

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8636

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Ericksen, Ranker, Fraser, McCoy, Sheldon, Warnick, Hobbs, Bailey, Chase, Hatfield, Hargrove, Nelson, Fain, and Pearson

1           WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet begins  
2 leaving in March for the Pacific and Alaskan waters, and the Blessing  
3 of the Fleet will occur March 15, 2015, at Fisherman's Terminal in  
4 Ballard; and  
5           WHEREAS, This is the 87th year that the Ballard First Lutheran  
6 Church has held the blessing and the 19th year that Pastor Erik  
7 Wilson Weiberg has offered the blessing; and  
8           WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet begins  
9 leaving Blaine waters in May, and this is the 32nd year that the  
10 Blessing of the Fleet will occur in Blaine Harbor, this year at  
11 Blaine Boating Center on May 3, 2015; and  
12           WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet begins  
13 leaving Bellingham waters in May, and this is the 40th year that the  
14 Blessing of the Fleet will occur in Bellingham, this year at Zuanich  
15 Point Park in Squalicum Harbor on May 16, 2015; and  
16           WHEREAS, The Washington state commercial fishing fleet is one of  
17 the world's largest distant water fleets; and  
18           WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly  
19 employs thousands of people and is one of the largest industries in  
20 Washington state; and  
21           WHEREAS, The harvest annually contributes significantly to the  
22 Washington state economy; and  
23           WHEREAS, The life of a fisher is fraught with danger and hardship  
24 that most people will never face, as a fisher chooses to work on the  
25 sea, braving the elements in order to harvest the ocean's resources;  
26 and  
27           WHEREAS, The men and women who work on fishing boats, at times in  
28 dangerous circumstances, deserve our admiration, thanks, and, when  
29 tragedy strikes, our remembrance; and  
30           WHEREAS, Too often fishers lose their lives, devastating not only  
31 the close-knit community of fishing families in our region, but also  
32 our entire state;  
33           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
34 extend its condolences to the families and friends of all our fishers

1 who have lost their lives at sea, wish the entire commercial  
2 fishing fleet a safe and prosperous season, and express its hope  
3 that all of our fishers will return home safely to their  
4 families, friends, and communities.

5 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
6 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
7 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8636,  
8 adopted by the Senate  
9 March 13, 2015

10 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
11 Secretary of the Senate