closed to Chinook retention while still open to harvest of coho and pink salmon (see page 121).

Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and North of Ayock Coho Fisheries - In Areas 5 and 7, anglers will be allowed to retain wild coho during October. Anglers will also be allowed to retain wild coho in September 12-14, 19-21, and 26-27 in Area 5. For the first time in 22 years, North of Ayock (see page 125) will be open in July and August to coho and pink fishing.

River Mouth Closures in Areas 10 and 12 - At the mouth of Dewatto, Dosewallips, Duckabush, Hamma Hamma and Skokomish rivers (see page 124) from July 1-October 15, and at the mouth of Gorst and Chico creeks (see page 120) year-round, all waters within channels created by exposed tidelands will be closed to fishing for finfish to protect returning salmon exposed during low tides.

Lake Sammamish - The salmon fishery is closed to help protect a low return of Chinook, however the Lake Washington coho fishery will remain open.

Skagit River/Baker Lake Sockeye - Skagit River will be open from June 15-July 16, 2015 from Hwy. 536 at Mt. Vernon to the mouth of Gilligan Creek, with a daily limit of 3 sockeye (page 23). Baker Lake opens July 10, with a daily limit of 4 sockeye (page 77). Anglers can check for the latest trap counts at: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/sockeye/baker_river.html.

Coastal Marine Area and River Fisheries - Marine Area 2-1 opens two weeks earlier on July 16, daily limit is increased to a 4 salmon limit, and closure on the lower bay has been removed. Chinook fishery in the Hoh River is closed during June and July, with additional closures in August and implementation of selective gear rules to protect spring and summer Chinook. Humptulips North Bay and river fishery has been extended to run from August 1-September 15 and the river fishery daily salmon limit has been reduced to 2 fish. Salmon fisheries have been extended to run through December 31 for the Hoquiam River and January 31 for the Wynoochee, Bear, Palix, and North rivers.

Columbia River Fishery - The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin in August with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit through Labor Day. Fisheries upstream to McNary Dam will vary in season length and daily limits to maximize opportunity for upriver brights while minimizing impacts to Lower Columbia River tule Chinook. A new salmon fishery area has been created between the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco and the I-182 Bridge across the Columbia River in Richland (Catch Record Card code 534) with reduced daily limits during June 16-August 15 (see page 54).


Two-Pole - New this year, anglers can fish with two poles when in possession of a valid Two-Pole Endorsement in Chehalis River (mouth to South Elma Bridge; July 1-November 30) and Willapa River (mouth to 2nd bridge on Camp One; August 1-January 31). Anglers should be reminded that using two-poles to fish for salmon is limited to only a few specific water bodies, especially in marine areas.

General Information

HOW TO USE THIS PAMPHLET

This pamphlet is effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and contains information you need to legally fish throughout Washington State (see WAC summary information below).

- 1 • • • **Read the General Information Pages.**
Read the Licensing and Catch Record Card information. Read the Selective Fishing and Fish Handling information (page 13). Also be sure to look at the "New for 2015" (page 3).
- 2 • • • **Read the Statewide General Rules (page 12).**
- 3 • • • **Read the Freshwater, Marine Area, or Shellfish/Seaweed Section.**
Read Statewide General Rules pertaining to the section in which you intend to fish.
- 4 • • • **Read the Special Rules for Area and Species You Intend to Fish.**
These rule modifications supersede the General Rules and are listed as they apply to specific areas or species.
This pamphlet is a summary of WDFW regulations. Before fishing in a National Park or on an Indian reservation, contact the Park or Tribe to check their regulations (see page 1 for contact information).

 **Note:** Emergency rules may occur throughout the year and will supersede the rules contained in this pamphlet. Changes can be found by calling the WDFW Fishing Hotline (360) 902-2500 or Shellfish Rule Change Hotline (866) 880-5431, contacting statewide customer service (360) 902-2700 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.), or by visiting the WDFW website <http://wdfw.wa.gov>.

Sportfishing Rule Development

For information on upcoming sportfishing rule development, please visit our website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov>. The website will have information on the schedule, how you can participate, and the types of rule changes we will be considering. In addition, you can sign up to receive fishing rule changes and regulatory focused news releases at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lists/>.

Unlisted Lakes, Ponds, and Reservoirs

There are over 7,500 lakes, reservoirs, and ponds (excluding beaver ponds), in Washington State waters unlisted within this pamphlet, that are open to fishing for Game Fish (except DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT and GRASS CARP) **year-round**.

These year-round fishing opportunities are regulated under the Statewide Freshwater Rules as listed on pages 16-17 with the following **exceptions**:

- seasonal waters listed under Lake Special Rules pages 77-87 and 88-98
- waters within tribal reservation lands
- waters within national park boundaries (not national forests)
- within boundaries of federal military installations

Note About Lakes

If a lake is owned by a municipality such as a city or county, they have the authority to implement restrictions such as Electric Motors Only, No Motors Allowed, Night Closure, etc. For more information regarding any of these possible restrictions, you may want to contact the County's Department of Parks & Recreation or Sheriff's office before fishing.

The Land and the Landowner

A true resource enthusiast respects the land and demonstrates this respect and appreciation while in the field. Remember to obtain permission from the landowner before entering upon his or her land to hunt or fish. While in the field, conduct yourself in a way that will ensure a welcome to those who follow after you.
Please Do Not Litter!

REMEMBER: A fishing license is not a license to trespass on private property!

Interested in working with us?

WDFW's goal is to support and facilitate efforts to attract, develop and retain a productive and diverse workforce capable of delivering quality services under our mandate (RCW 77.04.012). For more information, please visit our website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/employment>.

WAC Summary Information

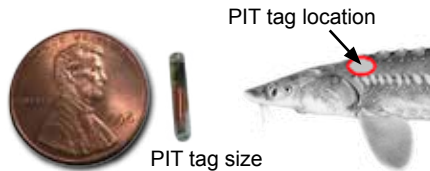
This pamphlet is a summary of fishing regulations (Chapters 220-12, 220-16, 220-20, 220-55, 220-56, 232-12, 232-28, and 220-310 of the Washington Administrative Code, adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission; and Title 77 of the Revised Code of Washington, adopted by the Legislature). This pamphlet does not contain nor is it intended to contain all Department regulations.

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is the policy of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to adhere to the following: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, services, or facility, please contact the WDFW ADA Program Manager at P.O. Box 43139, Olympia, Washington 98504, or write to: Chief, Public Civil Rights Division, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

General Information

Fish Tagging Notice

Researchers throughout the state have released fish including sturgeon, with PIT tags (small glass-encased microchips) injected into the muscle just behind the top of the head. The tag doesn't need to be returned, but check for the presence of a tag if the fish is to be consumed.



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has released millions of Chinook and coho salmon with microscopic coded-wire tags implanted in their heads. The majority of coded-wire tags are implanted in hatchery fish at the juvenile stage, before release from the hatchery. These fish are eventually caught in fisheries, sampled on spawning grounds or used for broodstock when they return to the hatchery. WDFW samplers use electronic wands to detect the coded-wire tags, which provide fishery managers and biologists with information about fishery distribution, survival and composition of spawning ground population.

Several state and federal agencies (including WDFW), universities and Indian tribes also have released salmon, steelhead, sea-run cutthroat trout, and various marine fish species with small acoustic tags in their body cavities. These tags transmit signals that are picked up by special receivers, allowing fishery managers to track the fish. Anglers who find a tag while cleaning their catch should call (360) 902-2700 to report the tag number, species of fish, date and location of their catch.



Boat Safety and Live to Fish Again

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife supports and encourages safe boating, and urges anglers to be careful and responsible on Washington's waterways. Recreational fishing accounts for about half of this state's boating fatalities. WDFW reminds anglers to always wear U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejackets, understand and be alert for weather and tide changes, carry all required safety equipment, and never "push your luck" when it comes to safety on the water. If you have never taken a boating safety course, contact the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, or Washington State Parks Boating Program, for information on mandatory education classes and home-study courses. Visit (<http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating>) or call (360) 902-8555.

