



Washington's **WILD**Future

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL



License revenue is needed to maintain and increase fishing

In 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) asked people throughout the state to share their thoughts on what the department is doing right and where it can improve in the coming years. Thousands of people participated in this initiative, called “Washington’s Wild Future: A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife.”

People focused on several themes, ranging from the complexity of fishing rules to the desire for more recreational and commercial fishing opportunities. The department drew on this feedback in developing the proposals described below, which were discussed at several public workshops in August 2016.

A key goal of the proposal – which would generate about \$15.1 million per year – is to set fees that more accurately reflect fisheries management costs. The proposal also would reduce barriers for youth and senior anglers; improve species management and data collection; and more closely align with fees in neighboring states.

Finally, the proposal would allow the department to keep pace with inflation, to avoid significant periodic increases in the future. These proposals were submitted to the Governor’s Office in September for consideration during the 2017 legislative session.

How would the proposal alter the current recreational fishing license structure?

- **It would align license fees to reflect the cost of providing fishing opportunities.** Some recreational fisheries, such as salmon and steelhead, are more expensive to manage than others, such as inland lake trout and warm-water species. These fee options would reflect those differences by setting higher rates for fisheries that cost more to manage.
- **Senior citizens would qualify for discounted fees at age 65** instead of the current 70. The qualifying age for senior hunting licenses is already set at 65, so this change would ensure consistency across both types of licenses.
- **More young people would be able to fish for free.** Washingtonians recognize the importance of increasing the number of young people who participate in outdoor recreation. Currently, the requirement to purchase a license begins at age 15. This proposal would raise the threshold to age 16, and the



WDFW user submitted photo

department would not require licenses to those 15 and under, other than specific endorsements. A new proposal would allow youth fishers to record their catch on a mentor’s catch record card (as part of the mentor’s daily limit) or purchase a separate catch record card at a reduced rate and have their own daily limit.

- **Anglers would purchase catch record cards for specific species.** The department uses catch record cards to track the harvest of select fish species. Currently, a single catch record card for all four species is provided free of charge with the purchase of a fishing license. The proposal would establish individual catch record cards for four species. After receiving public input during the summer of 2016, the department adjusted this proposal by lowering the suggested price of each catch record card.
- **Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement.** The price of the endorsement would increase by \$1 to match the price charged in Oregon. New funding would support a grant program to enhance fishing opportunities.
- **Non-residents would pay higher fees.** The department’s proposal is designed to capture additional out-of-state revenue without setting rates so high that they would discourage vacationers from coming to the Evergreen State.
- **Inflation.** The proposal would provide for an inflation adjustment every two years, if needed. This would allow WDFW to maintain ongoing operations without having to seek larger increases every few years to address the erosion of buying power.

Recreational Fishing License Fee Proposal for 2017-19

Resident License	Current Out-the-Door	Proposed Out-the-Door
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$55.35	\$64.70
Annual Freshwater	\$29.50	\$35.00
Annual Saltwater	\$30.05	\$35.00
Annual Shellfish	\$17.40	\$26.20
Annual Catch Record Card Salmon *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Annual Catch Record Card Steelhead *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Annual Catch Record Card Sturgeon *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Annual Catch Record Card Halibut *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Salmon *	\$0.00	\$5.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Steelhead *	\$0.00	\$5.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Sturgeon *	\$0.00	\$5.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Halibut *	\$0.00	\$5.00
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$17.00
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$11.50
Razor Clam Annual	\$14.10	\$24.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$17.00
1-Day Temp (Combo)	\$11.35	\$19.60
3-Day Temp (Combo)	\$19.05	\$31.70
Charter Stamp	\$8.50	\$11.00
Guide Stamp	\$8.50	\$11.00

Non Resident License	Current Out-the-Door	Proposed Out-the-Door
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$124.65	\$143.90
Annual Freshwater	\$84.50	\$101.00
Annual Saltwater	\$59.75	\$65.80
Annual Shellfish	\$36.10	\$58.10
Annual Catch Record Card Salmon *	\$0.00	\$15.00
Annual Catch Record Card Steelhead *	\$0.00	\$15.00
Annual Catch Record Card Sturgeon *	\$0.00	\$15.00
Annual Catch Record Card Halibut *	\$0.00	\$15.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Salmon *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Steelhead *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Sturgeon *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Halibut *	\$0.00	\$10.00
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$17.00
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$11.50
Razor Clam Annual	\$21.80	\$39.40
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$17.00
1-Day Temp (Combo)	\$20.15	\$26.20
3-Day Temp (Combo)	\$35.55	\$50.40
Charter Stamp	\$8.50	\$11.00
Guide Stamp	\$8.50	\$11.00

Senior Resident (Out-the-Door)	Current Fee 65-69	Current Fee for 70+	Proposed Fee 65 and Over
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$55.35	N/A	\$28.95
Annual Freshwater	\$29.50	\$8.00	\$10.80
Annual Saltwater	\$30.05	\$8.50	\$11.35
Annual Shellfish	\$17.40	\$8.00	\$10.80
Annual Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$17.00
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$3.80	\$3.80	\$11.50
Razor Clam Annual	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$24.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$9.70	\$9.70	\$18.50
Columbia River Endorsement	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$6.00	\$7.10

Youth Resident (Out-the-Door)	Current Fee 0-14	Current Fee for 15	Proposed Fee 15 and Under
Angling Combo (Saltwater, Freshwater & Shellfish)	\$0.00	\$8.05	\$0.00
Annual Freshwater	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Saltwater	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Shellfish	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Annual Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Temporary Catch Record Card Salmon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Steelhead	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Sturgeon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Temporary Catch Record Card Halibut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.50
Puget Sound Crab Annual	\$0.00	\$8.75	\$6.00
Puget Sound Crab Temp	\$0.00	N/A	\$3.25
Razor Clam Annual	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
3-Day Razor Clam	\$0.00	\$9.70	\$0.00
Columbia River Endorsement	\$0.00	\$7.10	\$0.00
Two-pole	\$14.80	\$14.80	\$17.00

* **Note:** Currently, a single catch record card for all four species is provided free of charge with the purchase of a fishing license.