

**WAC 220-340-700 Commercial crawfish fishery.** (1) Licensing: A shellfish pot fishery license is required to operate the gear provided for in this section. An application for a shellfish pot fishery license is available at the offices of the department, by calling the WDFW license division at 360-902-2500, or on the department website at [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov).

(2) Commercial crawfish season: The first Monday in May through October 31, except: In Washington waters of the Columbia River downstream from the mouth of the Walla Walla River, it is permissible to take crawfish from April 1 through October 31.

(3) Commercial crawfish size and sex restrictions:

(a) Crawfish must be 3 1/4 inches or more in length from the tip of the rostrum (nose) to the tip of the tail.

(b) All undersize crawfish and female crawfish with eggs or young attached to the abdomen must be immediately returned unharmed to the waters from which taken. Fishers must sort and return illegal crawfish to the waters from which taken immediately after the crawfish are removed from the shellfish pot and prior to lifting additional pots from the water.

(4) Commercial crawfish gear, fishing areas, and pot number restrictions:

(a) It is unlawful to take crawfish for commercial purposes with gear other than shellfish pots.

(b) The department determines the maximum number of pots permitted in any given body of water. Once the permitted maximum number of pots for any given body of water is reached, no further permits may be issued for that area. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis consistent with all other regulations concerning issuance of commercial crawfish harvest permits.

(c) It is unlawful for a person to fish more than 400 pots at one time in the commercial crawfish fishery.

(d) Buoys must consist of durable material that will remain floating on the surface with five pounds attached; bleach or anti-freeze bottles or other containers may not be used as floats.

(e) When two or more pots are attached to a common ground line, the number of pots attached must be clearly labeled on the required buoy.

(f) Crawfish gear also subject to provisions of WAC 220-353-020.

(g) It is unlawful to fish for crawfish for commercial purposes in the following waters:

**Clallam**

Crescent Lake

**Clark**

Battleground Lake

**Cowlitz**

Merrill Lake

**Grant**

Deep Lake  
Potholes Res.  
Coulee Lake  
Soap Lakes  
Sun Lakes

**Grays Harbor**

Sylvia Lake

**Island**

Cranberry Lake

**Jefferson**

Anderson Lake

**King**

Cedar Lake

Elbow Lake

Green Lake

Green River

Margaret Lake

Sammamish Lake

Sammamish River

Sammamish Slough

Walsh Lake

**Kittitas**

Easton Lake

**Klickitat**

Horsethief Lake

Roland Lake

**Lewis**

Mineral Lake

**Okanogan**

Alta Lake

Buffalo Lake

Campbell Lake

Conconully Lake

Conconully Res.

Crawfish Lake

Omak Lake

Osoyoos Lake

Pearrygin Lake

**Pacific**

Middle Nemah River

North Nemah River

Smith Creek

**Pend Oreille**

Browns Lake (on Brown Cr)

Calispell Lake

Cooks Lake

Conklin Lake

Davis Lake

Half Moon Lake

Mystic Lake

No Name Lake

Shearer Lake

Vanee Lake

**Pierce**

Clear Lake  
Spanaway Lake  
Steilacoom Lake  
Wapato Lake

**Skagit**

Beaver Lake  
Caskey Lake  
Cranberry Lake  
Everett Lake  
Minkler Lake  
Pass Lake  
Sixteen Lake  
Whistle Lake

**Skamania**

Goose Lake  
Mosquito Lake  
South Prairie Lake  
Stump (Tunnel) Lake

**Snohomish**

Ballinger Lake  
Chaplain Lake  
Flowing Lake  
Goodwin Lake  
Ki Lake  
Martha Lake  
Pass Lake  
Roesiger Lake  
Serene Lake  
Shoecraft Lake  
Silver Lake  
Stevens Lake  
Stickney Lake  
Storm Lake

**Thurston**

Deep Lake  
Hicks Lake  
Long Lake  
Patterson Lake  
Summit Lake  
Ward Lake

**Whatcom**

Budd Lake  
Bug Lake  
Caine Lake  
Fishtrap Creek  
Johnson Creek  
Padden Lake  
Toad or Emerald Lake

(h) It is unlawful to fish for crawfish within 1/4 mile of the shoreline of developed parks.

(i) It is permissible for an individual fisherman to fish for crawfish for commercial use in the waters set out below with up to the number of pots shown.

