

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2294

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES,  
FEBRUARY 19, 1992

**Brief Description:** Directing a study of the coastal crab fishery.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives Basich, R. King, Wilson, Jones, Sheldon, Orr and Mitchell; by request of Department of Fisheries

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Metcalf, Chairman; Oke, Vice Chairman; Amondson, Barr, Conner, Owen, Snyder, Sumner, and Sutherland.

**Staff:** Ross Antipa (786-7413)

**Hearing Dates:** February 19, 1992

**BACKGROUND:**

The coastal dungeness crab fishery has rapidly expanded in recent years. More boats are entering the fishery, and the amount of crab pots is rising rapidly. There is concern that the rate of increase in fishing activities is too great to assure sustained yield.

**SUMMARY:**

The Washington Department of Fisheries, along with the states of Oregon and California, shall conduct a coastal dungeness crab fishing study through the auspices of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The study is designed to determine the optimum fleet size and fishing capacity and to make recommendations on the need to reduce the number of crab fishermen.

The department shall report its findings to the Legislature no later than June 30, 1993.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

The bill is needed to have an economically viable crab fishery.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Judith Freeman, WDF (pro)