

Legislative Update

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January 10, 2025



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

2025 Legislative Session

- Long session (105 days)
- Starting on Monday January 13
- Sine Die on Sunday April 27



Washington State Legislative Building. Photo by DES.

Agency Request Legislation

1. Increase the renewal fee for personalized license plates
2. Increase efficacy of enforcement for fish and wildlife violations



Northern harrier and short-eared owl. Photo by Dante Aubert.



White-tailed deer. Photo by John Smith.

Personalized License Plate Renewal Fee

- Personalized license plate fees are \$52 initial and \$42 renewal.
- WDFW is proposing a \$10 increase for the renewal from \$42 to \$52.
- Projected revenue = \$838,000 per fiscal year beginning in FY26.



Personalized License Plate



Special Background Plate



**Special Background Plate +
Personalized License Plate**

Enforcement violation options

Background

- During the 2020 session, significant additions to civil infraction authority were created.
- The changes were related to recreational fishing and small game along with agency permits.
- These changes have been very successful, and WDFW is now requesting similar changes for big game violations and low-level commercial guide and charter violations.

Enforcement violation options

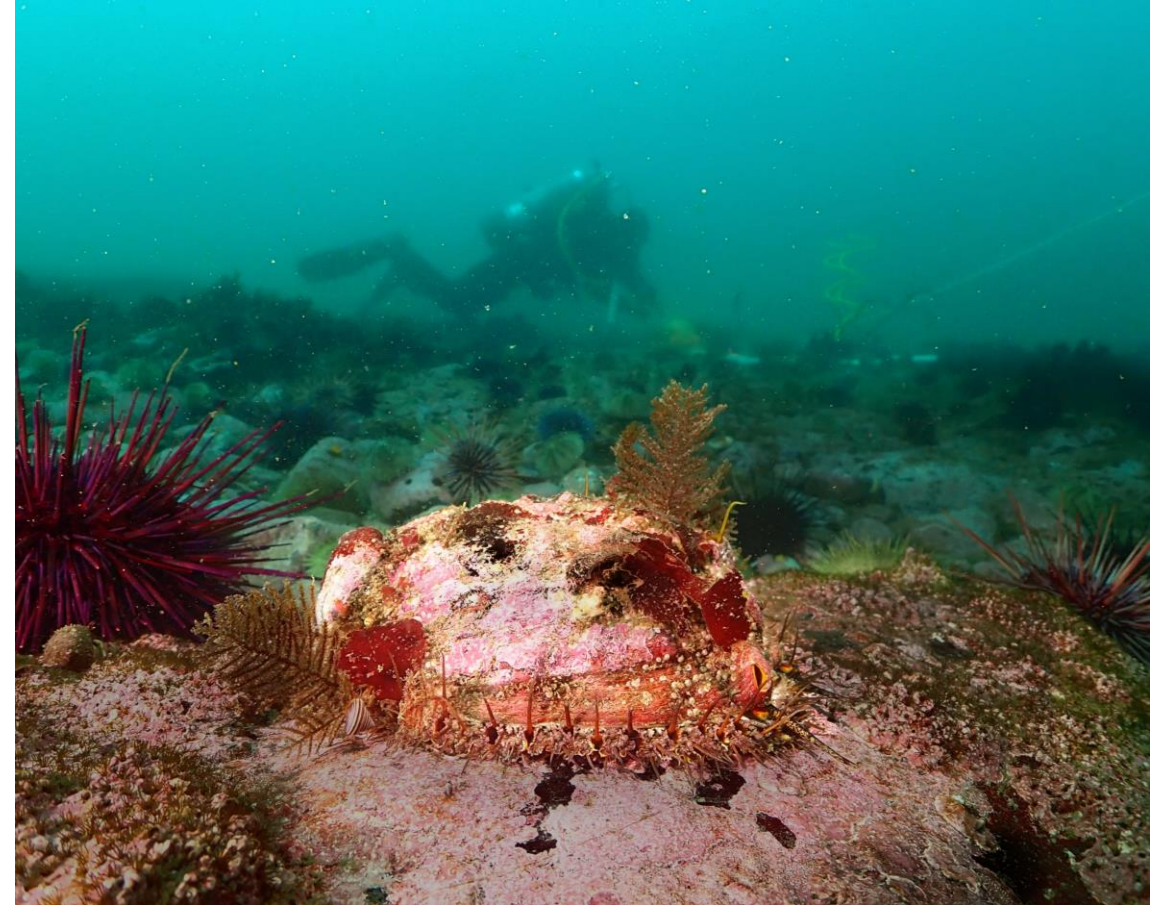
Increased infraction authority has relieved prosecutors from addressing low-level criminal conduct and allowed for meaningful deterrence options for minor violations.

The proposal includes infraction authority for

- Certain big game violations
- Certain firearm violations
- Certain hydraulic violations
- Low-level fishing guide and charter violations

Other bills

- Kelp forest state symbol
- Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP)
- Wildlife connectivity
- Puget Sound nonspot shrimp pot license
- Wolf management



Pinto abalone and diver. Photo by WDFW.



Questions?

Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.