

**SB 5131 - DIGEST**

Provides that department employees, in carrying out their duties under title 77 RCW, may: (1) Inspect all fish, wildlife, and shellfish taken or possessed in the field or state waters;

(2) Inspect at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner fish, wildlife, and shellfish stored at a processing plant or locker plant or other facility open for commercial purposes;

(3) Collect samples of tissue, fluids, or other bodily parts of fish, wildlife, or shellfish;

(4) Board vessels in state waters engaged in commercial harvest activities to inspect fish or shellfish, harvesting gear or devices, or harvest record data; or

(5) Board and remain for a reasonable time as observers on board vessels that are engaged in commercial harvest operations of fish or shellfish.

Declares that a person is guilty of unlawful interfering in department operations if the person prevents department employees from carrying out duties authorized by this title, including but not limited to interfering: (1) With the inspection of fish, wildlife, and shellfish taken or possessed in the field or stored at a facility open for commercial purposes;

(2) With the collection of samples of tissue, fluids, or other bodily parts of fish, wildlife, and shellfish; or

(3) In the boarding of vessels engaged in recreational or commercial harvest of fish or shellfish.

Declares that unlawful interfering in department operations is a gross misdemeanor.