

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1524

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As of March 17, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to commercial salmon fishery licenses.

**Brief Description:** Allowing commercial salmon fishers to forego an annual season at a reduced fee.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Alexander, Linville, Kessler, DeBolt, Buck, Hatfield, Doumit, Costa, Anderson, Pennington, Constantine, Blalock, Gardner, Sullivan, Lantz and Morris).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks:

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Staff:** Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

**Background:** Currently, no new commercial salmon fishing licenses may be issued. A person may renew an existing license only if the person held a license during the previous year or acquired a license by transfer from a prior license holder. The deadline for renewal is December 31 of the license year.

The prior license requirement can be waived if the department does not allow any opportunity for a commercial fishery or if, during the calendar year, no harvest opportunity occurs in the corresponding fishery. License fees are refunded if the department does not allow an opportunity for a commercial fishery

Similarly, no new salmon charter boat licenses may be issued. A person may renew an existing license only if the person held a license during the previous year or acquired a license by transfer from a prior license holder.

The prior salmon charter boat license requirement can be waived only if, during the calendar year, no harvest opportunity occurs in the corresponding fishery.

**Summary of Bill:** If a commercial salmon fishing license holder notifies the department by May 1 that he or she will not participate in the fishery during that calendar year and pays the \$100 enhancement surcharge plus an additional \$15 handling charge, a commercial salmon fishing license may be renewed the following year.

If a salmon charter boat license holder notifies the department by May 1 that he or she will not participate in the fishery during that calendar year and pays the \$100 enhancement surcharge plus an additional \$15 handling charge, a salmon charter boat license may be renewed the following year.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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