
HOUSE BILL 1955

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Rule, Dent, Simmons, and Nance

Prefiled 02/11/25. Read first time 02/12/25. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging youth participation in fishing and
2 shellfishing; amending RCW 77.08.010, 77.32.470, and 77.32.520; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that youth benefit
6 by engaging in outdoor activities, such as fishing and shellfishing.
7 Participating in such activities can boost self-esteem and cultivate
8 an appreciation for nature. The legislature further finds that
9 license fees can be a barrier to this activity for some youth.
10 Therefore, the legislature intends to reduce financial barriers to
11 fishing and shellfishing by increasing the age at which a fishing
12 license is required.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.08.010 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 8 s 2 are each
14 amended to read as follows:

15 The definitions in this section apply throughout this title or
16 rules adopted under this title unless the context clearly requires
17 otherwise.

18 (1) "Angling gear" means a line attached to a rod and reel
19 capable of being held in hand while landing the fish or a handheld
20 line operated without rod or reel.

1 (2) "Bag limit" means the maximum number of game animals, game
2 birds, or game fish which may be taken, caught, killed, or possessed
3 by a person, as specified by rule of the commission for a particular
4 period of time, or as to size, sex, or species.

5 (3) "Building" means a private domicile, garage, barn, or public
6 or commercial building.

7 (4) "Closed area" means a place where the hunting of some or all
8 species of wild animals or wild birds is prohibited.

9 (5) "Closed season" means all times, manners of taking, and
10 places or waters other than those established by rule of the
11 commission as an open season. "Closed season" also means all hunting,
12 fishing, taking, or possession of game animals, game birds, game
13 fish, food fish, or shellfish that do not conform to the special
14 restrictions or physical descriptions established by rule of the
15 commission as an open season or that have not otherwise been deemed
16 legal to hunt, fish, take, harvest, or possess by rule of the
17 commission as an open season.

18 (6) "Closed waters" means all or part of a lake, river, stream,
19 or other body of water, where fishing or harvesting is prohibited.

20 (7) "Commercial" means related to or connected with buying,
21 selling, or bartering.

22 (8) "Commission" means the state fish and wildlife commission.

23 (9) "Concurrent waters of the Columbia river" means those waters
24 of the Columbia river that coincide with the Washington-Oregon state
25 boundary.

26 (10) "Contraband" means any property that is unlawful to produce
27 or possess.

28 (11) "Covered animal species" means any species of elephant,
29 rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, pangolin, marine turtle,
30 shark, or ray either: (a) Listed in appendix I or appendix II of the
31 convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora
32 and fauna; or (b) listed as critically endangered, endangered, or
33 vulnerable on the international union for conservation of nature and
34 natural resources red list of threatened species.

35 (12) "Covered animal species part or product" means any item that
36 contains, or is wholly or partially made from, any covered animal
37 species.

38 (13) "Deleterious exotic wildlife" means species of the animal
39 kingdom not native to Washington and designated as dangerous to the
40 environment or wildlife of the state.

1 (14) "Department" means the department of fish and wildlife.

2 (15) "Director" means the director of fish and wildlife.

3 (16) "Distribute" or "distribution" means either a change in
4 possession for consideration or a change in legal ownership.

5 (17) "Endangered species" means wildlife designated by the
6 commission as seriously threatened with extinction.

7 (18) "Ex officio fish and wildlife officer" means:

8 (a) A commissioned officer of a municipal, county, or state
9 agency having as its primary function the enforcement of criminal
10 laws in general, while the officer is acting in the respective
11 jurisdiction of that agency;

12 (b) An officer or special agent commissioned by one of the
13 following: The national marine fisheries service; the Washington
14 state parks and recreation commission; the United States fish and
15 wildlife service; the Washington state department of natural
16 resources; the United States forest service; or the United States
17 parks service, if the agent or officer is in the respective
18 jurisdiction of the primary commissioning agency and is acting under
19 a mutual law enforcement assistance agreement between the department
20 and the primary commissioning agency;

21 (c) A commissioned fish and wildlife peace officer from another
22 state who meets the training standards set by the Washington state
23 criminal justice training commission pursuant to RCW 10.93.090,
24 43.101.080, and 43.101.200, and who is acting under a mutual law
25 enforcement assistance agreement between the department and the
26 primary commissioning agency; or

27 (d) A Washington state tribal police officer who successfully
28 completes the requirements set forth under RCW 43.101.157, is
29 employed by a tribal nation that has complied with RCW 10.92.020(2)
30 (a) and (b), and is acting under a mutual law enforcement assistance
31 agreement between the department and the tribal government.

