
HOUSE BILL 2447

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Parshley, Scott, Obras, and Donaghy

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to designating the bluntnose sixgill shark as the
2 state shark; adding a new section to chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds the following:

6 (1) The bluntnose sixgill shark is a unique and iconic marine
7 species closely associated with Washington's coastal and Puget Sound
8 waters. Also known as the cow shark, the bluntnose sixgill shark is
9 one of the only shark species in the world with six gill slits,
10 rather than the more common five. It is among the largest shark
11 species, capable of reaching lengths of more than 15 feet, and is
12 considered a living relic, having existed largely unchanged for many
13 years;

14 (2) Sixgill sharks are typically deep-water animals but are
15 unusually accessible in Washington's inland marine waters, where they
16 can be observed by residents, researchers, and divers at relatively
17 shallow depths. This makes Washington one of the few places in the
18 world where people can regularly observe sixgill sharks in their
19 natural habitat. The city of Des Moines is widely recognized as the
20 "sixgill capital of the world" due to its consistent sightings and
21 research activity; and

1 (3) Designating the sixgill shark as the official state shark
2 will promote public awareness of Washington's marine ecosystems,
3 encourage science-based education, and support efforts to preserve
4 and protect this important species for future generations.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The *Hexanchus griseus*, more commonly known as the bluntnose
8 sixgill shark, is hereby designated as the official shark of the
9 state of Washington.

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