

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Clem, Esquivel, Frederick, Krieger, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts vessel ocean Dungeness crab permits from being subject to revocation or refusal of issuance by Fish and Wildlife Commission or by court order under certain circumstances. Authorizes Commercial Fishery Permit Board to revoke or refuse subsequent issuance of vessel ocean Dungeness crab permit under certain circumstances. Modifies restrictions on transfer of vessel ocean Dungeness crab permit to allow subsequent transfers. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of Oregon Dungeness crab fishery
- Dungeness crab fishery vessel permits are currently treated differently than other vessel permits for purposes of permit revocation
- Permit holders often do not go to sea; captains are hired to run these vessels

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 508.936 requires a permit to operate a vessel in the ocean Dungeness crab fishery. Currently, a vessel permit may be revoked by the Fish and Wildlife Commission based on the actions of the individual operating the vessel. House Bill 4049 gives the Commercial Fishery Permit Board (Board) authority to revoke or refuse to issue a vessel permit. The Board reviews limited entry permit renewals and transfer denials for the following commercial fisheries: sea urchin, roe herring, Columbia River gillnet salmon, ocean troll salmon, ocean shrimp/scallop, ocean crab, sardine, bay clam dive, brine shrimp, blue and black rockfish and nearshore fisheries.

With some exceptions, ocean Dungeness crab vessel permits may be transferred to another vessel provided that vessel is not more than 10 feet longer than the vessel from which it is obtained or more than 99 feet in length. House Bill 4049 would allow these permits to be transferred to a larger vessel under specified circumstances.