Additional Boat Safety Information

Federal law (33 CFR 83.09) requires, fishing vessels and all vessels less than 66 feet (20 meters) from impeding the passage of a vessel that is restricted in ability to maneuver safely in a narrow channel (for example, large commercial vessels transiting the Columbia River or Strait of Juan de Fuca navigation channels). The small vessel operator is responsible for moving out of the way. Failure to move is dangerous, and can result in a maximum civil penalty of up to \$5,000.

Prohibited Aquatic Species

It is illegal to transport, introduce, or use prohibited aquatic animal and plant species, unless specifically authorized. WDFW encourages citizens to be vigilant in preventing the introduction or spread of prohibited and other non-native species. To report sightings and learn more about what you can do, please call toll free 1-888-WDFW-AIS. For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species, go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais>.

Heightened Security

After the events of September 11, 2001, security has been heightened around the nation. Please be aware of the 500-yard Naval Vessel Protective Zones around all naval vessels. Also, most military installations on the water have exclusionary zones around them. Consult <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov> or the local base commander or Coast Guard office for more details.

License Suspensions and Property Forfeitures

Washington State's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Code (Revised Code of Washington Chapter 77.15) requires the **mandatory** suspension of a person's fishing privileges, for up to five years, if a person is convicted of one of the following violations:

- assaulting a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer, or an employee or agent of the Department performing official duties
- first degree waste of fish and wildlife
- harvesting endangered fish or wildlife
- unlawfully purchasing or using a license

In addition, repeat offenders (any person with three convictions for any kind of violation within ten years) receive a mandatory two-year suspension of all fishing and hunting privileges. The law treats an uncontested notice of infraction, a finding of "committed" on an infraction, or a guilty plea as a conviction that will count toward a potential suspension. You will permanently lose your fishing and hunting privileges if you hunt or fish on a suspended license or face a lifetime or longer term suspension if a violation demonstrates a willful or wanton disregard for the conservation of fish or wildlife. Furthermore, property that is used to violate any fishing and hunting regulations, or that is held with the intention of committing a violation, may be seized for evidence and may ultimately be forfeited to the state.

Human and Pet Waste Advisory

Human and pet waste can make people sick and cause harvest closures of lakes, rivers and shellfish beds. To save our fishing, shellfishing, hunting and other outdoor opportunities on public and private lands, we each must clean up after ourselves and pets. Please use portable or vault toilets and other approved facilities. Scoop, bag and dispose of human and pet waste if no facilities are available.

Public Conduct Rules on WDFW Lands WAC 232-13

As the number of users and types of use continue to increase on WDFW lands, the new rules provide a fair and sensible approach to protecting both fish and wildlife habitats and recreational values consistent with healthy wildlife populations.

These rules, which only apply on WDFW lands, are now in effect. The complete public conduct rule package is available on WDFW's website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/public_conduct_rules/. Although some conduct rules remain in place and have not changed, the new WAC chapter compiles them in one location for easy reference.

The rules address behavior and conduct, parking, camping, campfires, dumping and littering, target shooting, fireworks, pets, building blinds and tree stands, access, commercial and noncommercial use, and enforcement.

A Washington State fishing guide license qualifies as a permit to use WDFW water access sites for the purpose of guiding licensed anglers.

With the new public conduct rules in place, WDFW public lands will continue to provide safe, beautiful wildlands for all users to enjoy now and in the future.

Thank you for
your help!

License Information

LICENSES VALID FROM APRIL 1 - MARCH 31

License Types

Combination License: Allows you to fish in freshwater and saltwater, and harvest shellfish (including razor clams) and seaweed (optional catch record card included; catch record card requirements on page 8).*

Freshwater License: Allows you to fish in freshwater areas only (optional catch record card included; catch record card requirements on page 8).*

Saltwater License: Allows you to fish in saltwater areas only (optional catch record card included; catch record card requirements on page 8).*


Shellfish/Seaweed License: Allows you to harvest razor clams, red rock crab, coastal Dungeness crab, goose barnacles, mussels, octopus, oysters, scallops, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, shrimp, softshell and hardshell clams, squid, and seaweed. No catch record card is required.

1-3 Day Combination Licenses: These short-term licenses work just like a Combination License and require the purchase of other endorsements where applicable. They are NOT valid for Game Fish (see: page 17) for the 8-day period beginning the fourth Saturday in April, unless you are an active duty resident military personnel. These licenses must be used on consecutive days.

Razor Clam License: This license (available as an annual or 3-day temporary license) allows you to harvest razor clams. You do not need this license if you already have a Shellfish/Seaweed or Combination license. No catch record card is required.

Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Endorsement: This endorsement can be added to a Combination or Shellfish/Seaweed license for a fee of \$8.75 and allows you to harvest Puget Sound Dungeness crab (a \$3.80 fee will allow you to add this endorsement to a 1-3 Day Combination License). Separate catch record cards are required and come free with the endorsement (see: catch record card requirements on page 8). There is no fee for juveniles age 14 and under, but the endorsement and catch record card are still required.

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement: All anglers age 15 and older fishing for salmon or steelhead on the Columbia River or its tributaries must have this endorsement. Check stream listings in special rules identified with **Col. R. Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement** or see http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/crss_endorsement for map. Not required on Free Fishing Weekend.

Two-Pole Endorsement: This endorsement allows you to use two fishing poles on most freshwater lakes, ponds, a few sections of certain rivers, and a few marine areas. You must have a fishing license in addition to the endorsement. There are about 145 lakes where you can NOT use two poles; visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/twopole> to see the list of lakes where a Two-Pole Endorsement is not valid, or look for this icon  next to the lake listings. You can NOT use two poles in most rivers and marine areas. See individual stream and marine area listings for information where you can use two poles. Not required on Free Fishing Weekend. This endorsement is required for all anglers, including juveniles age 14 and under, when fishing valid waters with two poles.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs a fishing license?

Everyone age 15 and older. You do not need a license if you are fishing for common carp, crawfish, bullfrogs, or smelt, or to collect relic shells.

Why do you need my social security number?

Federal and state law require everyone 15 and older to provide their social security number before getting any license.


What's a catch record card and do I need one?

You use a catch record card (CRC) to track how many salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, halibut, or Puget Sound Dungeness crab you have harvested. You must have the CRC on your person while fishing (including youth).

There are three areas where anglers may legally fish with either a freshwater, saltwater, or combination license. These are Grays Harbor (Marine Area 2-2), Willapa Bay (Marine Area 2-1), and the Columbia River between a line from Rocky Point on the Washington shore to Tongue Point on the Oregon shore and the Buoy 10 line.

3 Ways to Buy your License:

Dealer Outlets

Get your license TODAY at any of our 600 licensed dealers. Find a nearby dealer at: 

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vendors/>

Online



Visit: <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>

Telephone



Toll-free: (866) 246-9453
Available 24 Hours a Day
(Note: If you buy online or over the phone, it may take 7-10 business days to receive your license in the mail)

License Fees (current as of July 24, 2015)

Annual Fishing Licenses	Resident 16+	Non-Resident	Senior Resident 70+	Age 15	Resident Disabled***	Non-Resident Disabled Veteran***
Combination (includes a VAP**)	\$55.35	\$124.65	n/a	\$8.05	\$11.35	\$55.35
Freshwater (includes a VAP**)	\$29.50	\$84.50	\$7.50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Saltwater (includes a VAP**)	\$30.05	\$59.75	\$8.05	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shellfish/Seaweed	\$17.40	\$36.10	\$7.50	n/a	n/a	\$36.10
Razor Clam	\$14.10	\$21.80	\$13.00	n/a	n/a	\$21.80
Temporary Fishing Licenses	Resident 16+	Non-Resident	Senior Resident 70+	Age 15	Resident Disabled***	Non-Resident Disabled Veteran***
1 Day Combination	\$11.35	\$20.15	\$11.35	n/a	n/a	\$20.15
2 Day Combination	\$15.75	\$28.95	\$15.75	n/a	n/a	\$28.95
3 Day Combination	\$19.05	\$35.55	\$19.05	n/a	n/a	\$35.55
3 Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$9.70
Other Items	Resident 16+	Non-Resident	Senior Resident 70+	Age 15	Resident Disabled***	Non-Resident Disabled Veteran***
Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$7.10	\$7.10	\$8.75	\$8.75
Two-Pole Endorsement****	\$14.80	\$14.80	\$6.00	\$14.80	\$14.80	\$14.80
Puget Sound Crab Endorsement to use with an annual license	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75
Puget Sound Crab Endorsement to use with a temporary license	\$3.80	\$3.80	\$3.80	n/a	n/a	\$3.80
Catch Record Card	Free*	Free*	Free*	Free*	Free*	Free*
Discover Pass	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
One-Day Discover Pass	\$11.50	\$11.50	\$11.50	\$11.50	\$11.50	\$11.50
Watchable Wildlife Decal	\$33.90	\$33.90	\$33.90	\$33.90	\$33.90	\$33.90

Duplicate licenses are \$9.70 (duplicates are required for lost, stolen or mutilated licenses).

