



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Randy Dorn  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, Washington 98504

**RE: Permit for Limited Use of Live Prohibited Crayfish in Washington State  
2015-2016 School Science Curriculum**

Dear Superintendent Dorn:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the continued dedication and commitment, shown by your office, to using native crayfish and the Crayfish in Schools work group. Although a full transition to native Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) is preferred, there continues to be an insufficient supply during critical winter months to meet teacher needs. The Department will continue to work with the Crayfish in Schools work group to resolve this last issue. To bridge this supply gap, the Department will issue a new permit for limited use of live prohibited Red Swamp (*Procambarus clarkii*) crayfish to ensure that teachers are able to meet basic 2015-16 school year science curriculum needs.

Please note that this year's permit provides more detail to clarify regulations on possession and disposal requirements for both crayfish and their associated aquarium habitat. These increased requirements are necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of a shellfish disease called White Spot Syndrome Virus that can affect a whole host of native and commercial shellfish species – it is not a risk to humans. In addition, the Department will be working through the Washington Invasive Species Council to implement a new reporting system over the next several years that is intended to help track the number and types of species used in science curriculum and their final disposition.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and appreciate your efforts in science education and preventing the release of any live organisms into Washington's aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems. Please contact Allen Pleus, the Department's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, at (360) 902-2724 if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

Guy Norman  
Interim Assistant Director, Fish Program

# Permit

**Limited Use of Live Prohibited Crayfish  
for  
Washington State 2015-2016 School Science Curriculum**

This document serves as a limited permit for Washington State schools, school districts, and biological supply businesses to transport and possess the prohibited aquatic animal species *Procambarus clarkii* (common names Louisiana or Red Swamp crayfish). The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is authorized to issue this permit under RCW 77.12.047 and 77.135.040, and WAC 220-77-040 and 232-12-016. This permit is valid only for the dates listed below and only if all provisions are followed.

Please disseminate as appropriate.


**Permit valid:** September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016


**Provisions:**

1. Restricted to species *Procambarus clarkii*;
2. Possession and transportation for use by Washington State schools and school districts;
3. Species may only be used for established 2015-2016 science curriculums requiring live crayfish;
4. Crayfish must be kept in secure facilities and containers to prevent escape or release;
5. Upon completion of the curriculum:
  - a. Release into the wild or dissemination for personal use is prohibited;
  - b. All crayfish must be returned to a centralized school-authorized and secure holding facility or euthanized and either chemically preserved or properly disposed;
  - c. All water and organic matter in aquariums must be properly disposed; and
  - d. For the purposes of this permit, "properly disposed" means that the dead crayfish and organic material are sealed in plastic bags and sent to an upland trash facility. All water is to be treated for 30 minutes with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of regular household bleach per 10 gallons water prior to disposal into a sanitary wastewater treatment system.

Please note that release of native crayfish back into the wild is also prohibited and that dissemination to students for personal use is highly discouraged. The Department contact for this permit is Allen Pleus, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator (360-902-2724 or [Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Allen.Pleus@dfw.wa.gov)).

Authorized by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Guy Norman, Interim Assistant Director  
Fish Program

  
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Date