

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6145

C 146 L 14
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Declaring the *Ostrea lurida* the official oyster of the state of Washington.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Hatfield, Roach, Chase, Sheldon, Fraser and McAuliffe).

Senate Committee on Governmental Operations
House Committee on Government Operations & Elections

Background: The state of Washington confers the official designation on various flora, fauna, performing arts, minerals, and tartan. The official fauna are designated as the orca, the official marine mammal; the Olympic marmot, the official endemic mammal; the willow goldfinch, the official bird; the steelhead trout, the official fish; and the common green darner dragonfly, the official insect.

The *Ostrea lurida*, commonly known as the Olympia oyster, is the only oyster native to Washington. Its natural habitat includes rocks in areas near the expanse of the low tide, and mudflats and gravel bars in estuaries and bays. Olympia oysters are flat oysters whose shells average 5–8 cm, or 2–3 inches, long. Olympia oysters play an important ecological role by regulating plankton blooms, decreasing the potential for Red Tide and other harmful algal blooms, and balancing nutrient input in the water.

Summary: The *Ostrea lurida*, or Olympia oyster, is declared the official oyster of the state of Washington.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	1	
House	94	4	(House amended)
Senate	48	1	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 12, 2014

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