



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
SHELLFISH IMPORT PERMIT
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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Section 1. Shellfish Import Permit Guidelines and Explanations

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Shellfish Import Permits (SIP) are required for imports of live aquatic invertebrates (except insects), shellfish, shellfish products, and shell that will come into contact with state waters or for purposes other than human consumption. The purpose of WDFW's SIP requirements is to prevent the introduction, spread and establishment of diseases, pests and invasive species that may cause harm to aquaculture, fisheries, and wildstocks of shellfish. Activities requiring a SIP generally fall into four user groups: commercial shellfish growers and harvesters; non-commercial shellfish growers (i.e. shellfish gardeners or hobbyists); aquarium, display and education; and researchers or research facilities. The following provides guidance *by user group* on what activities require WDFW Shellfish Import Permits.

Commercial Shellfish Growers and Retail or Wholesale Sellers

1. All imports of live shellfish, broodstock, shell, shellfish seed and larvae for the purposes of aquaculture that will or may come into contact with state waters.
2. All imports of live market ready (i.e. for human consumption) shellfish that will be wet stored in or come into contact with state waters.
3. No shellfish imports are “grandfathered” by prior actions, letters, communications, booklets or permits issued by WDFW or the former Washington Dept. of Fisheries.
4. SIPs are issued on an annual basis, with all issued permits becoming invalid on January 1st of the year following that in which issued. Those desiring renewal of permits are advised to apply for renewal at least 30 days before the permit is needed.
5. Shellfish broodstock, seed and larvae imported from a WDFW certified disease and pest free supplier may be transferred onto private tidelands and state waters if accompanied by a valid SIP issued to the supplier. The supplier will provide a copy of their SIP which must accompany the seed, larvae or stock during shipment and subsequent transfer into state waters.
6. Shellfish seed, shell, and stock suppliers issued a SIP must maintain a record of each import including date of shipment, recipient name, address, destination tax parcel number or physical address, species, life stage, and quantity. Import records are to be submitted quarterly to the WDFW Shellfish Disease Prevention Program. This requirement is in addition to any Aquatic Farm Registration reports.
7. Imports from outside the West Coast Commerce Region (WCCR) may only be made into or from WDFW approved quarantine. Refer to Section 3 for a definition and explanation of the WCCR.

Non-commercial Shellfish Growers (i.e. restoration, shellfish gardeners and hobbyists)

1. All imports of live aquatic invertebrates except insects, shellfish, shell, shellfish products, and shellfish seed or larvae onto tidelands, into state waters, or into contact with state waters.

2. A WDFW SIP does not authorize placement of shellfish or shellfish seed onto public tidelands by private individuals or parties. Unauthorized use of public tidelands for private aquaculture may result in criminal and or civil prosecution for trespass and damages.
3. Imports from outside the WCCR may only be made into or from WDFW approved quarantine.

Aquariums, Display and Education

1. All imports of live aquatic invertebrates (except insects), shellfish, shell, shellfish products, and shellfish seed or larvae onto tidelands, into state waters, or into contact with state waters.
2. Imports from outside the WCCR may only be made into WDFW approved quarantine.
3. Disease screening may be waived for imports into quarantine.

Researchers and Research Facilities

1. All imports of live aquatic invertebrates (except insects), shellfish, shell, shellfish products, and shellfish seed or larvae onto tidelands, into state waters, or into contact with state waters.
2. All imports or releases of imported aquatic invertebrates into state waters for the purposes of research.
3. Imports from outside the WCCR may only be made into WDFW approved quarantine.
4. Disease screening may be waived for imports into quarantine.

Section 2. Shellfish Import Permit Instructions

The following sections of the permit application are to be filled out as directed, please refer to Table 1 for information on which sections are required by user group and the following permit application instructions.

Table 1. Sections of the application required to be filled out in entirety, by applicant group.

Applicant	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D
Commercial Shellfish Growers, Buyers, Shippers, Sellers	X	X	X	X
Non-commercial Growers and Hobby Farmers	X	X	X	X
Researchers and Research Facilities	X	X	X	
Display, Aquariums, and Education	X	X	X	

Section A: Applicant Information

- Provide name of company, organization, institution, or agency. Provide name of primary applicant. Additional names to be listed on the permit may be provided in Section B.

