SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5076

As of January 16, 2025

Title: An act relating to establishing a Puget Sound nonspot shrimp pot fishery license.

Brief Description: Establishing a Puget Sound nonspot shrimp pot fishery license.

Sponsors: Senators Muzzall, Chapman, Cortes, Dozier, Lovelett, Shewmake and Trudeau.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/16/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes a non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license as a commercial limited entry fishery license.
- Limits entry to the non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery to current holders of shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery licenses voluntarily choosing to convert their license.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7428)

Background: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages the commercial harvest of food fish, shellfish, and salmon. Commercial fishers must obtain applicable licenses from WDFW to participate in regulated fisheries. Commercial fishing license fees are structured by species and fishing technique, and there is a resident and nonresident fee for each license type.

To fish commercially for shrimp in Puget Sound, a person must obtain a shrimp pot-Puget Sound or shrimp trawl-Puget Sound commercial resident or nonresident license. Both license types are limited entry fisheries, with a resident annual fee of $335 and a

---

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.

nonresident annual fee of $720.

WDFW by rule defines non-spot shrimp as the following species of pandalid shrimp including dock shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, humpy shrimp, ocean pink shrimp, pink shrimp, and side stripe shrimp.

Summary of Bill: A non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license is established, and a person may not fish for non-spot shrimp in Puget Sound for commercial purposes with non-spot shrimp pot gear without a license. A resident annual license fee is $335 and a nonresident annual fee is $720, and there is also a $105 application fee. No more than one shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license or non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license may be owned by a licensee. The combined number of shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery licenses and non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licenses issued is limited to five licenses in total.

A non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license may only be issued to a natural person who held a non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license or a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license issued during the previous licensing year. A license may designate only an immediate family member, or an immediate family member of a licensee's spouse, as an alternate operator for the license, with certain exceptions. A licensee may designate any natural person as an alternate operator by requesting the fisheries advisory board designate an alternate who is not an immediate family member.

A shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery licensee may voluntarily convert their license to a non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license, and once it is converted it is permanently retired as a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound license.

A converted limited entry non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license may only fish for non-spot shrimp resources previously allocated to shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license holders. If all shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery licenses convert to non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licenses, WDFW shall work with stakeholders to review the allocation of the commercial non-spot shrimp resources and develop recommendations for future allocations.

Non-spot shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license holders reserve the right to cooperatively modify and design gear with WDFW to efficiently and economically harvest pink shrimp, ocean pink shrimp and side strip shrimp. The process to modify and design gear is intended to develop the fishery to ensure a means to harvest all non-spot shrimp species for these license holders.

Non-spot shrimp is defined to mean a species complex composed of the following species of pandalid shrimp including dock shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, humpy shrimp, ocean pink shrimp, pink shrimp, and side stripe shrimp.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This proposal is similar to last year's and provides an option for trawl license holders to convert to non-spot shrimp pot licenses. Trawling can harm the marine environment and is no longer used in bottom fish fisheries. The WDFW has been pursuing a voluntary program to move towards a more sustainable way of fishing. The shrimp market is healthy and there is no change in catch or quotas.

CON: There should be a ban on trawling. Trawling impacts habitat and is a thing of the past. Under this approach not all permits will change over from trawl to pot fisheries. There should be a mandatory conversion with a timeline, or perhaps a license buyback.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Ron Muzzall, Prime Sponsor; Joe Verdoes.

CON: Kyle Crews, Psca.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.