

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE POLICE



INTRODUCTION

- Lieutenant Erik Olson

Region 4 (King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties)

Sergeant: 11 years

Central Puget Sound Marine Detachment

Officer: 9 years

Seattle Officer – Marine Detachment

WHO ARE WDFW POLICE?

Oldest State law enforcement agency in Washington (1887 - Fisheries patrol)

- Organizational Structure –

- WDFW Commission – 9 members appointed by governor – Commission appoints Director
- Director appoints WDFW Police Chief
 - Currently: Director Kelly Susewind
- Chief , Deputy Chief (Headquarters – Olympia)
 - Currently: Chief Steve Bear and Deputy Chief Paul Golden
- Captains: 10
- Lieutenants: 2
- Sergeants: 25
- Detectives: 7
- Officers: 123 Officer positions – 90 Officers currently deployed (36 vacancies)

- TOTAL COMMISSIONED STAFF: 172 commissioned staff positions – 136 currently deployed

- Unique warrantless inspection authority (RCW 77.15.080 and RCW 77.15.096)

- General law enforcement authority (Only WDFW and WSP)

- Dispersed throughout Washington State

- Federal commissions with NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service) and USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

- MOU with Oregon (Authority 50 miles into Oregon)

Mission

**To protect the natural resources and
the public we serve**





What does WDFW Police do?



WHAT WE DO

- Enforce the fish and wildlife code (Title 77)
- Conduct compliance checks of recreational hunters, fishers and shellfishers
- General law enforcement authority
 - Public Safety
 - Assist other law enforcement agencies
 - General crimes associated with fish and wildlife crimes
- Sanitary shellfish (Commercial - RCW 69.30)
- Seafood fraud
- Regulate the commercial fishing industry
- Conduct commercial inspections in marketplace
 - wholesale dealers, freight forwarders, cold storage facilities, restaurants, markets and brokers
 - Warrantless inspection authority for these entities

Why is it important to regulate the Commercial Market

Key Facts

- Fish and shellfish industry (Rec and comm.) means approx. 4 billion dollars annual revenue to State
- Shellfish is 350 Million dollars per year
- Incredibly complex landscape (Federal / State / Tribal)
- Seattle and Tacoma are two of the top ten ports in the nation
- Thousands of pounds of fish and shellfish are exported every day from
- Since 2015, over 150 felonies have been referred to prosecutors for commercial fish and shellfish cases involving the commercial marketplace for violations such as trafficking.
- Regulating the commercial marketplace is key to managing the fish and shellfish resources in Washington State



MARKET PLACE ENFORCEMENT



Serious F&W Market Crimes

- Trafficking 1st and 2nd degree
 - Class C felony, or Class B felony
- Forgery
 - Class C felony
- Perjury
 - Class C felony
- Wholesale dealing without a license
 - Gross Misdemeanor, or Class C felony
- Organized crime
 - Class B felony / Possibly federal: RICO Act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations)
- Seafood Misbranding
 - Misdemeanor, Gross Misdemeanor, Class C felony
- Money Laundering
 - Class C felony

WHY MARKETPLACE ENFORCEMENT IS IMPORTANT



LOOK FOR BUSINESSES WITH A WHOLESALE FISH BUYERS LICENSE

Wholesale Fish Buyers licenses are required when:

A person engages in the commercial processing (preparing or preserving), which includes smoking, custom canning or processing of personal use fish or shellfish.

A business in the state engages in the wholesale selling, buying, or brokering of food fish or shellfish. A wholesale fish buyer's license is not required of those businesses which buy exclusively from Washington licensed wholesale fish buyers and sell solely at retail.

They are the first receiver of fresh fish from another state/country even if they are selling to the end consumer. Plus, they must fill out fish receiving tickets issued by WDFW.

Fishers who land and sell their catch or harvest in the state to anyone other than a licensed wholesale fish buyer within or outside the state, unless the fisher has a direct retail endorsement.

A business engages in the commercial manufacture or preparation of fertilizer, oil, meal, caviar, fish bait, or other by-products from food fish or shellfish.

A business engaging as a fish buyer as defined under RCW [77.65.340](#).

RCW 77.15.620, .640, WAC 220.69.240


RESTAURANTS AND MARKETS PAPERWORK

Information required on invoices for fish and shellfish pursuant to

RCW 77.15.568

- Invoices must be at the place of business for product on hand
- Invoices must be in the English language
- Invoices must be retained for three years
- Invoices shall contain the following information:
 - Name, Address and Phone number of whom the product was received from
 - Date of receipt
 - Amount of product
 - Species of product received
 - Example: “King Salmon”, not just “Salmon”

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) CERTIFICATION TAGS

	DEALER NAME _____ CERT. NO. _____
	Dealer Address _____
	City, State Zip Code _____
	ORIGINAL SHIPPER'S CERT. NO. IF OTHER THAN ABOVE: _____
	HARVEST DATE: _____
	HARVEST LOCATION: _____
	TYPE OF SHELLFISH: _____
QUANTITY OF SHELLFISH: _____	
THIS TAG IS REQUIRED TO BE ATTACHED UNTIL CONTAINER IS EMPTY AND THEREAFTER KEPT ON FILE FOR 90 DAYS.	
<small>RETAILERS INFORM YOUR CUSTOMERS Thoroughly cooking foods of animal origin such as beef, pork, fish, shellfish, poultry, and eggs, and certain raw foods of animal origin such as certain health conditions may be at higher risk if these foods are consumed raw or undercooked. Consult your physician or public health official for more information.</small>	



Bivalve shellfish must be accompanied with a DOH certification tags.

