

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.

(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.]