*Your first Catch Record Card is free. Additional and replacements are \$12.60.

**Refer to page 7 Vehicle Access Pass.

***Refer to page 7 criteria for reduced fees.

****Two-Pole Endorsement fee for juvenile anglers (14 and under) is \$14.80.

Prices shown include all applicable fees. Prices subject to change. Purchasing multiple items in the same transaction may result in a reduced cost.

License Information

Residency (WAC 220-55-061)

To qualify as a Washington resident you must meet certain criteria:

- Maintained a permanent place of abode within the state for at least 90 days preceding license purchase;
- Washington driver's license;
- Washington identification card; or
- Military ID with a copy of orders showing Washington as your duty station.

If you do not have the above, you may need to contact WDFW Licensing to provide other documentation (See definition of "Resident" on page 11 for more information).

Contact WDFW Licensing

24-hour Customer Service Available

Call: (360) 902-2464

E-mail: licensing@dfw.wa.gov

Visit us on the web at

<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>

or write:

WDFW Licensing
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA
98501-1091

Free Fishing Weekend

June 11-12, 2016

June 11-12, 2016 is "Free Fishing Weekend" in Washington. On these days, fishing licenses are not required. Catch Record Cards are required to fish for salmon, sturgeon, steelhead, Puget Sound Dungeness crab, and halibut (if open). Free fishing days are valid for everyone. **All other rules still apply, including seasons, area and lure or bait restrictions, and size and catch limits.** A Vehicle Access Pass, Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement, and Two-Pole Endorsement are not required during this weekend. Residents and non-residents may participate in Free Fishing Weekend. **Each year, the Free Fishing Weekend will be the first weekend in June, after the first Monday in June.**

Reduced Fees Persons with Disabilities

You may qualify for reduced fees if you are a:

- Veteran with a service-connected disability of 30% or more
- Veteran 65 years of age or older with a service-connected disability
- Resident who permanently uses a wheelchair
- Resident who is blind or visually impaired
- Resident with a developmental disability



You will need Fisher Disability Status in order to qualify for a Designated Harvester Companion Card which enables you to partake in special fishery programs and allows another licensed person to assist you with fishing activities. Applications must be processed through a Department of Fish and Wildlife office.

To request an application or for more information, contact: WDFW Licensing Division, P.O. Box 43154, Olympia, WA 98504-1091; call (360) 902-2464; or visit us on the web at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/>.

Reduced Fees for Non-resident Disabled Vets: Effective 02/01/14 non-resident disabled vets meeting eligibility criteria can obtain a Combination Fishing License and hunting licenses at the resident fee for these licenses.

Washington State Fishing Guide Licenses

Commercial use of WDFW land requires a permit. A Washington State fishing guide license qualifies as a permit to use WDFW water access sites. For more information about rules governing conduct on WDFW land, see WAC 232-13 or contact the Wildlife Program at (360) 902-2515.

Vehicle Access Pass

You must clearly display a Vehicle Access Pass (VAP) to park a vehicle at all posted WDFW wildlife areas and water access sites. The VAP must be visible from outside the vehicle (they can be placed on the dash or hung from the rear-view mirror) and can be switched between two vehicles. You can get a rear-view mirror hanger from your local license dealer. VAPs are free with an annual Combination, Saltwater, or Freshwater license. For a list of locations requiring the VAP, visit http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/ or visit a WDFW regional office.



Fishing Contests

Adult - An adult fishing contest exists when six or more licensed anglers (15 years old and above) fish competitively for Game Fish (i.e., trout, bass, walleye, etc.) and determine winners, regardless of the prize value. A permit is required.

Juvenile - A juvenile fishing event is restricted to anglers 14 years old and under. A juvenile fishing event exists when 10 or more juveniles fish competitively for Game Fish (i.e., trout, bass, walleye, etc.) and determine winners, regardless of the prize value. Approval to conduct a juvenile fishing event must be obtained from the WDFW regional office in the region in which the event will occur.

Adult fishing contests or juvenile fishing events that target food fish (i.e., salmon, sturgeon, halibut) do not need a permit and do not need to notify the agency. **However, fishing contest organizers should notify the agency so that data can be collected to help better manage the fisheries.**

For more information, or to request an application for a permit to conduct a fishing contest, contact the WDFW Fish Program at (360) 902-2700 or visit us on the web at http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/fishing_contests. The cost of the permit is \$94 (\$70 non-refundable application fee plus \$24 permit fee).

Youth Fishing

WDFW strongly supports and promotes youth fishing. Everyone 15 years of age and older must have a license. Children 14 years of age and under do not require a license though are still required to hold a valid catch record card where applicable. They must actively participate and be able to demonstrate the ability to handle the gear by themselves. They must follow all the rules and restrictions for that particular species and/or body of water, and are allowed the same daily limit as an adult. Adults may assist and are not required to have a license if they will not be fishing/harvesting themselves, but children must be present and take part in the entire process.

Access to State Recreation Lands

The Discover Pass is your ticket to millions of acres of state lands managed by WDFW, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Parks. Your purchase of a Discover Pass helps to keep recreation access open on these state lands. The Discover Pass is transferable between two vehicles.



You don't need a Discover Pass to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands. When you purchase a hunting or annual combination, freshwater, or saltwater fishing license, you also receive a complimentary Vehicle Access Pass that gives you access to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands.

However, to hunt on many DNR-managed lands and to fish on DNR-managed lands AND state parks, you will need a Discover Pass. (Hunting is not allowed in state parks.)

Learn more about when and where you need a Discover Pass and how to purchase the pass at www.discoverpass.wa.gov.

The Discover Pass is just \$35 per year or \$11.50 for a day-use pass. (Transaction fees may apply)



www.discoverpass.wa.gov

Catch Record Cards

The Catch Record Card is an important management tool for estimating the recreational catch of sturgeon, steelhead, salmon, halibut, and Puget Sound Dungeness crab. A catch record card must be in your possession to fish for these species. **Washington Administrative Code (WAC 220-56-175, WAC 220-69-236) requires all kept sturgeon, steelhead, salmon, halibut, and Puget Sound Dungeness Crab to be recorded on your Catch Record Card, and requires all anglers to return their fish Catch Record Card by April 30, or for Dungeness crab by the date indicated on the card, even if nothing is caught or you did not fish.** Please use the instruction sheet issued with your card. Please return Catch Record Cards to: WDFW CRC UNIT, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091. Use examples below to help complete your card correctly. **DO NOT RECORD RELEASED CATCH.** For Catch Record Card Information call (360) 902-2707.

FOR CATCH AREA CODES, REFER TO THE NEXT PAGE OR THE INSTRUCTION SHEET RECEIVED WITH YOUR CATCH RECORD CARD, OR REFER TO THE WESTSIDE AND EASTSIDE RIVERS SPECIAL RULES SECTIONS WITHIN THIS PAMPHLET

IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETAINING THE SPECIES BELOW AND BEFORE FISHING AGAIN, RECORD CATCH INFORMATION IN INK.