- Provide contact information, including a mailing address and physical address, if different.
- Permits may be delivered by e-mail, Fax, or letter. Please identify preference for permit delivery, otherwise permits will be delivered by letter.

Section B: Import Information

- Check the box corresponding to whether this is a new permit application and if applicable, provide previous permit number.
- Provide a number for the quantity that you wish to import.
- Provide information on the species proposed for import, noting both common and latin names.
- Provide information on the life stage proposed for import- i.e. larvae, adult etc.
- Provide information on the source from which the import will be made. Including, general area(i.e. state, province or country, specific location, name and contact information of supplier.
- Provide information on the property to which the shipment will be made. Including, any off-loading areas, general area of the shipment, specific location (i.e. tax parcel #, or facility name and location), name and contact information for an individual at the final destination
- Describe the purpose of the import, noting any special details or comments on the import methods and intermediate shipping points. Include any schematics of holding or quarantine facilities, if available.
- List any additional names to be included on the permit.

Section C:

- Attach or describe the shellfish health history for the geographic source location. This may include government reports and documents, literature, shellfish health examinations by pathologist, and other credible documents (if applicable).
- Attach the shellfish disease free tissue certifications, conducted by a WDFW approved pathologist, which are representative of stocks proposed for import (if applicable). If information is needed on WDFW approved pathologists, contact Paul Clarke or Brady Blake for information.
- Describe the purpose of the proposed import and the shellfish health risk associated with this import.

Section D:

- Check whether this import is being used to create a new (previously non-existing) cultivated shellfish bed. If applicable, provide the relevant AFR number(s) with details on the AFR parcel(s) from which transfer will be made and/or to.
- Type in the AFR number.

Make sure to accept the conditions stated for the permit and sign and date.

Section 3. Import Restrictions

West Coast Commerce Region

The West Coast Commerce Region (WCCR), as defined in WAC 220-77-020, is composed of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and British Columbia. The WCCR was established in order to limit the risk of introducing and/or spreading diseases that may harm shellfish, the shellfish industry, and wildstock fisheries. Established species from existing import areas within the WCCR, with current disease free tissue certification, are eligible for importation.

Import of live aquatic invertebrates from outside the WCCR, except insects, that are not intended for immediate human consumption, may only be made into or from WDFW approved quarantine. Those imports intended for human consumption, that are imported from outside the WCCR, are prohibited from being placed into or coming into contact with state waters. For example, live lobsters imported from any location may not be stored in cages attached to docks or in flow through seawater.

Imports of live aquatic invertebrates from inside the WCCR, that are not intended for immediate human consumption, may be prohibited or restricted to terminal quarantine due to presence of significant disease risks at the point of origin.

Treatments for Pests and Invasive Species

Imports of clam, oyster, and mussel seed or stocks that will be transferred into or may come into contact with state waters are required to be pre-treated with a dilute chlorine dip to prevent import of invasive Green crab (*Carcinus maenus*) and other potential invasive species. Additionally, imports must be free of Japanese oyster drills (*Ocenebrellus ornatus*), and the American oyster drills (*Urosalpinx cinerea*). ***Preventing imports of these species is a priority for protecting the health of Washington's shellfish aquaculture, wildstock fisheries and marine natural resources.***

Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species

Imports and/or possession of aquatic invasive species (AIS) identified in WAC 220-12-090 as "Prohibited" will not be approved by issuance of a WDFW Shellfish Import Permit. Examples of prohibited AIS are Red-swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), and Green crab (*Carcinus maenus*). For further information on Aquatic Invasive Species, refer to: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/>.

Non-established or New Species

Import of non-established or new species for aquaculture requires provision of health certification from a WDFW approved pathologist; health history documentation for the area of origin; and submittal of a State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) checklist. These species may only be imported into WDFW approved quarantine. An Example of a non-established or new species is the Australian Red-claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*).