32 (19) "Fish" includes all species classified as game fish or food
33 fish by statute or rule, as well as all finfish not currently
34 classified as food fish or game fish if such species exist in state
35 waters. The term "fish" includes all stages of development and the
36 bodily parts of fish species.

37 (20) "To fish" and its derivatives means an effort to kill,
38 injure, harass, harvest, or capture a fish or shellfish.

39 (21) "Fish and wildlife officer" means a person appointed and
40 commissioned by the director, with authority to enforce this title

1 and rules adopted pursuant to this title, and other statutes as
2 prescribed by the legislature. Fish and wildlife officer includes a
3 person commissioned before June 11, 1998, as a wildlife agent or a
4 fisheries patrol officer.

5 (22) "Fish broker" means a person who facilitates the sale or
6 purchase of raw or frozen fish or shellfish on a fee or commission
7 basis, without assuming title to the fish or shellfish.

8 (23) "Fish dealer" means a person who engages in any activity
9 that triggers the need to obtain a fish dealer license under RCW
10 77.65.280.

11 (24) "Fishery" means the taking of one or more particular species
12 of fish or shellfish with particular gear in a particular
13 geographical area.

14 (25) "Food, food waste, or other substance" includes human and
15 pet food or other waste or garbage that could attract large wild
16 carnivores.

17 (26) "Fresh water" means all waters not defined as salt water
18 including, but not limited to, rivers upstream of the river mouth,
19 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

20 (27) "Fur-bearing animals" means game animals that shall not be
21 trapped except as authorized by the commission.

22 (28) "Fur dealer" means a person who purchases, receives, or
23 resells raw furs for commercial purposes.

24 (29) "Game animals" means wild animals that shall not be hunted
25 except as authorized by the commission.

26 (30) "Game birds" means wild birds that shall not be hunted
27 except as authorized by the commission.

28 (31) "Game farm" means property on which wildlife is held,
29 confined, propagated, hatched, fed, or otherwise raised for
30 commercial purposes, trade, or gift. The term "game farm" does not
31 include publicly owned facilities.

32 (32) "Game reserve" means a closed area where hunting for all
33 wild animals and wild birds is prohibited.

34 (33) "To hunt" and its derivatives means an effort to kill,
35 injure, harass, harvest, or capture a wild animal or wild bird.

36 (34) "Illegal items" means those items unlawful to be possessed.

37 (35)(a) "Intentionally feed, attempt to feed, or attract" means
38 to purposefully or knowingly provide, leave, or place in, on, or
39 about any land or building any food, food waste, or other substance

1 that attracts or could attract large wild carnivores to that land or
2 building.

3 (b) "Intentionally feed, attempt to feed, or attract" does not
4 include keeping food, food waste, or other substance in an enclosed
5 garbage receptacle or other enclosed container unless specifically
6 directed by a fish and wildlife officer or animal control authority
7 to secure the receptacle or container in another manner.

8 (36) "Large wild carnivore" includes wild bear, cougar, and wolf.

9 (37) "License year" means the period of time for which a
10 recreational license is valid. The license year begins April 1st, and
11 ends March 31st.

12 (38) "Limited-entry license" means a license subject to a license
13 limitation program established in chapter 77.70 RCW.

14 (39) "Limited fish seller" means a licensed commercial fisher who
15 sells his or her fish or shellfish to anyone other than a wholesale
16 fish buyer thereby triggering the need to obtain a limited fish
17 seller endorsement under RCW 77.65.510.

18 (40) "Money" means all currency, script, personal checks, money
19 orders, or other negotiable instruments.

20 (41) "Natural person" means a human being.

