

Scientific Collector's Permit

Bruce Baker

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

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TFW Policy Committee
Electrofishing Workshop

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WDFW Mandate

- *Wildlife, fish, and shellfish are the property of the state. The commission, director, and the department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.*
- *The department shall conserve the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish resources in a manner that does not impair the resource.*

Purpose of Scientific Collector's Permit (SCP)

A scientific permit allows the holder to collect for research or display food fish, game fish, shellfish, and wildlife, including avian nests and eggs.

RCW 77.32.240

SCP Rules

- *It is unlawful for any person to collect fish, shellfish, wildlife, or the nests of birds for research or display purposes on the lands or in the waters of the state of Washington for species, by means, in amounts, or in such condition not authorized under personal use or commercial rules, or in violation of any rule prohibiting possession of unclassified wildlife or prohibited aquatic species, without first obtaining a permit from the department.*

Some Relevant Definitions

- *"Collect" means to take control or to attempt to take control of fish, shellfish, wildlife, or the nests of birds.*
- *"Encountered" means targeted or non-targeted specimens captured, handled or physically affected by the collecting activity.*

Some Relevant Definitions (cont.)

- *"Research" means scientific investigation, and includes education. Electrofishing is a form of scientific investigation.*



What Does Permit Include?

- Species (target and non-target)
 - ESA-listed species require both state and federal permits (NOAA/USFWS)
- Max Number captured by species
- Location(s)
- Method(s) of capture
- Time frame for permit
- General and Specific Conditions

What are the Conditions Associated with a SCP?

There are general and special conditions:

- **General** – placed on every permit
- **Special** – placed on a permit-by-permit basis

General Permitting Conditions

- Permit is non-transferable
- Must be in possession at all times
- Does not ensure compliance with federal, state or local laws
- What can and cannot be collected

General Permitting Conditions (cont.)

- Areas that are off limits to collecting
- WDFW rights for inspection
- Use of Anesthesia
- Reporting requirements



Special Permit Conditions

- At least 96 hours prior to any fish collection activity, regional habitat and fish biologists must be notified.
 - Specific sampling locations must be provided
- Electrofishing shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes stress and injury to aquatic species, and assures human safety.
- Electrofishing shall be avoided when environmental factors exist that would prevent detection of target species.

Special Permit Conditions (cont.)

- Electrofishing is prohibited in identified bull trout habitat and salmonid spawning areas during time of spawning and incubation .
- Electrofishing is prohibited when temperatures are below 4°C or above 18°C.
- Aquatic species must be removed from the electrical field immediately; avoid holding fish or other aquatic species in net when electrical current is on.

Special Permit Conditions (Cont.)

- Electrofishing must always be conducted with at least 2 people for safety and greater sampling efficiency.
- Always position separate hand-held net downstream from anode so that fish, exposed to electrical field, will not be swept away without being detected.



Special Permit Conditions (Cont.)

- Use settings that minimize injury to aquatic species:

- Use straight direct current (DC) settings if possible.

- If straight DC is not an option, begin with lower frequencies or pulse rates (30 Hz).

- Avoid units that cannot produce pulsed DC with frequencies < 60 Hz.

- If pulse width is a programmable option on unit, use 5 milliseconds.

- Never use alternating current (AC).



Why is Notification Important?

Important for regional biologists to know specific location(s) and date(s).

- Prevent needless electrofishing – data may already be available on fish presence, etc.
- Sensitive species may occur.
- Alternative methods may need to be recommended.
- Prevent compromising other aquatic monitoring and research activities.

Data Collected

Annual report is required, including:

- Date of collection
- Specific locations (GPS Coordinates required)
- Species collected (target and non-target)
- Number of individuals collected (by species)
- Disposition of individuals (i.e., released unharmed)

WDFW Website



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<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>

Contact Licensing
360.902.2464
licensing@dfw.wa.gov

Mailing Address
WDFW - Licensing Division
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Scientific Collection Permits

As specified in [WAC 220-20-045](#) and [RCW 77-32-240](#), it is unlawful to collect fish, shellfish, or wildlife or their nests and/or eggs for the purpose of research or display without first obtaining a Washington state scientific collection permit.

State scientific collection permits are issued to scientists/researchers, educators/educational institutions, and museums, aquariums/zoos. They are NOT issued to the general public for collection/take of fish and/or wildlife. Under [WAC 232-12-287](#), it is unlawful to possess wildlife found dead (unless with an appropriate hunting/fishing licenses and following the rules and regulations). One CAN collect/take naturally shed antlers of deer, elk, or moose.

The scientific collection permit fee is \$117 (\$12 for the actual permit and a non-refundable \$105 application fee). Permit processing time is 60 days, pursuant to [WAC 220-20-045](#).

You can download and print information about scientific collection permits and the application for a permit here to the right. Choose from either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat formats.

For current permit holders, you can also print the required annual report due before a renewal permit is issued, here.

Send the application or annual report to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Licensing Division
Attn: SCP
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

If you have questions please contact:

phone: (360) 902-2200
e-mail: scp@dfw.wa.gov

Scientific Collection Permit Instructions and Application

Application



[MS Word Version](#)



[Adobe PDF Version](#)

Instructions



[MS Word Version](#)



[Adobe PDF Version](#)

Annual Report Form



[MS Word Version](#)



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Annual Report Form for Fishes and Aquatic Invertebrates



[MS Excel Version](#)

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/scp/>

Questions??

