

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1127

PARTIAL VETO

C 387 L 03

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the direct retail sale of salmon, crab, and sturgeon.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Hatfield, Buck, Cooper, Blake, Pearson and Berkey).

House Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks
Senate Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife

Background:

In 2002 the Legislature created the Direct Retail Endorsement as an optional add-on to a commercial salmon or crab license. Holders of a Direct Retail Endorsement are permitted to sell their salmon or crab catch directly to the retail market without first obtaining a wholesale dealer's license. Fishers opting for the endorsement are required to abide by all harvest requirements established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and must land their catch in the round.

The holders of Direct Retail Endorsements are not required to obtain permits or licenses from each county in which they sell their catch. However, prior to being issued a Direct Retail Endorsement, the fisher must provide to the Department a signed letter from a county health department. The letter must indicate that the fisher has fulfilled all of the requirements related to that county's health rules and the statewide standards for food service operations. Before any sales may occur in a county that did not issue the required letter, the fisher must provide 48-hours notice and allow that county or a Department employee to inspect the sales operations.

Most commercially caught fish is subject to the Enhanced Food Fish Excise Tax. This tax is paid by the fisher and is calculated as a percentage of the value of the fish at the point of landing.

Summary:

The scope of the Direct Retail Endorsement is expanded so that commercial fishers may sell all retail-eligible species directly to the retail market and to restaurants. Retail-eligible species is defined to mean salmon, sturgeon, and crab. Commercially harvested retail-eligible species sold under a Direct Retail Endorsement are not required to be landed in the round.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission may require a fisher to notify the Department up to 18 hours prior to conducting a direct retail sale, unless the cumulative sales from the fisher's vessel that day will total less than \$150. The Department is authorized to issue a Direct Retail Endorsement at any time, and not just at time of license renewal.

The Enhanced Food Fish Excise Tax is directed to be calculated from the comparable sales value of similar fish at the port of landing.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 97 0

Senate 49 0 (Senate amended)

House 96 0 (House concurred)

Effective: July 27, 2003

Partial Veto Summary: The section of the bill vetoed by the Governor altered the calculation of the tax charged on all enhanced food fish from the value of the fish at the point of landing to the comparable sales price for similar species of fish at the point of landing.