

**RCW 77.80.020 Program authorized—Conditions.** (1)(a) The department may purchase commercial fishing vessels and appurtenant gear, and the current state commercial fishing licenses, delivery permits, and charter boat licenses if the license or permit holder was substantially restricted in fishing as a result of compliance with *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, Civil No. 9213, United States District Court for Western District of Washington, February 12, 1974, and *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon, 1969), as amended, affirmed, and remanded 529 F. 2d 570 (9th Cir., 1976).

(b) The department may also make such purchases if the license or permit holder was substantially restricted in fishing as a result of compliance with *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, 873 F. Supp. 1422 (W.D. Wash. 1994) as affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded 157 F.3d 630 (9th Cir., 1998), if the federal government provides funding to the state for the purpose of initiating these purchases.

(2) The department shall not purchase a vessel under this section without also purchasing all current Washington commercial fishing licenses and delivery permits and charter boat licenses issued to the vessel or its owner. The department may purchase current licenses and delivery permits without purchasing the vessel. [2008 c 252 § 2; 1984 c 67 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 156; 1979 ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 230 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.44.110, 75.28.510.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** "The legislature finds that the protection, welfare, and economic well-being of the commercial fishing industry is important to the people of this state. There presently exists an overabundance of commercial fishing gear in our state waters which causes great pressure on the fishing resources. This results in great economic waste to the state and prohibits conservation and harvesting programs from achieving their goals. This adverse situation has been compounded by the federal court decisions, *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, Civil No. 9213, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, February 12, 1974, and *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon, 1969), as amended, affirmed, and remanded 529 F. 2d 570 (9th Cir., 1976). As a result, large numbers of commercial fishermen face personal economic hardship, and the state commercial fishing industry is confronted with economic difficulty. The public welfare requires that the state have the authority to purchase commercial fishing vessels, licenses, gear, and permits offered for sale, as appropriate, in a manner which will provide relief to the individual vessel owner, and which will effect a reduction in the amount of commercial fishing gear in use in the state so as to insure increased economic opportunity for those persons in the industry and to insure that sound scientific conservation and harvesting programs can be carried out. It is the intention of the legislature to provide relief to commercial fishermen adversely affected by the current economic situation in the state fishery and to preserve this valuable state industry and these natural resources." [1977 ex.s. c 230 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.500.]