

SENATE RESOLUTION

8652

By Senators Ericksen, Chase, Bailey, Angel, Wilson, Van De Wege, Ranker, Carlyle, Liias, Rolfes, Takko, and Sheldon

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 occurred at Fisherman's Terminal in Ballard on March 12,
4 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, This is the 33rd year that the Blessing of the Fleet
6 will occur in Blaine Harbor, and this year it will be presented at
7 Blaine Boating Center on May 7, 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, This is the 41st year that the Blessing of the Fleet
9 will occur in Bellingham, and this year it will be presented at
10 Zuanich Point Park in Squalicum Harbor in May 2017; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The commercial fishing industry directly and indirectly
14 employs thousands of people and is one of the largest industries in
15 Washington State, the annual harvest contributes significantly to the
16 Washington State economy; and

17 WHEREAS, The life of a fisher is fraught with danger and hardship
18 that most people will never face, and courage is required for anyone
19 who chooses to work on the sea, as fishers must brave the elements in
20 order to harvest the ocean's resources; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Too often, the brave men and women of our fishing fleet
2 lose their lives, a tragedy that not only impacts the close-knit
3 community of fishing families in our region, but also our entire
4 state;
5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
6 extend its condolences to the families and friends of all our fishers
7 who have lost their lives at sea, wish the entire commercial fishing
8 fleet a safe and prosperous season, and express its hope that all of
9 our fishers will return home safely to their families, friends, and
10 communities.

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