

HB 1610 - DIGEST

Requires the fish and wildlife commission to adopt rules to establish a commercial and treaty fisher's gear compensation program for commercial and treaty fishers whose fishing gear has been lost or damaged as a result of contact with other vessels in the marine waters of the state east of a line extending due north from the northernmost point of Tatoosh Island.

Requires the department of fish and wildlife to: (1) In administering the compensation program, pay eligible claims at the conclusion of the calendar year on a proportional basis, according to available funds;

(2) In consultation with the department of commerce and the department of natural resources, conduct a study of the provisions of the compensation program; and

(3) As part of the study, establish a pilot program in which the department coordinates with willing fishers to track potential fishing gear damage and loss.

Provides a June 30, 2021, expiration date for the pilot program.

Creates the commercial and treaty fisher's gear compensation account.