

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 6127

C 190 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Improving the management of the state's halibut fishery.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senator Van De Wege).

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Background: Halibut Fishery Season Setting. Halibut seasons are set through an annual process conducted at the international, federal, and state level. The International Pacific Halibut Commission sets harvest limits for all regulatory areas, that are shared under a plan developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and implemented through federal and state rules. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) solicits public input into the season setting process and conducts fishery monitoring and enforcement activities.

Catch Record Cards. Under current statutes and DFW rules, catch reporting is required for some recreational fisheries. In most cases, there is no charge for an initial catch record card. However, there is a statutory fee of \$11 for a duplicate catch record card and a statutory fee of \$7.50 for a catch record card endorsed for Puget Sound crab when purchased with a combination fishing license. By rule, DFW requires catch reporting on sturgeon, salmon, steelhead, halibut, and Puget Sound crab.

Summary: A fee of no more than \$5 is imposed for a halibut catch record card when purchased with an annual fishing license, and must be provided at no cost to individuals who purchase a one-day temporary saltwater fishing license or charter stamp. Funds received must be used for monitoring and managing recreational halibut fisheries, including expanding recreational fishing opportunities.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	36	12	
House	76	21	(House amended)
Senate	46	3	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 7, 2018

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