



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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January 13, 2021

The Honorable Christine Rolfes  
Chair, Senate Ways and Means  
303 John A. Cherberg Building  
Post Office Box 40466  
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

The Honorable Timm Ormsby  
Chair, House Appropriations  
315 John L. O'Brien Building  
Post Office Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Kevin Van De Wege  
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Water  
Natural Resources, and Parks  
212 John A. Cherberg Building  
Post Office Box 40424  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Mike Chapman  
Chair, House Rural Development,  
Natural Resources, and Parks  
132B Legislative Building  
Post Office Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chairpersons Rolfes, Ormsby, Van De Wege, and Chapman:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is required to submit a report to the legislature pursuant to RCW 77.32.070 (2)(b) and (3)(b) regarding the harvest reporting requirement, administrative penalty, and amount of administrative penalty collected.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to set an administrative penalty for failure to comply with rules requiring the reporting of taking or effort to harvest wildlife. The Commission has adopted rules requiring hunters and fishers who fail to complete their report to pay an administrative penalty of ten dollars before issuing a new hunting license or Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch record card.

Please find (attached) a report including background on the issue and fulfilling the requirements of the statute. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Tom McBride, WDFW Legislative Director, at (360)480-1472.

Sincerely,

Kelly Susewind  
Director

# Hunter and Fisher Compliance: Harvest reporting and administrative penalties

## Report to the Legislature

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January 12, 2021

# Background

The Department of Fish and Wildlife relies upon hunter and fisher reporting as a method to assess effort, harvest rates, and to set future seasons. In order to incentivize reporting, the Department provides promotions and increased opportunities for hunters and fishers who self-report their harvest in a timely manner.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to set an administrative penalty for failure to comply with rules requiring the reporting of taking or effort to harvest wildlife. The Commission has adopted rules requiring hunters and fishers who fail to complete their report to pay an administrative penalty of ten dollars before issuing a new hunting license or Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch record card.

Pursuant to RCW 77.32.070 (2)(b) and (3)(b) the Department is required to submit an annual report to the legislature for hunter and fisher compliance with the harvest reporting requirement, administrative penalty, and amount of administrative penalty collected. The hunter compliance requirement applies to all hunting licenses, while the fisher compliance requirement is specific to Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch record cards. This report to the legislature fulfills that requirement.



# 2019-20 Compliance Data and Penalty Revenue Collected

## **Administrative penalty imposed for failure to report: \$10.00**

Administrative penalties are paid for the non-compliance of reporting for the prior license year. Therefore, revenue collected reflects non-compliance in the prior year and a purchase in subsequent year.

License year revenue data more accurately measures customer intentions to participate between April (beginning of license year) and March (end of license year) than fiscal year data. Licenses can be purchased as early as the December prior to the start of the license year.

Fiscal year revenue can shift between license years based on customer purchase habits.

## **Hunter compliance with harvest reporting requirements**

Percentage Reported	Penalty revenue collected License Year 2019	Penalty revenue collected Fiscal Year 2020
60.3%	\$526,910	\$567,310

Compliance is measured at the individual report level, and a single hunter may submit all, some, or none of their required reports. These results are the distribution of *all* big game reporting requirements for LY19 (355,123 total; bear, deer, elk, and turkey reports (cougar excluded)).

For more information on game harvest reporting, visit the Department of Fish and Wildlife [Game Harvest Reports web page](#).

## **Fisher compliance with Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch record card reporting requirements**

Percentage Reported	Penalty revenue collected License Year 2019	Penalty revenue collected Fiscal Year 2020
Summer Season: 51%	\$357,580	\$313,660
Winter Season: 54%		