STURGEON Did you fish for Sturgeon? Yes ___ No

Do Not Record Released Sturgeon

A 50" white sturgeon kept from Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam on June 15 with a vent behind pelvic fins, would be entered as:

CATCH AREA CODE	MO (1-12)	DAY (1-31)	SPECIES CODE	FORK LENGTH
640	6	15	W	50

Species Codes:

W = White Sturgeon (barbels near snout tip, vent behind pelvic fins)

GREEN STURGEON MAY NOT BE RETAINED

Green Sturgeon (barbels near mouth, vent between pelvic fins)



Location of vent



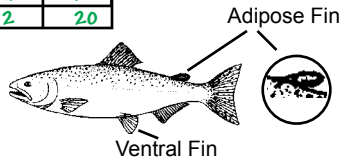
Immediately after retaining a white sturgeon and before fishing again, record catch information **in ink**. The annual limit is 2 fish, even if an angler possesses both a Washington and an Oregon license and catch record card. Anglers may continue to catch and release after retaining 2 white sturgeon in waters of the Columbia River forming the Oregon/Washington boundary.

STEELHEAD Did you fish for Steelhead? Yes ___ No

Do Not Record Released Steelhead

	CATCH AREA CODE	MO (1-12)	DAY (1-31)
	830	12	2
Record Wild Fish Here Only:	406	2	20

A **hatchery** steelhead kept from the Skagit River on Dec. 2 and a **wild** steelhead kept from the Sol Duc River on Feb. 20 would be entered as above.



Ventral Fin

One wild steelhead allowed per license year, only in some Olympic Peninsula rivers. See page 17 for details.

Hatchery Fish (adipose or ventral fin clipped and a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin)

Wild Fish (adipose and ventral fins intact)

Immediately after retaining a steelhead and before fishing again, record catch information **in ink**. Additional Catch Cards are available for hatchery steelhead only.

HALIBUT Did you fish for Halibut? Yes ___ No

Do Not Record Released Halibut

A halibut kept from Area 5 on May 23 caught from a private boat would be entered as:

CATCH AREA CODE	MO (1-12)	DAY (1-31)	CHARTER PRIVATE*
5	5	23	C : P

Circle boat type: C= Charter P= Private

All halibut kept are required to be recorded on your catch record card in ALL MARINE AREAS. Immediately after retaining a halibut and before fishing again, record catch information **in ink**.

SALMON Did you fish for Salmon? Yes ___ No

Do Not Record Released Salmon

A 19" Chinook salmon kept from the Cowlitz River below Mayfield Dam on Sept. 15 with clipped adipose fin would be entered as:

CATCH AREA CODE	MO (1-12)	DAY (1-31)	Check One Box Per Line For Species Kept						CLIP TYPE	
			CHIN	COHO	CHUM	PINK	SOCK	CHIN JACK		COHO JACK
561	9	15							✓	W

H = Hatchery (adipose fin clipped and a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin)

W = Wild (adipose fin intact)

Marine Areas and Adults in Freshwater

CHIN = Chinook/King

PINK = Pink/Humpy

COHO = Coho/Silver

SOCK = Sockeye/Red

CHUM = Chum/Dog

Jacks in Freshwater, Willapa Bay (area 2-1) and Grays Harbor (area 2-2).

CHIN JACK = King jacks or Chinook jacks (12 to less than 24 inches)

COHO JACK = Silver jacks or Coho jacks (12 to less than 20 inches)

Salmon caught under landlocked salmon rules should **not** be recorded.

Immediately after retaining a salmon and before fishing again, record catch information **in ink**.

DUNGENESS CRAB Did you fish for Crab? Yes ___ No

Do Not Record Released Crab

Three male Dungeness crab kept from Hood Canal on July 18 would be entered as:

MARINE AREA	MONTH	DAY	CHECK (✓) ONE BOX FOR EACH CRAB KEPT				CRAB KEPT PER DAY
12	7	18	✓	✓	✓		

When you purchase a Puget Sound Dungeness crab endorsement you will be issued a Catch Record Card for the summer reporting period which runs through Labor Day. Catch Record Cards for the winter period which begins the day after Labor Day are available on August 15. All Puget Sound Dungeness crab kept are required to be recorded on your Catch Record Card immediately after capture and before fishing again. Record catch information **in ink**. Be sure to make a check mark for each crab kept. The check mark is used by field enforcement officers to ensure each crab kept is immediately recorded. At the end of the fishing trip, or prior to moving to a new marine area, enter the total number of check marks in the **CRAB KEPT PER DAY** column. The number should equal the number of checkmarks on that line.

A \$10.00 penalty will be added to the cost of your next Puget Sound crab endorsement if you fail to either return your cards by mail or report your catch information on the Internet (<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>) by the deadlines printed on the card.



Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

REMINDER!

Return your Catch Record Cards by the date printed on the card "With or Without Catch"

Send to:

WDFW CRC Unit, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

For more information regarding the purpose of the crab Catch Record Card, how the catch information is used, and the public's role in providing the necessary data, please visit our webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/crab/crc.html>.

Catch Record Card Codes

Puget Sound Region

824 Baker River
825 Baker Lake
784 Berry Creek
812 Big Quilcene River
748 Big Soos Creek
708 Burley Creek (Kitsap Co.)
710 California Creek
866 Canyon Creek (Stillaguamish Sys.)
727 Capitol Lake
802 Carbon River
826 Cascade River
714 Chambers Creek
718 Clallam River
722 Curley Creek (Kitsap Co.)
724 Dakota Creek (Whatcom Co.)
726 Deep Creek (Clallam Co.)
728 Deschutes River
732 Dewatto River
734 Dosewallips River
736 Duckabush River
738 Dungeness River
746 Green/Duwamish River (King Co.)
752 Hoko River
754 Kennedy Creek
763 Lake Sammamish
762 Lake Washington
766 Little Quilcene River
768 Lyre River
770 McAllister Creek (Thurston Co.)
778 Minter Creek (Pierce/Kitsap Co.)
782 Morse Creek (Clallam Co.)
786 Nisqually River
794 Nooksack River (below North Fork)
790 Nooksack River, North Fork
788 Nooksack River, Middle Fork
792 Nooksack River, South Fork
870 Pilchuck Creek (Stillaguamish Sys.)
840 Pilchuck River (Snohomish Sys.)
804 Puyallup River
810 Pysht River
812 Quilcene River (Big Quilcene River)
842 Raging River
814 Salt Creek (Clallam Co.)
816 Samish River
828 Sauk River
818 Sekiu River
830 Skagit River
834 Skokomish River (Mason Co.)
844 Skykomish River (below forks)
846 Skykomish River, North Fork
848 Skykomish River, South Fork
850 Snohomish River
852 Snoqualmie River
748 Soos Creek (Big Soos Creek)
876 Stillaguamish River (below forks)
872 Stillaguamish River, North Fork
874 Stillaguamish River, South Fork
832 Suittie River
854 Sultan River
878 Tahuya River
856 Tokul Creek
858 Tolt River
880 Union River
860 Wallace River
884 Whatcom Creek
808 White (Stuck) River
862 Woods Creek