21 (42)(a) "Negligently feed, attempt to feed, or attract" means to
22 provide, leave, or place in, on, or about any land or building any
23 food, food waste, or other substance that attracts or could attract
24 large wild carnivores to that land or building, without the awareness
25 that a reasonable person in the same situation would have with regard
26 to the likelihood that the food, food waste, or other substance could
27 attract large wild carnivores to the land or building.

28 (b) "Negligently feed, attempt to feed, or attract" does not
29 include keeping food, food waste, or other substance in an enclosed
30 garbage receptacle or other enclosed container unless specifically
31 directed by a fish and wildlife officer or animal control authority
32 to secure the receptacle or container in another manner.

33 (43) "Nonresident" means a person who has not fulfilled the
34 qualifications of a resident.

35 (44) "Offshore waters" means marine waters of the Pacific Ocean
36 outside the territorial boundaries of the state, including the marine
37 waters of other states and countries.

38 (45) "Open season" means those times, manners of taking, and
39 places or waters established by rule of the commission for the lawful
40 hunting, fishing, taking, or possession of game animals, game birds,

1 game fish, food fish, or shellfish that conform to the special
2 restrictions or physical descriptions established by rule of the
3 commission or that have otherwise been deemed legal to hunt, fish,
4 take, or possess by rule of the commission. "Open season" includes
5 the first and last days of the established time.

6 (46) "Owner" means the person in whom is vested the ownership
7 dominion, or title of the property.

8 (47) "Person" means and includes an individual; a corporation; a
9 public or private entity or organization; a local, state, or federal
10 agency; all business organizations, including corporations and
11 partnerships; or a group of two or more individuals acting with a
12 common purpose whether acting in an individual, representative, or
13 official capacity.

14 (48) "Personal property" or "property" includes both corporeal
15 and incorporeal personal property and includes, among other property,
16 contraband and money.

17 (49) "Personal use" means for the private use of the individual
18 taking the fish or shellfish and not for sale or barter.

19 (50) "Predatory birds" means wild birds that may be hunted
20 throughout the year as authorized by the commission.

21 (51) "To process" and its derivatives mean preparing or
22 preserving fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

23 (52) "Protected wildlife" means wildlife designated by the
24 commission that shall not be hunted or fished.

25 (53) "Raffle" means an activity in which tickets bearing an
26 individual number are sold for not more than (~~twenty-five dollars~~)
27 \$25 each and in which a permit or permits are awarded to hunt or for
28 access to hunt big game animals or wild turkeys on the basis of a
29 drawing from the tickets by the person or persons conducting the
30 raffle.

31 (54) "Resident" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 77.08.075.

32 (55) "Salt water" means those marine waters seaward of river
33 mouths.

34 (56) "Seaweed" means marine aquatic plant species that are
35 dependent upon the marine aquatic or tidal environment, and exist in
36 either an attached or free floating form, and includes, but is not
37 limited to, marine aquatic plants in the classes Chlorophyta,
38 Phaeophyta, and Rhodophyta.

39 (57) "Senior" means a person (~~seventy~~) 70 years old or older.

1 (58) "Shark fin" means a raw, dried, or otherwise processed
2 detached fin or tail of a shark.

3 (59) (a) "Shark fin derivative product" means any product intended
4 for use by humans or animals that is derived in whole or in part from
5 shark fins or shark fin cartilage.

6 (b) "Shark fin derivative product" does not include a drug
7 approved by the United States food and drug administration and
8 available by prescription only or medical device or vaccine approved
9 by the United States food and drug administration.

10 (60) "Shellfish" means those species of marine and freshwater
11 invertebrates that have been classified and that shall not be taken
12 or possessed except as authorized by rule of the commission. The term
13 "shellfish" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts
14 of shellfish species.

15 (61) "State waters" means all marine waters and fresh waters
16 within ordinary high water lines and within the territorial
17 boundaries of the state.

18 (62) "To take" and its derivatives means to kill, injure,
19 harvest, or capture a fish, shellfish, wild animal, bird, or seaweed.

20 (63) "Taxidermist" means a person who, for commercial purposes,
21 creates lifelike representations of fish and wildlife using fish and
22 wildlife parts and various supporting structures.

