

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

Specification for Class of

FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER 3 (41142)

Abolished Effective June 1, 2005

Definition: Within the Department of Fish and Wildlife, serves as senior level officer and enforces state/federal fish, wildlife, food fish and shellfish laws, department rules/regulations statewide and within its concurrent and territorial waters. Enforces all laws of the state.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Positions at this level are assigned to operate and maintain a vessel of at least 27 feet in length, with responsibility for that vessel and a crew of three to six officers.

OR

As a Master Instructor, develops and is responsible for the statewide defensive tactics, firearms, or emergency vehicle operation programs. These programs are designated in writing by the Assistant Director for Enforcement.

Typical Work

Patrols fresh and salt waterways by inboard or outboard vessels and adjacent land by automobile, airplane and afoot to enforce fish and wildlife laws and regulations as well as other state criminal statutes and federal violations of the Lacey Act, Magnuson Act, Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Act; operates and maintains patrol equipment issued i.e., vessels, automobiles, trailers and general law enforcement equipment;

Enforces licensing requirements for sport and commercial fishers, retail and wholesale dealers, canners, freezers, smokers, and all other handlers of food fish and shellfish; determines validity of licenses according to actual operations; makes arrests when necessary;

Enforces Hydraulic Code by discussion, interpretation, and enforcement of those laws pertaining to the protection of the habitat of food fish, shellfish, game fish, and wildlife, especially those affected by logging, farming and development projects;
Maintains daily operational vessel logbooks, including maintenance records, arrest information and plotting vessel positions/ contacts;

Makes arrests, prepares evidence and reports, prosecutes cases in local district court and testifies in higher courts involving violations of both state and federal fish and wildlife regulations;

Aids and instructs user groups and the general public regarding fish and wildlife laws/regulations and their participation in the harvesting of fish and wildlife to include gear, methods, areas and season restrictions;

As a Master Instructor, develops defensive tactics, firearms or emergency vehicle driving training programs; develops impact weapon training program; establishes curriculum and requirements for the training programs; establishes testing criteria for training programs;

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: state, federal and international fish and wildlife laws and state criminal laws; treaty hunting and fishing rights; laws of arrest, search and seizure, evidence, court procedure, report writing; attorney general opinions and case law; wildlife damage control methods and techniques; habits and geographical distribution of fish and wildlife, wildlife resources, wildlife biology; wildlife fish management concepts;

commercial and sport hunting and fishing practices and equipment, first aid; use and maintenance of a variety of vehicles and equipment; vessel piloting and dead-reckoning; navigation, including celestial navigation, boats, engines and auxiliary equipment, and electronic equipment such as loran, radar, sonar, fish-finding devices, a radio direction finders; piloting vessel with nets, lines and other fisheries gear.

Ability to: plan and execute patrols; deal with the public tactfully and effectively; work well with others; carry out oral and written instructions; testify in court; keep records; write clear and concise patrol reports; perform arduous duty under trying conditions; conduct investigations; deal with hostile subjects in potentially dangerous and hostile conditions; use firearms skillfully; make public presentations and speak effectively; exercise independent judgment and initiative; immobilize and handle wildlife.

Minimum Qualifications

One year as a Fish and Wildlife Officer 2 and successful completion and maintenance of the United States Coast Guard vessel master license requirements.

OR

One year as a Fish and Wildlife Officer 2 and certified as a Master Instructor from the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Additional prior paid, full-time commissioned law enforcement experience beyond the two years which can qualify an individual to meet the minimum qualifications for a 1-level may substitute for up to one year of the required Fish and Wildlife Officer 2 experience on a two for one ratio (e.g., two years of prior law enforcement experience would be the equivalent of one year of Fish and Wildlife Officer 2 experience).

New class: Effective 7-1-97

Revised minimum qualifications: 5-9-03