900 - For Sturgeon Caught in Lakes or Streams Without a Catch Record Code

Columbia River Region

501 Abernathy Creek
508 Big White Salmon River
507 Blue Creek (Lewis Co.)
609 Cedar Creek (Clark Co.)
552 Chelan River
515 Chinook River
555 Cispus River
517 Coal Creek (Cowlitz Co.)
519 Columbia R. Buoy 10 to Rocky Pt.-Tongue Pt. line
521 Columbia R. Rocky Pt.-Tongue Pt. line to Longview Br.
523 Columbia R. Longview Br. to I-5 Br.
525 Columbia R. I-5 Br. to Bonneville Dam
527 Columbia R. Bonneville to The Dalles Dam
529 Columbia R. The Dalles to John Day Dam
531 Columbia R. John Day to McNary Dam
533 Columbia R. McNary Dam to Hwy. 395 Br. at Pasco
534 Columbia R. Hwy. 395 Br. to I-182 Br.
535 Columbia R. I-182 Br. to Old Hanford townsite towers
536 Columbia R. Old Hanford townsite towers to Priest Rapids
537 Columbia R. Priest Rapids to Wanapum Dam
539 Columbia R. Wanapum to Rock Island Dam
541 Columbia R. Rock Island to Rocky Reach Dam
543 Columbia R. Rocky Reach to Wells Dam
545 Columbia R. Wells to Chief Joseph Dam
557 Coweeman River
561 Cowlitz R. below Mayfield Dam
559 Cowlitz R. above Cowlitz Falls Dam and Lake Scanewa
580 Deep River (Wahkiakum Co.)
618 Drano Lake
583 Elochoman River mouth to Foster Rd. Bridge
584 Elochoman River Foster Rd. Bridge to West Fork
586 Entiat River
589 Germany Creek
592 Grande Ronde River
594 Grays River mouth to Barr Rd. Bridge
595 Grays River Barr Rd. Bridge to South Fork
596 Grays River, West Fork
597 Grays River East Fork
565 Green River (Cowlitz Co.) mouth to Toutle Hatchery rack site
566 Green River (Cowlitz Co.) Toutle Hatchery rack site upstream
598 Hamilton Creek
672 Icicle River (Creek)
604 Kalama River mouth to Modrow Bridge
603 Kalama River Modrow Bridge to upper salmon hatchery
602 Kalama River upper salmon hatchery upstream
607 Klickitat River below #5 fishway
608 Klickitat River above #5 fishway
567 Lacamas Creek (Lewis Co.)
559 Lake Scanewa (Reservoir)
670 Lake Wenatchee
611 Lewis River (below East Fork)
613 Lewis River, East Fork
615 Lewis River, North Fork
661 Little Washougal River
563 Mayfield Lake (Reservoir)
621 Methow River
624 Mill Creek (Cowlitz Co.)
625 Mill Creek (Lewis Co.)
627 Okanogan River
569 Olequa Creek (Lewis Co.)
632 Rock Creek (Skamania Co.)
635 Salmon Creek (Clark Co.)
629 Similkameen River
638 Skamokawa Creek
640 Snake R. below Ice Harbor Dam
642 Snake R. Ice Harbor to Lower Monumental Dam
644 Snake R. Lower Monumental to Little Goose Dam
646 Snake R. Little Goose to Lower Granite Dam
648 Snake R. Lower Granite to WA/ID state line, Clarkston
650 Snake R. upstream of the WA/ID state line, Clarkston
571 Tilton River
657 Touchet River
573 Toutle River (below forks)
575 Toutle River, No. Fork
577 Toutle River, So. Fork
653 Tucannon River
659 Walla Walla River
667 Washougal River mouth to WDFW Co. Line Access Site
668 Washougal River WDFW Co. Line Access Site upstream
665 Washougal River, North and West Forks
674 Wenatchee River
680 Wind River below Shipherd Falls
677 Wind River above Shipherd Falls
690 Yakima River

Coastal Region

305 Bear River (Pacific Co.)
386 Big River (Clallam Co.)
706 Black River (Thurston Co.)
398 Bogachiel River
400 Calawah River
308 Cedar Creek (Grays Harbor Co.)
311 Cedar Creek (Jefferson Co.)
312 Cedar River (Pacific Co.)
317 Chehalis R. below Black R.
315 Chehalis R. above Black R.
319 Chehalis River, South Fork
392 Clearwater River
321 Cloquallam Creek
408 Cook Creek
339 Copalis River
402 Dickey River (Clallam Co.)
342 Elk River (Grays Harbor Co.)
345 Goodman Creek (Jefferson Co.)
350 Hoh River below Hwy. 101
348 Hoh River above Hwy. 101
352 Hoh River, South Fork
355 Hoquiam River
358 Humptulips River (below forks)
361 Humptulips River, East Fork
362 Humptulips River, West Fork
323 Joe Creek
367 Johns River
369 Kalaloch Creek
371 Moclips River
373 Mosquito Creek (Jefferson Co.)
375 Naselle River
379 Nemah River, North (Lower)
378 Nemah River, North (Upper)
325 Newaukum River
389 Niawiakum River
382 North River
388 Ozette River
390 Palix River
394 Queets River
370 Quigg Lake (Grays Harbor Co.)
404 Quillayute River
327 Quinault Lake
410 Quinault R. Lower (below L. Quinault, not Cook Cr.)
412 Quinault R. Upper (above L. Quinault)
414 Raft River
377 Salmon Creek (Pacific Co.)
396 Salmon River (Jefferson Co.)
329 Satsop River, below forks and East Fork
331 Satsop River, Middle and West Forks
333 Skookumchuck River
384 Smith Creek (Pacific Co.)
406 Sol Duc River
418 Sooes River (Clallam Co.)
364 Stevens Creek
419 Van Winkle Creek (Grays Harbor Co.)
420 Waatch River
424 Willapa River
422 Willapa River, South Fork
380 Williams Creek
335 Wishkah River
337 Wynoochee River

Marine Area Codes

1 Ilwaco
2 Westport-Ocean Shores
2-1 Willapa Bay
2-2 Grays Harbor
3 LaPush
4 Neah Bay
5 Sekiu and Pillar Point
6 East Juan de Fuca Strait
7 San Juan Islands
8-1 Deception Pass, Hope Island, and Skagit Bay
8-2 Ports Susan and Gardner
9 Admiralty Inlet
10 Seattle-Bremerton
11 Tacoma-Vashon Island
12 Hood Canal
13 South Puget Sound

See map and descriptions in the Marine Section for area definitions.

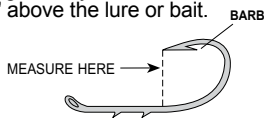
Definitions of Terms used throughout the Pamphlet

Adult Salmon In freshwater and Marine Areas 2-1 and 2-2, Chinook 24" or more in length; coho 20" or more in length; and pink, chum, and sockeye salmon 12" or more in length, are adults.

Angling (Hook & Line Fishing) Fishing for personal use (not for sale or barter) with a line attached to a pole capable of being held in hand while landing fish, or a hand-operated line without a rod or reel.

Annual Limit The number of fish that may be taken, statewide, during the license year (April 1-March 31).

Anti-Snagging Rule Except when fishing with a buoyant lure (with no weights added to the line or lure), or trolling from a vessel or floating device, terminal fishing gear is restricted to a lure or bait with one single-point hook. Hooks must measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less from point to shank, and must be attached to or below the lure or bait. Weights may not be attached below or less than 12" above the lure or bait.



Bait Anything that attracts fish or shellfish by scent and/or flavor. This includes any device made of feathers, hair, fiber, wood, metal, glass, cork, leather, rubber, or plastic, which uses scent and/or flavoring to attract fish or wildlife.

Bass When used in the fishing pamphlet, the term "bass" includes largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Bottomfish Includes Pacific cod, Pacific tomcod, Pacific hake (or whiting), walleye pollock, all species of dabs, sole and flounders (except Pacific halibut), lingcod, ratfish, sablefish, cabezon, greenling, buffalo sculpin, great sculpin, red Irish lord, brown Irish lord, Pacific staghorn sculpin, wolfeel, giant wrymouth, plainfin midshipman, all species of shark, skate, rockfish, rattail, and surfperches (all saltwater perch are surfperch) excluding shiner perch.

Buoyant Lure A lure that floats on the surface of fresh water when no additional weight is applied to the line or lure, and when not being retrieved by a line.

Bow-and-Arrow Fishing Taking fish with a line attached to an arrow and propelled by a bow. Does not include the use of crossbows.

Catch-and-Release Fishing A type of fishing where all of the fish caught are immediately released back into the water.

Chumming Scattering feed or other materials to attract fish to a location.

Closed Waters A body of water where fishing is prohibited.

Daily Limit The maximum number or pounds of fish, shellfish, or seaweed of a given species and size which a person may legally keep in a single day.

Designated Harvester Companion Card This card allows the licensed person with a disability to receive assistance from another licensed individual for fishing or harvesting shellfish. The designated harvester companion must have their license and the Designated Harvester Companion Card in their possession when assisting the person with a disability.

Emergency Rule (RCW 34.05.350) A rule filed by an agency when the agency determines that immediate action is necessary to change a permanent rule.

Equipped with a motor A motor is attached to the floating device, regardless of whether the motor is in the water.

Fathom Line (20 or 30) It is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish or lingcod seaward of a line approximating 20 or 30 fathoms when fathom restrictions are in place.

Finfish Fish not defined as shellfish.

Fly A lure on which thread, feathers, hackle, or yarn cover a minimum of half of the shank of the hook. Metallic colored tape, tinsel, mylar, or bead eyes may be used as an integral part of the design of the fly pattern.

