

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6159

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As Passed Senate, February 8, 2006

**Title:** An act relating to recreational fishing for albacore tuna.

**Brief Description:** Concerning recreational fishing for albacore tuna.

**Sponsors:** Senators Jacobsen, Oke and Spanel.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 1/12/06, 1/16/06 [DP, DNP].  
Passed Senate: 2/8/06, 39-10.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Jacobsen, Chair; Doumit, Vice Chair; Oke, Ranking Minority Member; Fraser, Morton and Spanel.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Stevens.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** Fishing for albacore is increasing in popularity. In 2000, 8,000 were caught and by 2005, the number increased to 12,000. Under federal law, albacore is a migratory fish specie and is regulated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The management plan may soon require a licence to fish recreationally, and both California and Oregon require a license.

**Summary of Bill:** A recreational fishing license will be required to fish for albacore.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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

**Testimony For:** Many recreational fishers have a recreational fishing license when they fish for albacore tuna. Some fishers only fish for albacore, and they may not have a license since none is required for that species. To pay for management of the fishery and to keep track of catch figures all fishers should have a license.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Who Testified:** PRO: Mark Cedergreen, Westport Charterboat Association; Ed Owens, Coalition of Coastal Fishers; Phil Anderson, Department of Fish and Wildlife.