

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 3 - 1 - 1
Yeas: Burdick, Metsger, Devlin
Nays: Ferrioli
Exc.: Atkinson
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates the Dungeness crab as the official crustacean of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of the Dungeness crab to the coastal economy
- Sustainability of the Dungeness crab industry
- Economic advantages to having a state crustacean
- Why the Dungeness crab and not the crawdad should be the state crustacean

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The eight-member Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission was established in 1977 and consists of five harvest sector (crab fisherman) representatives, two crab processors, and one public member. The role of the Commission is to enhance the image and recognition of the industry, increase marketing and profitability, and improve education and research.

Oregon's harvest has fluctuated from a low of 3.2 million pounds to a high of over 33 million pounds in recent years with average annual landings in Oregon of about 10.3 million pounds, contributing to the regional production averages of 42.5 million pounds annually. The value of Oregon's Dungeness crab fishery fluctuates yearly because of market conditions and oceanic conditions, but in the most recent 10-year period, the 'to-the-boat' value ranged from \$5 million to \$44 million dollars. In turn, the Dungeness crab fishery is the most valuable 'single-species' fishery in Oregon.

Oregon Dungeness crab fishery is one of a few state managed fisheries in the country. While most fisheries are regulated under Federal Fisheries Management Plans by regional management councils, the Oregon Dungeness crab fishery is managed by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW).

House Joint Resolution 37 was initiated by Ms. Buzbee's 4th grade class at Sunset Primary School in West Linn, Oregon. The students were studying states and found that Louisiana had a state crustacean, but Oregon did not. They learned that because of sustainable harvest methods, the Dungeness crab is the most valuable single-species fishery in Oregon. The measure was promoted as an opportunity to highlight the importance of the Dungeness crab fishery to Oregon, as well as provide an example to the state of how an idea from school children can make its way through the legislative process.