Fly Fishing Only In "Fly Fishing Only" waters, an angler may use only the following tackle: up to 2 flies, each with a barbless single-point hook, not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ " from point to shank, and a conventional fly line or conventional "Tenkara" fly line.

Other line may be used for backing or leader if attached to conventional "Tenkara" fly line or at least 25 feet of conventional fly line. Anglers may not use fixed spool reels, bait, or weight attached to the leader or line. Only knotless nets may be used to land fish.

An angler with a disability, who has been issued a special use disability permit and has it in their possession, may fish in "Fly Fishing Only" waters with spin casting gear, with a casting bubble, and may use an electric motor while fishing on "Fly Fishing Only" lakes where fishing from a boat is allowed. All other restrictions listed above still apply.

Food Fish Includes forage fish, halibut, bottomfish, common carp, shad, tuna, mackerel, salmon, and sturgeon.

Forage Fish Includes anchovy, sand lance, herring, sardine, and smelt.

Forage Fish Cast Net A section of netting (maximum mesh size is 1" stretched mesh) no larger than 10' in diameter with retrieval cord. May only be used in Marine Areas 1-4. May only be used for ANCHOVY and SARDINE.

Forage Fish Dip Net A section of netting (maximum mesh size is $\frac{3}{8}$ " stretched mesh) distended by a rigid frame not exceeding 36" across and directly attached to a rigid handle. May only be used for forage fish or squid.

Forage Fish Jig Gear Jig gear may have up to three treble hooks or nine single-point hooks, not to exceed $\frac{3}{8}$ " between point and shank. May only be used for forage fish or squid.

Frozen Fish or shellfish that are hard frozen throughout.

Fresh Fish or shellfish that are refrigerated, iced, salted, or surface glazed.

Freshwater Area Those waters within any freshwater river, lake, stream, or pond. On the bank or within 10 yards of any freshwater river, lake, stream, or pond. On or within any boat launch, ramp, or parking facility associated with any freshwater river, lake, stream, or pond.

Gaffing Attempting to take fish by impaling fish with a hook attached directly to a pole or other device.

Game Fish Includes bass, burbot (freshwater ling), catfish, crappie, grayling, northern pikeminnow, peamouth chub, yellow perch, tiger muskie, sucker, sunfish, grass carp, trout (including steelhead, kokanee, and Dolly Varden/bull trout), landlocked salmon (Chinook, coho or Atlantic), walleye, and whitefish.

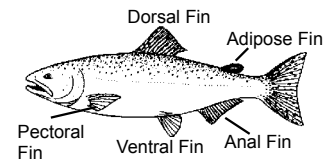
Handling Rules

Freshwater: It is unlawful to totally remove salmon, steelhead, or Dolly Varden/bull trout from the water if it is unlawful to retain those fish, or if the angler subsequently releases the salmon, steelhead, or Dolly Varden/bull trout.

Marine Area 2-2: It is unlawful to totally remove salmon from the water if it is illegal to retain those fish, except anglers fishing from boats 30 feet or longer as listed on either their state or Coast Guard registration are exempt.

Marine Areas 5-13: It is unlawful to bring wild salmon or a species of salmon aboard a vessel if it is unlawful to retain that salmon ("aboard" means inside the gunwale of a vessel).

Hatchery Salmon Means a Chinook or coho with a clipped adipose fin and having a healed scar at the location of the fin.



Hatchery Steelhead or Trout Means a steelhead or cutthroat with a clipped adipose or ventral fin and a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin.

Head of a Fish Forward of the rear margin of the gill plate.

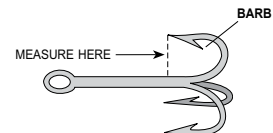
Hook A hook may be single-point, double, or treble. See Freshwater or Marine Area gear rules for limitations.

Barbless A hook from which all barbs have been deleted when manufactured, filed off, or pinched down.

Single-Point A hook with only one point.

Double A hook with two points on a common shank.

Treble A hook with three points on a common shank.



In a Wild State Population of animals referred to as naturally reproducing within the state.

In the Field or In Transit Anywhere other than at an ordinary residence. Dockside fish cleaning facilities, boat ramps, and cold storage lockers are considered in the field.

Internal Combustion Motors Prohibited Means fishing from a floating device equipped with an internal combustion motor is not allowed.

Jack Salmon Chinook and coho salmon that return at a younger age than most members of their species. For freshwater and in Willapa Bay (area 2-1) and Grays Harbor (area 2-2), a jack salmon is a Chinook less than 24" in length or a coho less than 20" in length.

Juvenile Only Waters open for fishing only to youth under 15 years of age.

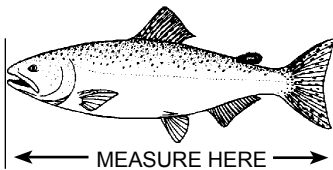
Definitions of Terms used throughout the Pamphlet

Kokanee Freshwater resident sockeye salmon. Where the sea-run (sockeye) and the resident (kokanee) forms occur together, refer to the Special Rules for the size differences between kokanee and sockeye.

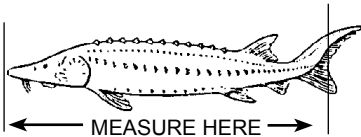
Landlocked Salmon Rules In waters where landlocked salmon rules apply, salmon are regulated as trout. Seasons, daily limits, and size restriction rules for landlocked salmon are identical to the rules for trout in the same water. The angler's combined catch of salmon and trout applies toward the trout limit. A Catch Record Card is not required to retain salmon in these waters.

License Year April 1-March 31 both dates inclusive.

Length The shortest distance between the tip of the nose and the extreme tip of the tail, measured while the fish is laying on its side on a flat surface with its tail in a normal position.



Length, Fork Fork length is defined as the distance from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail. This measurement is used only for sturgeon.



Lure A manufactured article, complete with hooks, constructed of feathers, hair, fiber, wood, metal, glass, cork, leather, rubber, or plastic, which does not use scent and/or flavoring to attract fish.

Mandatory Hatchery Steelhead Retention When in effect, the catch-and-release of hatchery steelhead is not allowed. These fish must be retained if legal to do so.

Marine Area Those waters contained within the boundaries of Washington State, within Puget Sound, Hood Canal, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands, the Strait of Georgia, and the Pacific Ocean, including estuaries seaward of the river or stream mouth (see Mouth definition).

Maximum Size (max. size) The largest size of fish or shellfish that may be kept. For fish, the maximum size refers to the length.

Minimum Size (min. size) The smallest size of fish or shellfish that may be kept. For fish, the minimum size refers to the length.

Motors Prohibited Fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is not allowed.

Mouth Unless otherwise defined, the mouth of a stream, river, or slough is a line projected between the outermost uplands at the mouth. Outermost uplands are those lands not covered by water during ordinary high water.

Night Closure When a night closure is in effect, fishing is closed from one hour after official sunset to one hour before official sunrise. *Official sunrise and sunset times can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.php.*

Ordinary Residence A residential dwelling where a person normally lives, with associated features such as address, telephone number, utility account, etc. A motorhome or camper parked at a campsite is not considered to be an ordinary residence.

Other Food Fish When used in this pamphlet, this refers to species which occur in our waters irregularly, usually in coastal areas during the summer months and includes barracuda, white sea bass, bonito, yellowtail, and pomfret.

Possession Limit The number of daily limits allowed to be kept in the field or in transit.

Processed Fish or shellfish that have been subjected to heat (including kippering, smoking, canning, and boiling).

Puget Sound All saltwater areas east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, outside the mouth of any river or stream, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia, Hood Canal, and all bays and inlets.

Quota Salmon, halibut, sturgeon, and some shellfish are managed by allocations in many areas. These fisheries close when the allocations have been taken.

Rake A smelt or herring rake is any device designed to be drawn through the water to impale fish, but does not include forage fish jigger gear.

Release Wild Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, or Cutthroat Means wild Chinook, coho, steelhead, or cutthroat may not be kept; only hatchery fish of the designated species may be kept. (See Wild Chinook and Coho and Wild Steelhead and Cutthroat).