23 (64) "Trafficking" means offering, attempting to engage, or
24 engaging in sale, barter, or purchase of fish, shellfish, wildlife,
25 or deleterious exotic wildlife.

26 (65) "To trap" and its derivatives means a method of hunting
27 using devices to capture wild animals or wild birds.

28 (66) "Unclaimed" means that no owner of the property has been
29 identified or has requested, in writing, the release of the property
30 to themselves nor has the owner of the property designated an
31 individual to receive the property or paid the required postage to
32 effect delivery of the property.

33 (67) "Unclassified wildlife" means wildlife existing in
34 Washington in a wild state that have not been classified as big game,
35 game animals, game birds, predatory birds, protected wildlife,
36 endangered wildlife, or deleterious exotic wildlife.

37 (68) "To waste" or "to be wasted" means to allow any edible
38 portion of any game bird, food fish, game fish, shellfish, or big
39 game animal other than cougar to be rendered unfit for human
40 consumption, or to fail to retrieve edible portions of such a game

1 bird, food fish, game fish, shellfish, or big game animal other than
2 cougar from the field. For purposes of this chapter, edible portions
3 of game birds must include, at a minimum, the breast meat of those
4 birds. Entrails, including the heart and liver, of any wildlife
5 species are not considered edible.

6 (69) "Wholesale fish buyer" means a person who engages in any
7 fish buying or selling activity that triggers the need to obtain a
8 wholesale fish buyer endorsement under RCW 77.65.340.

9 (70) "Wild animals" means those species of the class Mammalia
10 whose members exist in Washington in a wild state. The term "wild
11 animal" does not include feral domestic mammals or old world rats and
12 mice of the family Muridae of the order Rodentia.

13 (71) "Wild birds" means those species of the class Aves whose
14 members exist in Washington in a wild state.

15 (72) "Wildlife" means all species of the animal kingdom whose
16 members exist in Washington in a wild state. This includes, but is
17 not limited to, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and
18 invertebrates. The term "wildlife" does not include feral domestic
19 mammals, old world rats and mice of the family Muridae of the order
20 Rodentia, or those fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates
21 classified as food fish or shellfish by the director. The term
22 "wildlife" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts of
23 wildlife members.

24 (73) "Wildlife meat cutter" means a person who packs, cuts,
25 processes, or stores wildlife for consumption for another for
26 commercial purposes.

27 (74) "Youth" means a person (~~((fifteen))~~) 18 years old and under
28 for fishing and under (~~((sixteen))~~) 16 years old for hunting.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.32.470 and 2020 c 148 s 20 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) A personal use saltwater, freshwater, combination, temporary,
32 or family fishing weekend license is required for all persons
33 (~~((fifteen))~~) 18 years of age or older to fish for or possess fish
34 taken for personal use from state waters or offshore waters.

35 (2) The fees for annual personal use saltwater, freshwater, or
36 combination licenses are as follows:

37 (a) A combination license allows the holder to fish for or
38 possess fish, shellfish, and seaweed from state waters or offshore
39 waters. The fee for this license is (~~((forty-five dollars))~~) \$45 for

1 residents, (~~one hundred eight dollars~~) \$108 for nonresidents, and
2 (~~five dollars~~) \$5 for youth. There is an additional (~~fifty-cent~~)
3 50 cent surcharge for this license, to be deposited in the rockfish
4 research account created in RCW 77.12.702.

5 (b) A saltwater license allows the holder to fish for or possess
6 fish taken from saltwater areas. The fee for this license is
7 (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 for residents, (~~fifty-two dollars~~) \$52
8 for nonresidents, and (~~five dollars~~) \$5 for resident seniors. There
9 is an additional (~~fifty-cent~~) 50 cent surcharge for this license,
10 to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW
11 77.12.702.

12 (c) A freshwater license allows the holder to fish for, take, or
13 possess food fish or game fish species in all freshwater areas. The
14 fee for this license is (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 for residents,
15 (~~seventy-five dollars~~) \$75 for nonresidents, and (~~five dollars~~)
16 \$5 for resident seniors.

