



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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TRIAL HAGFISH FISHERY INFORMATION

TO: Washington Hagfish Trial Fishery License Holders and Alternate Operators and Dealers

FROM: Donna Downs, Hagfish Fishery Coordinator

The commercial hagfish fishery in Washington is conducted under the Emerging Commercial Fishery Act (ECFA). It is important to understand fisheries operating under the ECFA are not permanent. The purpose of the ECFA is to allow the development and evaluation of new fishery opportunities. License holders in any fishery operating under the ECFA are issued permits which list conditions that support collection of catch and biological data necessary to fishery evaluation.

Please review your Hagfish Trial Fishery Permit carefully. It lists conditions which all hagfish trial license holders and alternate operators in the hagfish fishery must abide by, or be subject to fines, permit revocation or denial of future permit applications for failure to do so.

- Logbooks can be obtained by contacting the hagfish fishery coordinator.
 - Trial license holders are ultimately responsible for the completion and submission of logbooks.
- Each hagfish vessel is assigned a specific WDFW sampler based on port of landing. As part of the permitting process, you will need to indicate which port you intend to operate from primarily. Then,
 - Prior to each landing you must contact your assigned sampler. If your call is not answered, leave a message stating: skipper name, vessel name, port of landing, and an estimated day and time of landing. You may also provide this information via a text message. Once this information is provided, no further action is required.

It is essential that fishers support the efforts to collect the catch and biological data necessary to evaluate the sustainability of the hagfish fishery. As noted above, fisheries established under the ECFA are not permanent and can be closed if deemed necessary to protect and preserve the target species, in particular, or more broadly marine ecosystem habitat or health.

For more information contact:

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Lorna Wargo, Fishery Manager, 360.591.5872

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