



# 2015 Agency Request Legislative Proposals

Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

August 9, 2014

Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison



# 2015 Proposal Timeline

- May 9 – submit draft proposals
- May 14 – Director’s Office review
- June 16 – EMT review
- **August 9 – FWC review**
- August 15 – FWC approval
- September 19 – submit to OFM/GOV  
(with fiscal impacts)
- October 1– submit to OFM/GOV  
(without fiscal impacts)

# Context for the 2015 Session



- Biennial budget year
- Election year
  - All 98 House and 24 of 49 Senate seats up
  - Anticipated divided government
- 105-day long session
- Special Session(s) expected

# 2015 Agency-Request Summary



1. Recreational Fishing License Fees\*
2. Commercial Fishing License Fees
3. Shellfish Excise Tax
4. Aquatic Invasive Species
5. PILT
6. Fishing Charter Guides
7. Hunting under the Influence

# License Fees - Placeholders



- Recreational Fishing License Fees\*
- Commercial Fishing License Fees

\*May include minor changes to hunter fees to increase hunter participation and recruitment.



# Shellfish Excise Tax

## Problem:

- ⦿ Increasing black market for shellfish
- ⦿ Enforcement is inadequately funded
- ⦿ Increased public health risk
- ⦿ Negative impacts to \$270 million shellfish industry with +3200 jobs

# Shellfish Excise Tax



## Proposed Solution:

- Eliminate shellfish aquaculture tax exemption
- Establish a new rate that is levied at 1% taxable value

# Aquatic Invasive Species



## Problem:

- AIS threaten WA's environment and economy
- Preventing AIS avoids large costs to WA ecosystem and resource-based industry
- Current funding levels are inadequate for key prevention activities



# Aquatic Invasive Species



## Proposed Solution:

- Provide adequate funding to implement prevention activities via:
  - 4% Motor Vessel Excise tax redirection
  - AIS voluntary donation
  - Commercial shipping vessel fee

# PILT



## Problem:

- Multiple methods for calculating PILT
- PILT payments have been frozen to 2009 levels
- Frustration by counties has led to lack of support for DFW land acquisitions
- Governor directed agencies to review and revise the program.

# PILT



## Proposed Solution:

- Use a single calculation of PILT
- Remove 2009 level freeze
- Remove requirement for counties to choose between fees, fines and forfeitures or PILT

# Charter Fishing Guides



## Problem:

- Some charter boat operators and guides are intentionally reissuing used stamps
- Current statute does not criminalize this fraudulent behavior
- Thousands of dollars of fishing revenue are being stolen.

# Charter Fishing Guides



## Proposed Solution:

- Discourage charter boat operators and guides from reissuing stamps by making it a crime.

# Hunting Under the Influence



## Problem:

- ⦿ HUI is a high risk to public safety
- ⦿ Current HUI law is difficult to enforce
- ⦿ The crime of HUI does not carry a mandatory suspension of hunting privileges

# Hunting Under the Influence



## Proposed Solution:

- Increase clarity of the offense
- Apply implied consent to a breath test
- Mirror BUI and DUI laws
- Impose a mandatory suspension of hunting privileges for
  - 2 years for first-time offense
  - 10 years if the person has previous convictions

Questions?