

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2013-4653, by Representatives Buys, Overstreet, Morris, and Lytton

WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet begins leaving Blaine and Bellingham waters in May; and

WHEREAS, This is the 30th year that the Blessing of the Fleet will occur in Blaine Harbor, this year it will be presented at Blaine Boating Center on May 5, 2013; and

WHEREAS, This is the 38th year that the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at the Port of Bellingham, this year it will be presented at Zuanich Point Park in Squaticum Harbor on May 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet is one of the world's largest distant water fleets; and

WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly employs thousands of people and is one of the largest industries in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, The harvest is vital to the growth and stability of the Washington state economy; and

WHEREAS, The lives of those who pursue this job are fraught with danger and hardships that most people will never face; and

WHEREAS, Strength and courage are requirements for anyone who chooses to work on the sea, braving the elements in order to harvest the ocean's resources; and

WHEREAS, The men and women who work on fishing boats, often in dangerous circumstances, deserve our admiration, thanks, and, when tragedy strikes, our remembrance; and

WHEREAS, Too often, the brave men and women of our fishing fleet lose their lives, a tragedy that not only impacts the close-knit community of fishing families in our region, but also our entire state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives extend its condolences to the families and friends of all our fishers who have lost their lives at sea, wish the entire commercial fishing fleet a safe and prosperous season, and express its hope that all of our fishers will return home safely to their families, friends, and communities.