

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4623, by Representatives Buys, Tarleton, Carlyle, Van Werven, Morris, and Lytton

1 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State House of  
2 Representatives to honor the successes and sacrifices of commercial  
3 fishermen; and

4 WHEREAS, The Washington State commercial fishing fleet begins  
5 leaving in March and May, and the Blessing of the Fleet will occur at  
6 Fishermen's Terminal in Ballard on March 15, 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, This is the 87th year the Ballard First Lutheran Church  
8 has held the blessing and the 19th year Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg  
9 has offered the blessing; and

10 WHEREAS, This is the 40th year the Blessing of the Fleet will  
11 occur at the Port of Bellingham, and this year it will be presented  
12 at Zuanich Point Park in Squalicum Harbor on May 16, 2015, at 11:00  
13 a.m.; and

14 WHEREAS, This is the 32nd year the Blessing of the Fleet will  
15 occur in Blaine Harbor, and this year it will be presented at Blaine  
16 Boating Center on May 3, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly  
20 employs thousands of people and is one of the largest industries in  
21 Washington State, the annual harvest is vital to the growth and  
22 stability of the Washington State economy; and

23 WHEREAS, The life of a fisher is fraught with danger and hardship  
24 most people will never face, and strength and courage are  
25 requirements for anyone who chooses to work on the sea, as fishers  
26 must brave the elements in order to harvest the ocean's resources;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The men and women who work on fishing boats, often in  
29 dangerous circumstances, deserve our admiration, thanks, and, when  
30 tragedy strikes, our remembrance; and

31 WHEREAS, Too often, the brave men and women of our fishing fleet  
32 lose their lives, a tragedy that not only impacts the close-knit  
33 community of fishing families in our region, but also our entire  
34 state;

