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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**HB 1148**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the establishment of a license limitation program for the harvest and delivery of spot shrimp originating from coastal or offshore waters into the state.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Blake and Kretz.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Creates a new limited-entry commercial fishery license that allows for the harvest of spot shrimp.

**Hearing Date:** 1/26/11

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117).

**Background:**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is authorized to conduct experimental or trial emerging commercial fisheries [RCW 77.65.400]. An emerging commercial fishery allows for the commercial taking of a newly classified fish, a formally classified fish with a new gear type, or a formally classified fish in a new geographic area. Trial emerging fisheries allow for an unlimited number of participants, and experimental emerging fisheries allow the WDFW to limit the number of authorized participants. Fisheries with a limited number of allowable participants are called limited-entry fisheries.

An emerging fishery was created for coastal spot shrimp in 1999. The director of the WDFW was authorized to issue a total of 15 experimental permits for an annual fishery that is open March 15 through September 15. During the annual time window, fishery participants are permitted to harvest up to a total of 200,000 pounds of spot shrimp in combined catch using a maximum of 500 shrimp pots per participant. Experimental fishery participants are prohibited from an

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incidental catch of any salmon, bottomfish species, or more than 50 pounds of other shrimp species. Octopus and squid incidental catch are permissible [WAC Chapter 220-88B].

Spot shrimp (also known as *Pandalus platyceros*) is the largest species of shrimp found on the west coast of North America and can be found in subtidal rocky and sandy habitats from San Diego, California to waters off of Unalaska Island, Alaska. Spot shrimp are reddish with longitudinal white stripes on the carapace and a distinctive white spot on the sides of the first and fifth abdominal segments.

**Summary of Bill:**

A new limited-entry commercial fishery license is created. This new license, the Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license (spot shrimp license), allows the holder to use spot shrimp pot gear to fish for spot shrimp, possess spot shrimp, and arrive at port with spot shrimp. The annual fee for the new license is \$185 for residents and \$295 for non-residents. Each spot shrimp license holder must designate a corresponding vessel meeting designated size requirements that is owned or operated by the license holder to use in the fishery.

The spot shrimp license is a limited-entry license that must be renewed prior to the end of each calendar year to remain active. Only participants in the 2010 coastal spot shrimp experimental emerging commercial fishery, and transferees from a 2010 fishery participant, may purchase an initial spot shrimp license. Initial spot shrimp license holders are eligible to transfer their license beginning in the year 2012.

Although the initial offerings of spot shrimp licenses is limited to participants in the 2010 emerging fishery, the director of the WDFW may extend offers to additional participants beginning in 2013. Participant expansion may only occur after taking into consideration the population status of the resource, the market for spot shrimp, and the number of harvesters actively engaged in state and tribal spot shrimp fisheries. However, the total number of spot shrimp licenses offered by the WDFW may not exceed eight.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.