

Recreational Shellfish Harvesting

Basic Rules

- ≈ A shellfish/seaweed license is **required** for all shellfish and seaweed harvest (with the exception of crawfish).
- ≈ The license must be displayed on the outside of clothing while harvesting and during transport.
- ≈ Harvester may possess only one daily limit in fresh form.
- ≈ Each digger must have a separate container.
- ≈ Clams can be dug by hand or by hand-operated fork, rake or shovel. Digging equipment can be shared.
- ≈ Undersized clams should be placed 2-4" down into the dug hole and covered to reduce mortality.



Photo courtesy of PCSGA

Manila Clams

Size limit: 1½" minimum
Catch limit: 40 clams or 10 lbs. in shell, whichever comes first (all species combined)
Harvest time: Year-round
Special rules: None

Native Littleneck Clams

Size limit: 1½" minimum
Catch limit: 40 clams or 10 lbs. in shell, whichever comes first (all species combined)
Harvest time: Year-round
Special rules: None



Cockle Clams

Size limit: 1½" minimum
Catch limit: 40 clams or 10 lbs. in shell, whichever comes first (all species combined)
Harvest time: Year-round
Special rules: None

Butter Clams

Size limit: 1½" minimum
Catch limit: 40 clams or 10 lbs. in shell, whichever comes first (all species combined)
Harvest time: Year-round
Special rules: None





Eastern Softshell Clams

Size limit: None

Catch limit: Must be kept regardless of size or condition

Harvest time: Year-round

Special rules: See catch limit

Pacific Oysters

Size limit: 2½" minimum

Catch limit: 18, shucked, leave shells on beach

Harvest time: Year-round

Special rules: Harvest in less than 2' of water, by hand or with hand-held manual prying tool. No hammers.



Mussels

Size limit: None

Catch limit: 10 lbs. in shell

Harvest time: Year-round

Special rules: None

Horse Clams

Size limit: None

Catch limit: 7 daily

Harvest time: Year-round

Special rules: Must take the first 7 clams dug



Dungeness crab

Size limit: 6¼"

Catch limit: 6 males, daily

Harvest time: Dependent on shell condition and allocation, call(1-866-880-5431)

Special rules: Must release all softshell. Catch record card required.

Important Numbers:

Marine Biotoxin Hotline- 1-800-562-5632

State Department of Health- (360) 236-3330

Whatcom County Health and Human Services- (360) 676-6724

State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (Shellfish Hotline)- 1-866-880-5431

For a complete set of regulations (including harvesting for shellfish, crab, shrimp, seaweed, etc.), go to:

<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/reg/fishregs.htm>

To find out where to purchase a license, go to:

<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/lic/vendors/vendors.htm>