17 (3) (a) A temporary combination fishing license is valid for one
18 to three consecutive days and allows the holder to fish for or
19 possess fish, shellfish, and seaweed taken from state waters or
20 offshore waters. The fee for this temporary fishing license is:

21 (i) One day - (~~Eight dollars~~) \$8 for residents and (~~sixteen~~
22 ~~dollars~~) \$16 for nonresidents;

23 (ii) Two days - (~~Twelve dollars~~) \$12 for residents and
24 (~~twenty-four dollars~~) \$24 for nonresidents; and

25 (iii) Three days - (~~Fifteen dollars~~) \$15 for residents and
26 (~~thirty dollars~~) \$30 for nonresidents.

27 (b) The fee for a charter stamp is (~~eight dollars~~) \$8 for a
28 one-day temporary combination fishing license for residents and
29 nonresidents for use on a charter boat as defined in RCW 77.65.150.

30 (c) Except for active duty military personnel serving in any
31 branch of the United States armed forces, the temporary combination
32 fishing license is not valid on game fish species for an eight-
33 consecutive-day period beginning on the opening day of the lowland
34 lake fishing season as defined by rule of the commission.

35 (d) The temporary combination fishing license fee for active duty
36 military personnel serving in any branch of the United States armed
37 forces is the resident rate as set forth in (a) of this subsection.
38 Active duty military personnel must provide a valid military
39 identification card at the time of purchase of the temporary license
40 to qualify for the resident rate.

1 (e) There is an additional (~~(fifty-cent)~~) 50 cent surcharge on
2 the temporary combination fishing license and the associated charter
3 stamp, to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in
4 RCW 77.12.702.

5 (4) A family fishing weekend license allows for a maximum of six
6 anglers: One resident and five youth; two residents and four youth;
7 or one resident, one nonresident, and four youth. This license allows
8 the holders to fish for or possess fish taken from state waters or
9 offshore waters. The fee for this license is (~~(twenty-dollars)~~) \$20.
10 This license is only valid during periods as specified by rule of the
11 department.

12 (5) The commission may adopt rules to create and sell combination
13 licenses for all hunting and fishing activities at or below a fee
14 equal to the total cost of the individual license contained within
15 any combination.

16 (6) The commission may adopt rules to allow the use of two
17 fishing poles per fishing license holder for use on selected state
18 waters. If authorized by the commission, license holders must
19 purchase a two-pole stamp to use a second pole. The proceeds from the
20 sale of the two-pole stamp must be deposited into the limited fish
21 and wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170(1) and used for the
22 operation and maintenance of state-owned fish hatcheries. The fee for
23 a two-pole stamp is (~~(thirteen-dollars)~~) \$13 for residents and
24 nonresidents, and (~~(five-dollars)~~) \$5 for seniors.

25 **Sec. 4.** RCW 77.32.520 and 2011 c 339 s 13 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) A personal use shellfish and seaweed license is required for
28 all persons other than residents or nonresidents under (~~(fifteen)~~) 18
29 years of age to fish for, take, dig for, or possess seaweed or
30 shellfish, including razor clams, for personal use from state waters
31 or offshore waters including national park beaches.

32 (2) A razor clam license allows a person to harvest only razor
33 clams for personal use from state waters, including national park
34 beaches.

35 (3) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed
36 licenses are:

37 (a) For a resident (~~(fifteen)~~) 18 years of age or older, (~~(ten~~
38 ~~dollars)~~) \$10;

1 (b) For a nonresident (~~(fifteen)~~) 18 years of age or older,
2 (~~(twenty-seven-dollars)~~) \$27; and

3 (c) For a senior, (~~(five-dollars)~~) \$5.

4 (4) The fee for an annual razor clam license is (~~(eight-dollars)~~)
5 \$8 for residents, (~~(fifteen-dollars)~~) \$15 for nonresidents, and
6 (~~(eight-dollars)~~) \$8 for seniors.

7 (5) The fee for a three-day razor clam license is (~~(five~~
8 ~~dollars)~~) \$5 for both residents and nonresidents.

9 (6) A personal use shellfish and seaweed license or razor clam
10 license must be in immediate possession of the licensee and available
11 for inspection while a licensee is harvesting shellfish or seaweed.
12 However, the license does not need to be visible at all times.

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