

# 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 was open from March 22 through June 28, 2022;
  - Three comments were received.
  - All commenters, represent the commercial fishing industry and were supportive of the proposed rule.



# Questions?