Name of Lake, River, or Slough	County	Max. Pots Allowed
Alder Lake (Res.)	Pierce/Thurston	200
Alkali Lake	Grant	100
Bachelor Slough	Clark	100
Baker Lake	Whatcom	200
Banks Lake	Grant	200
Big Lake	Skagit	200
Black Lake	Thurston	200
Blue Lake	Grant	200
Bonaparte Lake	Okanogan	100
Buckmire Slough	Clark	100
Camas Slough	Clark	100
Campbell Lake	Skagit	100
Cassidy Lake	Snohomish	100
Cavanaugh Lake	Skagit	200
Chehalis River	Lewis/Grays Harbor	100
Chelan Lake	Chelan	200
Clear Lake	Skagit	100
Coal Creek Slough	Cowlitz	100
Columbia River	Clark, Cowlitz, etc.	200
Copalis River	Grays Harbor, etc.	100
Cowlitz River	Clark, Cowlitz, etc.	100
Curlew Lake	Ferry	200
Cushman Lake #1	Clark	100
Deep River	Wahkiakum	100
Deschutes River	Thurston	100
Diablo Lake	Whatcom	200
Drano Lake	Skamania	100
Elochoman River	Wahkiakum	100
Erie Lake	Skagit	100
Evergreen Reservoir	Grant	100
Fisher Island Slough	Cowlitz	100
Goose Lake (upper)	Grant	100
Grays River	Pacific	100
Harts Lake	Pierce	100
Hoquiam River	Grays Harbor	100
Humtulpis River	Grays Harbor	100
John's River	Grays Harbor	100
Kapowsin Lake	Pierce	200
Kalama River	Cowlitz, etc.	100
Klickitat	Klickitat	100
Lackamas Lake (Res.)	Clark	100
Lake River	Clark	100
Lawrence Lake	Thurston	100
Lenore Lake	Grant	200
Lewis River	Clark/Cowlitz	100
Loomis Lake	Pacific	100
Mayfield Lake	Lewis	200
McIntosh Lake	Thurston	100
McMurray Lake	Skagit	100

Name of Lake, River, or Slough	County	Max. Pots Allowed
Merwin Lake	Clark/Cowlitz	200
Moses Lake	Grant	200
Naselle River	Pacific, etc.	100
Nisqually River	Pierce, etc.	100
Nooksack River	Whatcom	100
North River	Grays Harbor	100
Palmer Lake	Okanogan	100
Patterson Lake (Res.)	Okanogan	100
Portage Bay	King	100
Rattlesnake Lake	King	100
Ross Lake (Res.)	Whatcom	200
Salmon Lake	Okanogan	100
Satsop River	Grays Harbor	100
Shannon Lake (Res.)	Skagit	200
Sidley Lake	Okanogan	100
Silver Lake	Pierce	100
Silver Lake	Cowlitz	200
Skagit River	Skagit/Whatcom	200
Skamokawa River	Wahkiakum	100
Snake River	Franklin/Walla Walla	200
Snohomish River	Snohomish	100
St. Clair Lake	Thurston	100
Swift Lake (Res.)	Skamania	200
Terrell Lake	Whatcom	100
Toutle River	Cowlitz	100
Union Lake	King	200
Vancouver Lake	Clark	200
Warden Lake	Grant	100
Washington Lake	King	200
Washougal River	Clark/Skamania	100
Whitestone Lake	Okanogan	100
Willapa River	Pacific	100
Wiser Lake	Whatcom	100
Wind River	Cowlitz	100
Wishkah River	Grays Harbor	100
Woodland Slough	Clark	100
Wynoochee River	Grays Harbor	100
Yakima River	Kittitas	100
Yale Lake (Res.)	Clark/Cowlitz	200

(j) Commercial crawfish harvest permits will be issued to limit the number of crawfish pots permissible per fisherman per body of water in suitable crawfish harvest sites not listed in subsections (4) (d) and (e) of this section as follows:

- (i) Under 20 acres - No commercial harvest.
- (ii) 20 acres to 100 acres - 50 pots.
- (iii) 101 acres to 400 acres - 100 pots.
- (iv) Over 400 acres - 200 pots.

(k) Permits may be issued only in waters where fishing will not conflict with high density residential or recreational areas. No permit will be issued where developed parks encompass more than 1/2 of the water shoreline.

(5) It is unlawful to discard any crawfish bait into the waters of the state.

(6) This section does not apply to the commercial culture of crawfish at a registered aquatic farm.

(7) It is unlawful to fish for or possess crawfish taken for commercial purposes in violation of this section. Violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.500, 77.15.520, 77.15.522, or 77.15.540, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04-055 [77.04.055], 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 22-08-048, § 220-340-700, filed 3/31/22, effective 5/1/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), re-codified as § 220-340-700, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 12-23-016 (Order 12-267), § 220-52-060, filed 11/9/12, effective 12/10/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080. WSR 94-12-009 (Order 94-23), § 220-52-060, filed 5/19/94, effective 6/19/94; WSR 91-10-024 (Order 91-22), § 220-52-060, filed 4/23/91, effective 5/24/91; WSR 87-23-006 (Order 87-187), § 220-52-060, filed 11/6/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080 and 75.58.040. WSR 86-19-043 (Order 86-102), § 220-52-060, filed 9/12/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080. WSR 80-13-064 (Order 80-123), § 220-52-060, filed 9/17/80; WSR 79-02-053 (Order 79-6), § 220-52-060, filed 1/30/79; Order 76-26, § 220-52-060, filed 1:45 p.m., 4/20/76; Order 945, § 220-52-060, filed 8/16/71; Order 807, § 220-52-060, filed 1/2/69, effective 2/1/69; subsections 1-7, Orders 414 and 256, filed 3/1/60.]