
SENATE BILL 5560

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Chapman, Pedersen, Llias, Nobles, Trudeau, and J. Wilson

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to designating the Pacific razor clam as the
2 state clam; 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 that the Pacific
6 razor clam, *Siliqua patula*, is endemic to the Pacific Northwest and
7 is abundant on Washington's sandy coastal beaches. It is an important
8 part of the cultural identity of the state. For thousands of years
9 for coastal indigenous people, and for hundreds of years for their
10 fellow Washingtonians, digging for razor clams has been a
11 subsistence, recreational, and commercial activity that is family
12 centric and enjoyed by all ages. Scientific, sustainable clam
13 management has resulted in safe and bountiful harvests. As a result,
14 razor clamming is a living tradition that attracts hundreds of
15 thousands of people to the seashore every year, providing healthy
16 exercise and outdoor experiences for Washingtonians while bolstering
17 the coastal economy. Armed with clam shovels, tubes, and sometimes
18 using just bare hands, Washingtonians in recent years have harvested
19 as many as 8,000,000 clams annually.

20 The streamlined, oblong shell of the Pacific razor clam is golden
21 hued, symmetrical, and especially handsome. The flesh is meaty and

1 makes for premier table fare as a healthy, organic, wild food source.
2 Additionally, unlike other northwest clam species, razor clams are
3 very mobile with a powerful foot, which makes trying to dig them out
4 of the sand a sporting chase. For all these reasons, the Pacific
5 razor clam is an icon of the state worthy of the title of official
6 clam of the state of Washington.

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

9 The *Siliqua patula*, more commonly known as the Pacific razor
10 clam, is hereby designated as the official clam of the state of
11 Washington.

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