



Washington Department of  
FISH & WILDLIFE

# Safeguard Our Shellfish

With over 3,000 miles of shoreline, Washington has diverse coastal habitats and shellfish species. Washington shellfish account for thousands of jobs, provide myriad recreational opportunities, and are culturally significant to many people. The aquaculture industry here is the leading producer of shellfish in the United States!

To help protect this important resource, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has partnered with the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) on the Safeguard Our Shellfish campaign to protect local shellfish against harmful invasive species.



A shellfish grower holds oyster seed.



Safeguard  
Our Shellfish

[invasivespecies.wa.gov/campaigns/  
safeguard-our-shellfish](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/campaigns/safeguard-our-shellfish)



All photos by WDFW

## ***Do your part to keep Washington's shellfish and ecosystems healthy!***

### **When buying shellfish:**

- ▶ Never re-introduce shellfish — dead or alive — into the wild.
- ▶ Don't hang shellfish off the dock or discard shells into state waters.
- ▶ Try to buy local. Know where your seafood comes from and encourage traceability.

### **When harvesting shellfish:**

- ▶ On public beaches, follow Washington harvest rules to help conserve shellfish for future generations.
- ▶ Leave oyster shells at the location and tide height of harvest.
- ▶ Clean your boots and boat before and after leaving the water.
- ▶ Report all invasive species sightings using the WA Invasives mobile app or at [invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting).

WDFW may authorize some activities with proper permits on a case-by-case basis. Refer to our website for more information.

### **Learn more at:**

- ▶ [wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive)
- ▶ [wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/fishing/shellfish-import-transfer](https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/fishing/shellfish-import-transfer)



Watch out for hitchhikers! A non-native snail got stuck in the treads of this boot during a WDFW tidelands survey.



European green crabs trapped in Willapa Bay. This invasive species was first discovered on the Washington coast in 1998.



Request this information in an alternative format or language at [wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation](https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation), 833-855-1012, TTY (711), or [CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov).