



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

September 15, 2022

Dear Commercial Harvesters and Buyers of Fish and Shellfish:

This letter is an update to our June 9, 2022, letter regarding WA-Tix, the new electronic catch reporting application/software developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) approved the WA-Tix rules, allowing the Department to implement mandatory electronic catch reporting in coastal and Puget Sound commercial crab and shrimp fisheries. The requirement for mandatory electronic catch reporting was adopted by the Commission in 2021 but was delayed to further develop the WA-Tix application, resolve unforeseen legal issues, and complete the Commission rulemaking. The first fishery impacted by these requirements will be the non-treaty Puget Sound commercial Dungeness crab fishery which opens on October 1, 2022. This rule also applies to the coastal commercial Dungeness crab (starting when the fishery next opens) and coastal pink shrimp fisheries (currently open). The 2022 Puget Sound commercial non-spot shrimp fishery which is currently wrapping up, will not require mandatory electronic catch reporting. Electronic fish ticket reporting includes the option of using the WA-Tix application or the E-tix application through Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Recall that E-tix requires a computer and WA-tix is a mobile application that allows buyers to complete electronic fish receiving tickets at either a traditional buying station or remotely in the field.

We understand this is a big change for many and Department staff are available to help make the transition as easy as possible. The non-treaty Puget Sound Dungeness crab fishery opens October 1, 2022 and to support dealers, Department staff will be conducting limited site visits in September to test the application. This will allow dealers and their staff to ask any questions regarding the application itself or the transition from paper to electronic fish receiving tickets. All department staff are current regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and will follow procedures required by the State and your facilities. The trainings in September will focus on dealers located in the Puget Sound region with additional training opportunities in other areas to be announced later. The E-Tix application has been broadly used by coastal pink shrimp fishery dealers voluntarily since 2018 and the mandatory electronic catch reporting rule essentially formalizes an existing practice.

Getting Signed Up

To aid in the transition to electronic catch reporting using the WA-Tix application starting Oct. 1, there are a few things you can do now. First, you will need to set up a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account at secureaccess.wa.gov. Also, please send an email to watixsupport@dfw.wa.gov with your Dealer name, Dealer ID number, and up to date contact information including the email address that is linked to the SAW account that you registered for.

Training Sessions

The WA Tix application will be available for download on both iOS and Android platforms from the respective app stores on 9/27/2022.

WDFW will offer two training sessions later this month for any dealer needing help getting started using WA-Tix. WDFW enforcement, fisheries managers, and IT staff will be available during these training sessions to show how the app functions and answer any questions.

Training Dates

- **9/27 – 10am-12pm** – Hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person at WDFW Millcreek office conference room.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86328061949?pwd=NWVpZE1YeINSS3JtZTU5WkJob2Z5UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 2806 1949

Passcode: 2022

Address: 16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012

- **9/29 – 10am-12pm** – Via Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86328061949?pwd=NWVpZE1YeINSS3JtZTU5WkJob2Z5UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 2806 1949

Passcode: 2022

Training session meeting links, training materials including user manuals, a YouTube video describing how to submit a fish ticket, and additional supporting information will be available on our new WA-Tix website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/wa-tix>. This website will go live 9/27/22.

If you have any additional questions, please contact WA-Tix user support at watixsupport@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

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