Relic Shell A relic (dead) shell from an animal which died of natural causes and contains no meat or soft parts. A relic shell may be from a classified species of shellfish or from an unclassified freshwater or marine invertebrate. Oyster shells may never be considered a relic shell.

Resident A person who has maintained a permanent place of abode within the state for at least 90 days preceding license purchase, who has established by formal evidence (e.g., a driver's license and voter registration) an intent to continue residing in the state, and who is not licensed to hunt or fish as a resident in another state.

Salmon Includes Chinook, coho, sockeye, chum, pink, and Atlantic salmon.

Salmonids Fish of the family salmonidae, includes: salmon, trout, and whitefishes.

Seaweed Marine species of algae (such as kelp, rock weed, and sea lettuce) and seagrasses (such as eelgrass).

Selective Gear Rules Only unscented artificial flies or lures with one single-point, barbless hook are allowed. Up to a total of three artificial flies or lures, each containing one single-point, barbless hook may be used. Bait is prohibited; fish may be released until the daily limit is retained. Only knotless nets may be used to land fish except where specifically allowed under Special Rules for individual waters. If any fish has swallowed the hook or is hooked in the gill, eye, or tongue, it should be kept if legal to do so.

Shellfish Includes Dungeness, red rock, king, and box crab; razor clams, and all other marine clams existing in a wild state; oysters, geoducks, shrimp, California sea cucumbers, sea urchins, scallops, goose barnacles, cockles, mussels, squid, octopus, and crawfish.

Snagging Attempting to take fish with a hook and line in such a way that the fish does not voluntarily take the hook(s) in its mouth. In freshwater, it is illegal to possess any fish hooked anywhere other than inside the mouth or on the head.

Spear Fishing Attempting to take fish by impaling the fish on a shaft, arrow, or other device.

Stationary Gear Restriction The line, weight, lure, or bait must be moving (not stationary) while in the water.

Steelhead A sea-run rainbow trout 20" in length and over.

Stretch Measure The distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh when the mesh is stretched vertically.

Trolling Fishing from a vessel that is underway and under power.

Trout When used in this pamphlet, the term "trout" includes rainbow trout, steelhead, brook, brown, cutthroat, tiger, golden, lake trout, Dolly Varden/bull trout, grayling, and kokanee. Waters where Landlocked Salmon Rules apply, landlocked Chinook, coho, and Atlantic salmon are also included.

Unclassified Marine Invertebrates Invertebrates not listed in the shellfish definition, such as snails, nudibranchs, shore crabs, graceful crabs, sand dollars, starfish, white and red sea cucumbers, limpets, chitons, etc.

Unclassified Marine Fish Species that are not classified as Game Fish or Food Fish by the Department and are rarely caught by anglers. Unclassified Marine Fish are not listed in this pamphlet as salmon, trout, tuna, mackerel, forage fish, sturgeon, halibut, or Other Food Fish. These species include ocean sunfish, and most species of fish found in tidepools.

WDFW An acronym for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Weight The weight of fish or shellfish before cleaning them and the wet weight for seaweed on which daily and possession pound limits are based.

Whitefish Gear Rules Fishing gear is restricted to one single-point hook, maximum hook size 3/16" point to shank (hook size 14), and bait is allowed.

Wild Chinook and Coho Wild Chinook and coho have an unclipped adipose fin.

Wild Steelhead and Cutthroat Wild steelhead and cutthroat have unclipped adipose and ventral fins.

Statewide General Rules*

Harvest and Possession Rules

You May Not:

Fish in closed waters.

Retain wild STEELHEAD or DOLLY VARDEN/ BULL TROUT except where specially authorized in the special rules.

Retain a GREEN STURGEON.

Take, fish for, or possess PACIFIC LAMPREY, WESTERN BROOK LAMPREY, or RIVER LAMPREY, or use any species of LAMPREY for bait.

Harvest in freshwater any fish not classified as a Food Fish or Game Fish except for NORTHERN PIKE.

Fish for, retain, or possess YELLOWEYE or CANARY rockfish, SIXGILL, SEVENGILL, or THRESHER Sharks, PYGMY WHITEFISH, MARGINED SCULPIN, or OLYMPIC MUDMINNOW.

Fish for, retain, or possess EULACHON (Columbia River Smelt) unless specifically open under emergency regulation.

Fish for, or harvest fish or shellfish in an area with catch in your possession that does not meet the rules of that area. However, you may pass through such an area without stopping to fish. Also, you may catch fish in one area and land them at a port in a different area even if that different area is closed or has different rules, except HALIBUT (see page 102). See below for Canadian-caught fish.

Intentionally waste fish or shellfish. This includes mutilating or clipping fins and then returning to the water any live fish (such as DOGFISH).

Use SALMON, HERRING, or HALIBUT for anything other than human consumption or fishing bait.

Continue to fish for SALMON after the adult portion of the daily limit has been retained.

Fish for (unless authorized by Special Rules) or harass fish within 400 feet downstream of a man-made dam, fish ladder, or other obstruction, or in rearing, holding, or passage facilities.

Harvest any part of another person's daily limit, except for persons who possess a Designated Harvester Companion Card unless otherwise specified.

Chum (broadcast feed) to attract Game Fish unless authorized by Special Rules.

Remove eggs from a salmon to use or preserve them for bait without retaining the carcass from which the eggs were removed.

Transport live fish without a permit.

You May Not:

Possess fish or shellfish that do not meet the minimum and maximum size limits, weight limits, or sex restrictions, or that are in excess of the daily or possession limit.

Possess STURGEON eggs in the field without having retained the intact carcass of the fish from which the eggs were removed.

Possess another person's Game Fish unless it is accompanied by a statement showing the name, address, license number, date, county, and area where it was taken, and the signature of the angler who harvested it.

Possess DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT in the field in such condition that the species and total length cannot be determined.

Hold recreationally-caught fish or shellfish in storage by a custom canner, hotel or restaurant, or a cold storage plant without tags listing the name and address of the owner of the fish or shellfish.

Trespass on private property (which often includes the bed of a stream) regardless of whether there is an open season.

You May:

Clean or portion fish or shellfish while in the field with the following exceptions: It is unlawful for an angler to fail to retain proof of compliance with species, size, number, weight, sex, or wild or hatchery origin restriction, if such restrictions apply, until the angler is ashore and has finished fishing for the day. For all ROCKFISH species and for fish with a length restriction, anglers must retain the fish carcass until coming ashore to comply with the above rule. This does not apply if the catch is in the process of being prepared for immediate consumption.

Use a rodholder.

Leave your rod in a rodholder while playing or landing a fish if the rod can be easily removed from the holder.

Use an electric powered reel attached to a pole.

Use a downrigger if the line releases from the downrigger while playing or landing the fish.

Fishing in Canadian Waters

In determining the location of the U.S./Canada border, U.S (not Canadian) navigation charts apply to anglers fishing from vessels registered in the State of Washington.

Fish and Shellfish Caught in Canada

It is lawful to possess Canadian-origin fish or SHELLFISH if you have a Canadian license and salmon conservation stamp (for SALMON), except it is unlawful to possess Canadian-origin yelloweye or canary rockfish.

There are special rules for Canadian HALIBUT and SALMON. If you only fish in Canada, contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) or visit their website at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca for updated Canadian regulations. If you fish for HALIBUT in Washington, the daily limit is one HALIBUT, and the possession limit is two HALIBUT, regardless of where they are taken. No more than one daily limit of HALIBUT may be possessed aboard the fishing vessel.

It is unlawful to possess in marine waters or land into Washington any fresh salmon taken for personal use from Canadian waters unless such salmon meet current salmon regulations for the Catch Record Card area where the salmon are landed, unless you physically clear Customs in Bedwell Harbour, Sydney, Ucluelet, Victoria, or White Rock, and get your Customs clearance number at the port. If you are in possession of salmon that would be unlawful if taken in Washington, you may not fish in Washington waters.

You may **not** land both a Canadian and a Washington limit of salmon on the same day (one or the other, but not both).

Gear Rules

You May Not:

Snag or attempt to snag fish.

Use a net, except a dip net to land legally-hooked fish, a forage fish dip net, or in Marine Areas 1-4, a forage fish cast net for SARDINE and ANCHOVY only.

