

**SENATE RESOLUTION
1999-8648**

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Spanel, Gardner, Jacobsen, B. Sheldon, Fraser, Thibaudeau, McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Snyder, Honeyford, Roach and Benton

WHEREAS, The Washington State commercial fishing fleet leaves in March and the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at Fisherman's Terminal in Ballard, March 14, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State commercial fishing fleet leaves Blaine waters in May and the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at Saw Tooth Dock in Blaine Harbor, May 2, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State commercial fishing fleet is one of the world's largest distant water fleets; and

WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly employs thousands of people; and

WHEREAS, The harvest annually generates over a billion dollars in economic contributions to the Washington State economy; and

WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry is the fourth largest industry in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, The life of a fisher is one fraught with danger and hardship that most of us will never face; and

WHEREAS, Strength and courage are basic requirements for anyone who chooses to work on the high seas, battling the elements in order to harvest the nature's bounty; and

WHEREAS, The men and women who work on boats, living between God and the sea, and never certain which will claim them first, deserve our admiration, our thanks, and, when tragedy strikes, our remembrance; and

WHEREAS, Too often fishers do lose their lives, and their deaths devastate not only the tightly knit fabric that is the community of fishing families in our region, but also our entire state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor and remember Washington fishermen George Schumack and Dave Corey Williamson who lost their lives in Washington waters in 1998, and Dennis Smith of Blaine and Rod Kurtz Harvie of Bellingham who lost their lives in San Francisco Bay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate extend its condolences to the families and friends of all our fishermen and women who have lost their lives at sea, and wish the entire commercial fishing fleet a safe and prosperous season and that all fishing men and women will return home safely to their families, friends, and communities.

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 1999-8648,
adopted by the Senate March 13, 1999.

TONY M. COOK
Secretary of the Senate