



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FISH PROGRAM, FISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION, PUGET SOUND SHELLFISH UNIT

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State-licensed wet storage operators:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is charged with protecting and perpetuating the fish and wildlife resources of the state. Among our responsibilities is managing risks associated with introduction or spread of shellfish and seaweed diseases and pests. Such pests and diseases can be extremely damaging to Washington's shellfish resources and marine environments. The movement of live shellfish is one pathway through which shellfish pathogens or pests can be introduced or spread. Consequently, WDFW regulations require a Shellfish Transfer¹ Permit for movement of shellfish into or around state waters.

The movement of any shellfish into wet storage sites and live holding facilities that are within or connected to (such as through water discharge) state waters requires a permit; this includes for shellfish harvested from Washington state waters. Shellfish wet storage facilities--such as on-beach sites, flow-through tanks, and in-water sink floats—all require approval and permitting from WDFW (not just from the Department of Health). Among WDFW's current concerns are the expansion of international trade of live shellfish, which may result in more imported live seafood (and exotic pathogens) entering our state, and the expanding range of harmful European green crab in Washington.

WDFW reminds all companies that operation of wet storage sites or live holding facilities that are within or connected to state waters without an approval and permit from WDFW is unlawful. To protect our waters and shellfish populations from potential diseases arriving with imported shellfish, it is especially critical that no live imported shellfish are placed into wet storage without review and authorization from WDFW.

Please help protect Washington waters from harmful pests and pathogens. For more information on WDFW permitting, shellfish disease and pest issues, and other requirements visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/fishing/shellfish-import-transfer>. You may contact us at shellfishpermits@dfw.wa.gov with questions or permit applications.

Additional information on how you can safeguard our state's shellfish resources and marine environments is available on our public outreach campaign website: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/campaigns/safeguard-our-shellfish/>.

Sincerely,

Nam Siu
Shellfish Permitting Coordinator
Shellfish and Seaweed Health and Biosecurity Unit
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

¹WAC 220-340-150