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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6047

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senator L. Smith)

Read first time 02/04/92.

1            AN ACT Relating to commercial salmon licenses; amending RCW  
2 75.28.040; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The purpose of this act is to implement  
5 the findings of the commercial salmon licensing study undertaken  
6 pursuant to Substitute Senate Bill No. 5501 (chapter 144, Laws of  
7 1991). The bulk of the study was an investigation of the status of  
8 commercial fishing licenses to determine the optimum number of  
9 commercial fishing licenses to be made available to the industry.

10           **Sec. 2.**    RCW 75.28.040 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 s 108 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12           Commercial licenses and permits expire at midnight on December 31st  
13 following their issuance and in accordance with this title may be

1 renewed annually upon application and payment of the prescribed license  
2 fees and meeting the poundage salmon landing requirement for salmon  
3 licenses to be developed in section 3 of this act. Department fish  
4 tickets shall be required documentation for this requirement. In cases  
5 where a commercial fisher is prevented from attaining the annual salmon  
6 catch landing requirement because of an unforeseen emergency, such as  
7 illness or severely short salmon seasons, the poundage landing  
8 requirement may be waived by the director, following such  
9 recommendation by the peer review board. The peer review board shall  
10 be selected by the director from five commercial salmon fishing  
11 licensees from the same gear type as the fisher who is appealing the  
12 landing requirement. The director shall waive the landing requirement  
13 for renewal of commercial salmon licenses in cases where the northwest  
14 power planning council conducts a temporary leasing of a commercial  
15 salmon fishing license. The director may adopt rules to accomplish the  
16 goals of the leasing program.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A task force is created to address the  
18 issue of commercial fishery gear reduction. The task force shall be  
19 officially known as the "1992 commercial fishery gear reduction task  
20 force." The task force shall consist of industry selected members from  
21 the salmon troll industry, the Columbia river/Willapa Bay gill net  
22 industry, Columbia river/Grays Harbor gill net industry, the Puget  
23 Sound gill net industry, the Puget Sound purse seine industry, and the  
24 reef net industry. Members shall be selected by their respective  
25 industry group. Two individuals shall be selected from each gear  
26 group. The director of the department of trade and economic  
27 development shall appoint appropriate department representatives to  
28 facilitate the functions of the full task force. The director of  
29 fisheries shall provide assistance to the task force. The task force

1 shall submit to the legislature on or before January 1993, through the  
2 director of the department of fisheries, a detailed plan to achieve  
3 gear reduction or authorize a public auction process of the opportunity  
4 to harvest salmon. The task force shall develop recommendations on  
5 minimum poundage requirement for renewal of licenses, the optimum  
6 number of licenses in each fishery, and a plan to reduce the current  
7 number of licenses to the optimum number within a specific time  
8 schedule. The task force shall adopt a resolution setting forth the  
9 means and process by which the task force shall operate and the manner  
10 in which their plan will be reviewed.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act shall not be construed as a  
12 reallocation of salmon among user groups.