

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5590

C 91 L 22

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Eliminating the 2022 expiration date of the marine resources advisory council.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology (originally sponsored by Senators Wagoner, Das, Lovelett, Mullet and Rolfes).

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
House Committee on Environment & Energy

Background: In 2013, the Legislature created the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) within the Office of the Governor. The purpose of MRAC is to maintain a sustainable and coordinated focus to address impacts of ocean acidification.

MRAC members include legislators; the Governor or the Governor's designee; elected officials; representatives from tribes, commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish growers, state agencies, marine recreation and businesses; and others from the private sector. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and academic institutions conducting research on ocean acidification may participate as non-voting members by invitation of the Governor.

MRAC is required to meet at least twice per year and provide opportunity for public comment. MRAC's powers and duties include:

- maintaining a coordinated focus to address the impacts of ocean acidification;
- advising and working with the Washington Ocean Acidification Center on the effects and sources of ocean acidification;
- providing recommendations to the Governor and Legislature;
- seeking public and private funding resources to support MRAC's recommendations; and
- assisting in conducting public education activities regarding ocean acidification.

MRAC expires June 30, 2022.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary: The expiration date of MRAC is extended to June 30, 2032.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 47 0

House 98 0

Effective: June 9, 2022