

SSB 5447 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 04/05/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the coastal
4 Dungeness crab fishery is one of the most valuable commercial fisheries
5 in Washington. For example, the 2004-05 season resulted in landings of
6 twenty-one million pounds with an estimated ex-vessel value of over
7 thirty million dollars. The fishery represents a vital economic
8 foundation for many coastal communities.

9 Since 1994, the coastal Dungeness crab fishery has faced
10 significant pressure and has undergone many regulatory changes stemming
11 from issues relating to the sustainability of the resource, the safety
12 and sustainability of the fleet, interstate and federal jurisdiction
13 questions, as well as allocation issues.

14 In order to further promote the sustainability of the coastal
15 Dungeness crab resource, the coastal crab fleet, and coastal
16 communities, the legislature intends for the department of fish and
17 wildlife to develop a proposed coastal Dungeness buyback program that
18 would be implemented in cooperation with the federal government upon
19 future legislative direction.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall develop a detailed
21 proposed Dungeness crab-coastal fishery buyback program. The proposed
22 program must provide for the purchase and permanent retirement of
23 Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses. The department shall design
24 this element of the proposed program with the goal of purchasing
25 between eighty and one hundred Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.

26 (2) In addition to license purchase and retirement, the proposed
27 program may provide for the purchase or retirement of vessels
28 designated on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.

1 (3) The proposed program must explore funding alternatives that
2 involve federal funding, state funding, funding provided by Dungeness
3 crab-coastal license holders, low-interest loans to license holders,
4 and combinations thereof.

5 (4)(a) The department must include in the proposed program those
6 elements necessary for the administration of the buyback, including the
7 mechanisms by which Dungeness crab-coastal license holders may apply to
8 participate in the program if it is authorized and by which the
9 department will select licenses or vessels for purchase from among the
10 applicants.

11 (b) The proposed program must include and clearly set forth any
12 conditions that will be placed on Dungeness crab-coastal license
13 holders participating in the program.

14 (5) The proposed program must be designed to have a neutral impact
15 on Dungeness crab harvests in the state and federal waters off the
16 coasts of Oregon and California.

17 (6) The proposed program must assume that participation by
18 Dungeness crab-coastal license holders in the program would be entirely
19 voluntary.

20 (7) The department shall consult with Dungeness crab-coastal
21 license holders when designing the proposal.

22 (8) To assist the department in the development of the proposal,
23 the department may contract with persons not employed by the state.

24 (9) By December 1, 2007, the department shall provide a report
25 detailing the program proposal to the appropriate policy and fiscal
26 committees of the senate and house of representatives.

27 (10) The proposed program developed under this section is not
28 authorized to be implemented, and state funds are not authorized to be
29 expended, without further specific legislative authorization.

30 (11) This section expires December 31, 2007."

31 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Clarifies that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is directed to only develop a proposed crab buyback program and that there is no authority to actually implement a buyback program and shortens

the expiration date.

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