

HB

1911

MARCH 31, 1971

RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
HOUSE BILL 191

The committee has heard testimony from representatives of the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Revenue, and has determined under the present law, the ability of individuals to acquire commercial fishing gear licenses by mail, without appearing in person, has impede the efficient and effective regulation and management of the fishery resource.

The existing law has allowed far more gear to be licensed in each fishing area than is actually utilized during each fishing season. This creates difficulties for the Department of Fish and Game in estimating the fishing effort expected in various registration areas of the state. The requirement that individuals appear in person to obtain gear licenses would make the actual number of licenses issued a useful tool in gaging the fishing effort to be expected in registration areas, and thus assist the Department of Fish and Game in its efforts to match (by field regulation) the fishing effort with the optimum allowable catch.

In addition, the committee believes it may be desireable to ascertain at a time of issuing a gear license, whether or not the individual acquiring such license is capable of efficiently and safely operating such gear.

Finally, it has come to the committee's attention that certain individuals may have fraudently obtained licenses for gear under assumed names in order to avoid prosecution for fish and game offenses committed in previous years. It is expected that the requiring an applicant to appear in person will substantially reduce the possibility of such fraud.