

Crew Member License - proposed rule change

Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager, Fish Program
Captain Dan Chadwick, Region 6 Enforcement Captain



Current Crew Member License regulation

- Requires all crew who are not family members of the commercial fishing license holder to obtain a crew license.
- Allows the commercial fishing license holder to obtain two crew licenses that do not specify an individual.



Crew-member license

- rational for rule change

- HB 1437 in 2020 established a limit of two unspecified crew-member licenses.
- The legislation included a provision for the number of these unspecified crew member licenses to be increased.
- In 2021, representatives from the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association contacted department staff with the interest of increasing the number of licenses, particularly for larger vessel which often carry several crew.



Crew-member license

- proposed rule change

- Increase unspecified commercial crew-member licenses from two to four for commercial fishing licenses except non-salmon landing licenses used when fishing for albacore.
- Proposed new rule language:
“WAC 220-351-100 Crewmember license. Consistent with RCW 77.65.610 (3)(a), commercial fishing license holders, except for nonsalmon landing licensees fishing for albacore tuna, may obtain a total of four crewmember licenses for use by individuals working on the vessel named in the commercial fishing license if the individuals are not prohibited from obtaining a crewmember license under RCW 77.65.610.”



Rule-making Process

- CR101 – filed September 1, 2021
- CR102 – filed March 22, 2022
- Public comment (closes June 28, 2022);
 - Only one comment has been received to date.
 - The commenter, Mr. Bob Kehoe, representing the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association has also provided a copy of their letter of support commissioners.
- Decision on proposed rule – July 15, 2022



Questions?

