

DUTIES OF FISHING GEAR "FINDERS"

WHEREAS, it appears that most commercial crab fisherman in Pacific County have been deprived of some of their crab pots and crab buoys by persons "finding" said gear, and removing same from the tideland areas of Pacific County, and said "finders" surreptitiously retaining said gear from the fisherman owner, and it appearing that the existing laws such as RCW 9.54.010 and RCW 63.20 do not sufficiently serve to protect the property rights of said fisherman with regard to said gear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Any person "finding" any fishing gear, of a value of \$2.00 or more, anywhere within Pacific County shall either leave the gear where they "find" it or immediately turn said gear over to the Pacific County Sheriff or his agent. All crab pots and crab pot marker buoys shall be deemed to have a value in excess of \$2.00 for purposes of this Ordinance.

2. Any person in possessing fishing gear within Pacific County shall be presumed to have "found" said gear within Pacific County, unless he can provide substantial evidence that the gear in his possession was purchased, manufactured, given, etc., to the possessor thereof, or that the same was "found" without Pacific County.

3. Anyone found violating the foregoing provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and subject to fine of not more than \$1,000.00, and/or a jail sentence not to exceed one (1) year.

4. It shall be the duty of the Pacific County Sheriff to hold

the gear turned over to him pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this Ordinance for inspection by those fisherman who have lost gear, and the sheriff may return any of said gear to any fisherman who in the judgment of the sheriff, or his representative, has satisfactorily demonstrated his ownership thereof. After the sheriff has held said gear for a period of six (6) months without anyone having claimed same, and demonstrated ownership as aforesaid, the sheriff may return the gear to the person turning said gear in or to the agent of said person.

5. This Ordinance shall in no way derogate, supersede or repeal any existing laws, rights, etc., but shall be in addition thereto, and if this Ordinance, or its application to particular persons or circumstances, conflicts with any existing law, rights, etc., it shall be deemed invalid to the extent of said conflict, but the application of the nonconflicting portions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

DATED this 1 day of May, 1972.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Attest: Zelma Hallgren  
*Deputy*  
*Clerk*  
County Auditor and ex-officio  
Clerk of the Board.

Eldred Ruetten  
Chairman  
Don Curran  
Commissioner  
Don Baker  
Commissioner