

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6676

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation, February 1, 2010

Title: An act relating to changes in vessel designations on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.

Brief Description: Concerning changes in vessel designations on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.

Sponsors: Senator Hatfield.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 1/28/10, 2/01/10 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6676 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Jacobsen, Chair; Ranker, Vice Chair; Morton, Ranking Minority Member; Fraser, Hargrove, Hatfield, Stevens and Swecker.

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: A commercial license holder in a fishery requiring vessel designation must do so prior to participating in that fishery. A license holder may change the vessel designation by submitting an application to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and paying a \$35 fee. Generally, vessel designation changes on a license are capped at four in a calendar year.

Statute imposes a more stringent limit on the frequency for changing vessel designation in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. Generally, DFW may change the vessel designated on a coastal Dungeness crab license to a vessel of comparable size no more than once in any two consecutive coastal crab seasons. However, DFW may make an exception to this limit if it is destroyed or cannot be safely operated.

Except for emergency situations, DFW may allow only one change in vessel designation that would result in a vessel length increase of between 1 and 10 feet. Additionally, a fisher is generally prohibited from changing vessel designation: to a vessel over 99 feet long; or that would result in an increase of more than 10 feet.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): The frequency by which DFW may change the vessel designated on a coastal Dungeness crab license to a vessel of comparable size is increased to once in any one year period, measured from September 15 to September 15 of the following year.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): The proposed substitute bill changes the reference period for vessel designation changes from the calendar year to September 15 of each year.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: The bill puts vessel transfers frequency standards more in line with other commercial fisheries. The coastal crab fishery is subject to a complex management regime, and the crab fleet has worked closely with stakeholders on this proposal.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Ray Toste, Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Assn.; Ed Owens, Coalition of Coastal Fisheries.