



# Recreational hunting and fishing

2018 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST | **HB 2505** and **SB 6198**

## Annual participation and economic impact

### Fishing

26.3 million participant days

\$1.5 billion in expenditures

### HUNTING

17.5 million participant days

\$1.8 billion in expenditures

Based on the Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State published in January 2015.



## Increasing participation

Recreational hunting and fishing are favorite pastimes for many Washington residents and are significant economic drivers. Each year, hunters and anglers spend \$3.4 billion in Washington state alone and about \$71.7 billion nationally. Outdoor recreation is big business to local communities and is a critical revenue stream for rural economies.

Given the importance of recreation to the state, WDFW is working to increase participation in hunting and fishing and is seeking the Legislature's support. Through proposed changes in licensing, the department is looking to make it easier for families to take part in activities together, reinvigorate people who are no longer active license holders to once again participate in the sport and to make fishing more enticing to those new to the sport. With the average age of hunters and anglers increasing (see table below), WDFW is looking for ways to encourage young people to make hunting and fishing lifetime sports.

The department is asking for changes in legislation that would:

- Allow young anglers to fish without a license until the age of 16, aligning with the age young hunters are required to buy a discounted license. Currently, youth are defined as persons under the age of 15 for fishing, and under the age of 16 for hunting.
- Provide an incentive – a \$20 discount – toward the first purchase of a hunting license for new hunter education graduates.
- Give the department the authority to create multi-year license packages as well as provide WDFW's director with the ability to offer promotional pricing.
- Allow the public to purchase temporary fishing licenses, rather than annual licenses, to participate in the popular lowland lake trout opener, which typically provides anglers a great opportunity to catch fish.

### Average age of license purchasers

