

Protecting public safety Washington's shellfish industry



A 2020 Supplemental Funding Request:

WDFW requests
**\$553,000 for
remaining
19-20 need in
biennium**

(\$2.5 million in 21-23
biennium ongoing)

to continue conducting
4,700 shellfish-related
patrols annually

For more information

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The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is facing a \$31 million budget shortfall in the 2019-2021 biennium. Roughly \$2.53 million of that shortfall is used to fund enforcement that ensures safe and sanitary harvest and sales of farmed and wild shellfish.

WDFW Police are the state's primary authority for natural resource protection. They are mandated to protect shellfish resources, as well as the economic well-being and stability of the shellfish industry.

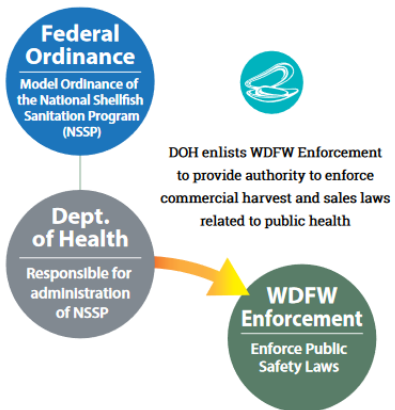
Through an agreement with the Washington Department of Health (DOH), WDFW Police enforce commercial shellfish harvest and sales laws related to public health for both wild and farmed shellfish.

Absent the \$2.53 million in funding for shellfish-related patrols, WDFW Police will need to reduce commercial fishery enforcement activities by 20 percent. The deficit will result in a reduction of 7.33 FTE Fish and Wildlife Officers.

What is at Stake?

Washington is one of the nation's top seafood producers with both domestic and international markets, ranking in the top three states for total catch, aquatic farm production, and seafood processing. The state is the nation's top producer of shellfish such as clams, mussels, oysters and geoduck, accounting for 85 percent of West Coast production.

Today, Washington's shellfish industry contributes significantly to state and tribal economies, employing thousands of people in both cities and rural communities. Safe, abundant, and sustainable shellfish fisheries are an indicator of a healthy environment, a robust economy, and ensure that treaty obligations are met.



Shellfish Patrols Protect and Benefit:



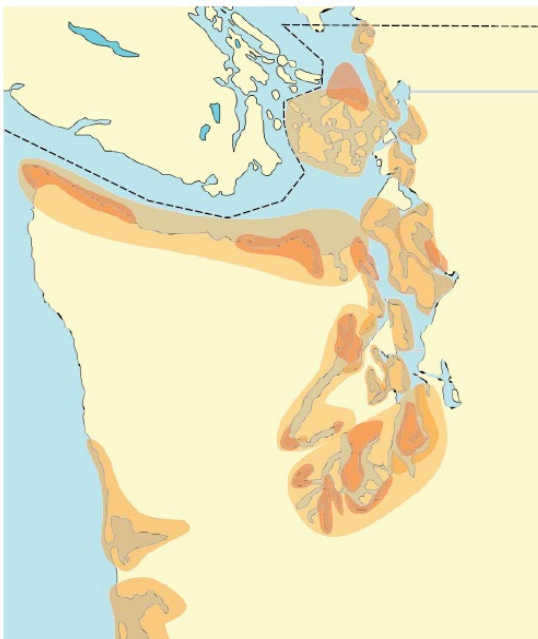
In order to protect Washington state's shellfish industry and its impact on treaty rights and the local economy, WDFW Police collaborate with DOH to implement the Model Ordinance of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP).

Shellfish growing area patrol requirements under the NSSP's Model Ordinance are the highest in the Nation with WDFW Police averaging more than 4,700 statewide shellfish patrols a year.

Conclusion:

Without the \$2.53 million WDFW is requesting for shellfish patrols, the Department can no longer honor its agreement with DOH to support this work after the 2019 biennium. However, if funding is secured, it would allow WDFW Police to continue NSSP shellfish patrols and enforcement of shellfish regulations related to public health.

WDFW proposes General Fund State (GFS) funding for implementation of public health and safety shellfish patrols and enforcement activities and the NSSP Model Ordinance. Effective enforcement of shellfish sanitation regulations protects the public health, treaty rights, and the integrity and reputation of Washington's shellfish industry.



Shellfish areas patrolled by WDFW

Conducted 2017-19 Biennium National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Model Ordinance Patrols

