

**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 3052

Brief Description: Allocating an equal amount of time to gill net gear and purse seine gear to harvest salmon in Puget Sound.

Sponsors: Representatives Blake and Kessler.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires, with exceptions, the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules ensuring equal commercial salmon fishing time between gill nets and purse seines in the Puget Sound.

Hearing Date: 1/26/10

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) may authorize commercial salmon fishing seasons in certain portions of the Puget Sound during designated times of the year. The Commission is also responsible for identifying lawful gear types that may be used to harvest salmon commercially. Along with identifying gear types, the Commission is also responsible for identifying the details as to where and when each gear type can be used, as well as how many fish may be collectively captured with each gear type.

Summary of Bill:

The Commission is required to adopt rules specifying weekly fishing schedules for gill net and purse seine gear any time that commercial salmon fishing is authorized in the Puget Sound. The weekly schedules must ensure that there is an equal amount of time provided for both gear types to take salmon during each week, and that the ability to fish on the first day of the weekly

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opening alternates between the two gear types. This arrangement is referred to as the equal time provision.

The Commission may adopt rules contrary to these equal time requirements if one of three conditions is met. The equal time provision may be ignored if:

- Direct on-water sampling estimates show a disproportionate amount of non-target fish by catch mortality associated with one or both of the gear types;
- An economic analyses of Puget Sound commercial salmon fishing conclusively demonstrates that allocating a greater amount of time to one gear type over the other will improve the economic well-being and stability of the entire fishing industry; or
- The total allowable harvest is insufficient to allow opening for both gear types.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 1/21/10.

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