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HOUSE BILL 1096

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake and Walsh

Prefiled 01/09/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring that commercial fishing revenue  
2 benefits communities most dependent on the industry; amending RCW  
3 82.27.070; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that commercial  
6 fishing is an important industry to Washington, and particularly to  
7 the rural, coastal communities of southwest Washington. Upon landing  
8 certain species of fish and shellfish, commercial fishers are subject  
9 to the enhanced food fish excise tax, also known as the "landing  
10 tax." Because the tax is paid to the state, it does not directly  
11 support the communities on which the industry depends. In order to  
12 serve the families residing in these communities, many of whom are  
13 active participants in the commercial fishing industry,  
14 municipalities need the resources to provide adequate public safety  
15 services and transportation infrastructure. The legislature intends  
16 to direct a portion of landing tax revenue to the communities that  
17 host this important industry and ensure that they directly benefit  
18 from the taxes paid by commercial fishers landing fish within their  
19 jurisdiction.

1       **Sec. 2.**    RCW 82.27.070 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 8 s 54 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       All taxes collected by the department (~~(of revenue)~~) under this  
4 chapter shall be deposited in the state general fund except for the  
5 following:

6       (1) The equivalent of one-third of the excise tax collected shall  
7 be distributed to the city in which the fish was landed;

8       (2) The excise tax on anadromous game fish is deposited in the  
9 state wildlife account(~~(-~~

10 ~~-2-))~~, except for the equivalent of one-third of the tax  
11 collected, which shall be distributed to the city in which the fish  
12 was landed, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section; and

13       (3) The excise tax on ocean waters, Columbia river, Willapa Bay,  
14 and Grays Harbor chinook, coho, and chum salmon is deposited as  
15 follows:

16       (a) The equivalent of (~~(five and twenty-five)~~) three and  
17 seventeen one-hundredths percent shall be deposited in the state  
18 general fund(~~(-~~);

19       (b) The equivalent of one percent shall be deposited in the state  
20 wildlife account; and

21       (c) The equivalent of two and eight one-hundredths percent shall  
22 be distributed to the city in which the fish was landed, pursuant to  
23 subsection (1) of this section.

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