Use drugs, explosives, or poison that may kill or injure fish and wildlife.

Use any type of chemical irritant to harvest fish, or shellfish unless a special exception has been made by the Director.

Fish with a rod not under your immediate control, or leave your gear unattended.

Fish for SALMON, STURGEON, OCTOPUS, or CRAB in saltwater with underwater spearfishing gear.

Fish for Game Fish, SALMON, SHAD, STURGEON, or SHELLFISH with bow and arrow or spear.

Use a gaff hook, except to land legally-hooked HALIBUT, TUNA, or DOGFISH shark that will be retained.

Use a HERRING rake or a SMELT rake.

Use a crossbow to harvest fish or shellfish.

You are Required to:

Cooperate with data collection or other sampling of fish, SHELLFISH or SEAWEED upon request of Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel. This includes relinquishing any part of a SALMON, STEELHEAD, or other species of fish containing coded-wire tags.

Stop at mandatory check stations established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Show fish, SHELLFISH, and SEAWEED in your possession and required licenses, Catch Record Cards, and gear being used, upon request of a Fish and Wildlife officer.

Fill out your Catch Record Card immediately upon retaining SALMON, STEELHEAD, HALIBUT, or STURGEON. For Puget Sound DUNGENESS CRAB, fill out immediately when fishing from a boat or dock, or upon returning to shore when wading or diving.

Return your Catch Record Card when you are done fishing or by the date printed on your card, even if nothing was caught.

Buying and Selling Fish & Shellfish

You may not offer any recreationally-caught fish or shellfish for sale or barter.

In order to buy, sell, or possess STEELHEAD, sea-run CUTTHROAT, or DOLLY VARDEN/ BULL TROUT lawfully taken by a treaty Indian member: the fish must be accompanied by a written statement showing taker's name, address, tribal affiliation, and treaty fish identification card number, number of fish, date, and location where taken. This rule does not apply to treaty members nor to Game Fish purchased from a fish buyer licensed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

FISHING OPPORTUNITY DEPENDS ON CAREFUL HANDLING OF FISH

Dehooker (not a gaff hook)



Photo shows the proper technique of releasing a fish with a dehooker without bringing the fish aboard the vessel.

SELECTIVE FISHING

Selective fisheries for hatchery-produced fish and catch-and-release fisheries are increasingly important to providing recreational fishing opportunities in Washington. To ensure these fisheries are successful, it is absolutely essential that participating anglers comply with all regulations and take great care in releasing unmarked fish to ensure the greatest chance for survival.

HOW TO RELEASE FISH

When you need to release a fish, there are some special precautions you can take to give it the best chance of surviving:

- Minimize handling by leaving the fish in the water.
- Do not net your fish – but if you must, use a soft, knotless net or rubber mesh net. Knotless nets are now required in fly-fishing only areas and freshwater areas with selective gear rules.
- Use a hook remover (dehooker) when hooks are imbedded in the mouth or jaw.
- If a fish has swallowed the hook, cut the leader.
- Keep fingers away from the eyes and gills of the fish.

SALMON and TROUT HANDLING RULES

FRESHWATER: "It is unlawful to totally remove salmon, steelhead, or Dolly Varden/Bull Trout from the water if it is unlawful to retain those fish, or if the angler subsequently releases the salmon, steelhead, Dolly Varden/Bull Trout."

EXCEPTIONS:

- The Columbia River between the Buoy 10 line and the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line
- The Columbia River from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Hwy. 730 OR/WA border the rules apply only when fishing from vessels less than 30 feet in length during Feb. 15-June 15.

MARINE AREAS 5 through 13: "It is unlawful to bring wild salmon or a species of salmon aboard a vessel if it is unlawful to retain that salmon" ("aboard" means inside the gunwale of a vessel).

MARINE AREA 2-2: "It is unlawful to totally remove salmon from the water if it is illegal to retain those fish, except anglers fishing from boats 30 feet or longer as listed on either their state or Coast Guard registration, are exempt."

Reporting Violations/Poaching

DIAL 911 TO REPORT A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY

FOR NON-EMERGENCY VIOLATIONS/POACHING:

- Call WDFW toll-free 1-877-933-9847 (1-877-WDFW-TIP); or
- Use the dedicated WDFW email address (REPORTPOACHING@DFW.WA.GOV); or
- TEXT YOUR POACHING/VIOLATION TIP anonymously to the WDFW poaching hotline 847411 (TIP411).

- 1) Start a text message on your phone. On the first line of the message type the key word WDFWTIP. Then add a space and type in the violation information.
- 2) Then, from the phone's menu, select SEND TO: and type in 847411 (TIP411), and press send (Note: The text message is sent to a special computer server that will mask your identity and assign an alias); **OR**
 - Report the crime on-line to WDFW by using the following web address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/poaching/> or
 - Report the crime to the nearest WDFW Regional Office if during normal work hours, 8:00AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday. Phone numbers are listed in the regulation pamphlet; or
 - To report fish and wildlife related crimes and incidents, call WILDCOMM at (360) 902-2936, Option 2 or 3, OR 1 (877) 933-9847
 - For further information see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/poaching/>

FOR OTHER FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS:

Report lost or stolen recreational shellfish gear online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/lost_gear/

FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REPORTS: Call toll-free 1-888-933-9247 (1-888-WDFW-AIS)

Reward Program

Information that contributes substantially to an arrest of another person for violation of Title 77.15 RCW, WAC 220, or WAC 232, including loss of fish, wildlife, or damage to WDFW property, could be eligible for a cash reward. Annually, about \$8,000.00 is paid in rewards.



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife & Northwest Tribal Treaty Fishing Rights

There are 29 federally-recognized tribes in Washington, 21 of which have off-reservation hunting and fishing rights secured by federal law. Three additional tribes outside of Washington also have off-reservation treaty rights within Washington. Washington tribes also have hunting and fishing rights within their reservations.



The State of Washington and Indian tribes both manage activities with respect to many of the same resources including salmon, steelhead, shellfish, marine fish, and wildlife species. The long-term health of these resources depends on the state and the tribes working cooperatively to identify objectives and manage our respective activities to meet common goals.

The government-to-government relationship between WDFW and tribes is established through federal law, the Washington Centennial Accord and a history of cooperation in developing joint management agreements related to fish and wildlife. Notable examples of court decisions that provide the legal foundation for the cooperative management relationship between WDFW and the Indian tribes include U.S. v. Washington, U.S. v. Oregon, Hoh v. Baldrige, and Settler v. Lameer. Some of these rulings may be viewed online at: <http://www.ccrh.org/comm/river/table.htm>.

The state and the tribes each have a set of responsibilities and rights that must be respected. WDFW has the responsibility for protecting, preserving, and perpetuating fish and wildlife within the boundaries of the state. It has authority to carry out that responsibility by regulating fishing and hunting. This responsibility must be exercised consistent with federal law, including treaties reserving tribal fishing and hunting rights. Tribes have the authority to regulate their members' exercise of federally secured rights, including the treaty right of taking fish at usual and accustomed fishing places. Tribal authority is exercised in conformity with provisions of the applicable federal law.



WDFW and the tribes consult through a variety of co-management forums to resolve issues and jointly develop more than 50 management agreements for fish, shellfish and wildlife.

State-tribal agreements include conservation objectives, catch accounting procedures, data sharing requirements, enforcement needs, and a commitment to meet each other's resource management objectives. WDFW also collaborates with tribes in intergovernmental forums on salmon recovery planning, forest practices rules, environmental permitting, and addressing the impacts of hydroelectric projects.

WDFW is committed to working with tribes to meet our shared conservation and management objectives to secure the long-term health of the fish and wildlife of the state.

Tribes that have Off-Reservation Treaty Rights in Washington State

Hoh	Port Gamble S'Klallam	Suquamish
Jamestown S'Klallam	Puyallup	Swinomish
Lower Elwha Klallam	Quileute	Tulalip
Lummi	Quinault	Upper Skagit
Makah	Sauk-Suiattle	Yakama
Muckleshoot	Skokomish	Nez Perce (Idaho)
Nisqually	Squaxin Island	Umatilla (Oregon)
Nooksack	Stillaguamish	Warm Springs (Oregon)