The tag is required to be attached until the container is empty and thereafter kept on file for 90 days.

Shellfish may be repackaged into smaller containers but each smaller container must be clearly labeled as well.

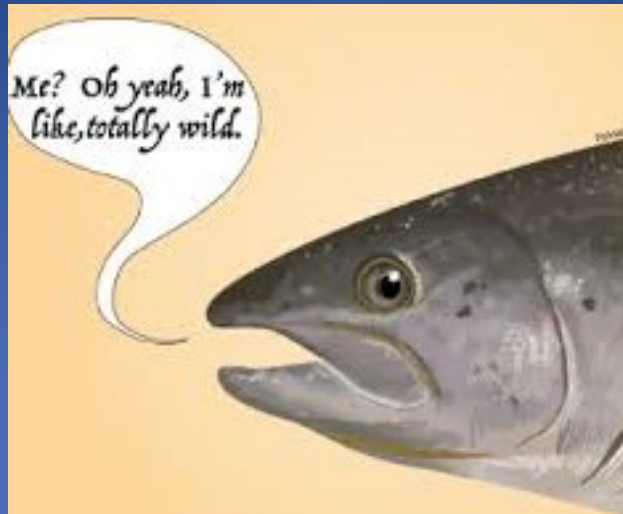
For self-serve containers, DOH certification tag must be displayed with shellfish

RCW 69.30.020, WAC 246.282.014, WAC 246.215.051, NSSP rule

POSSESSION OF SPORT CAUGHT FISH AND SHELLFISH IN COMMERCIAL MARKETS

- Commercial fish dealers, cold storage plant operators, restaurants or hotels cannot store or have in possession any food fish or shellfish taken by any person for personal use, unless it is identified by tags attached bearing the names and addresses of the persons taking such food fish or shellfish.
- Note: Markets aren't mentioned above. WAC 220-56-110.4 – however, they would still need to possess paperwork documenting the origin of product.

MISLABELED / FALSELY LABELED SEAFOOD



Mislabeled seafood.

RCW Chapter 77.140

- ✓ Salmon must have the common name (Chinook or King, Coho or silver, Chum or Keta, Pink, Sockeye or Red, Atlantic)
- ✓ Other than Halibut and Salmon, must use common name as provided in the "Seafood list – FDA's guide to acceptable market names for seafood sold in interstate commerce"
- ✓ Whether they are farm raised or commercially caught
- ✓ Clearly labeled on the package or container for the consumer to see.

FDA SEAFOOD LIST

“Seafood list - FDA's guide to acceptable market names for seafood sold in interstate commerce”

SHARK FIN AND GEODUCK

It is illegal to sell, offer for sale, purchase, or otherwise exchange shark fin or its derivatives.
RCW 77.15.770



NON-NATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES



- There are several non-native aquatic species that you may encounter at restaurants and markets.
- It is unlawful to possess any of the following in live form:

Bullfrogs

These have been found numerous times in the past at restaurants and markets. Most people don't know that bullfrogs are not native to Washington. They are voracious predators and will eat anything that they can catch, including small birds and ducklings.



Crayfish, Crawfish, Crawdads

Crawfish are native to Washington. We have commercial fisheries for them on the Columbia River and its tributaries.

There is only one species of crawfish that is native to Washington, the Signal Crawfish (pictured).

ALL OTHER CRAWFISH ARE ILLEGAL TO POSSESS ALIVE. Most of the illegal crawfish that we find come from the Southern US.



Turtles

- All snapping turtles are illegal to possess alive. There are two main species and most of them come from the Southern US.



- Florida softshell turtles are also illegal and very prevalent



WILD GAME OR BIRD MEAT



www.alamy.com - BREP4G

These are all illegal to buy or sell: deer, elk, moose, bear (and parts thereof like gall-bladders), waterfowl, and upland birds. There is an exception if the meat was from an out-of-state game farm but it is rare to see and certain paperwork is required for that.

- WDFW requires wild game meat cutters to keep records on who harvested the animal, when, license/tag numbers, what kind of animal, etc. WSDA requires wild meat cutters to have a Food Processing License. RCW 77.15.260, WAC 232.12.071, RCW 69.07.040

WHAT DOES A WDFW POLICE INSPECTION LOOK LIKE

[WDFW Police Inspection](#)

RECAP - REMEMBER THE BASICS

- 1. Only buy fish and shellfish from licensed dealers**
- 2. Retain your invoices for 3 years for all fish and shellfish purchased and ensure that the Invoices have all the required information pursuant to RCW 77.15.568**
- 3. Retain your DOH certification tags for all bivalve shellfish (Clams and Oysters)**
- 4. Do not purchase or store sport caught fish or shellfish**
- 5. Label all fish and shellfish correctly**
- 6. Do not deal in Aquatic Invasive Species (ie Red Swamp Crawfish, bullfrogs, Florida Softshell turtles)**
- 7. Shark fins are illegal to possess in all processed forms**

Please call, or email if you suspect any violations within the commercial marketplace.

You are a big piece to successfully managing the fish and wildlife resources of Washington State for generations to come



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