
SENATE BILL 5271

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Oke, L. Smith and McDonald

Read first time 01/20/93. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the enhancement of Chinook salmon; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 75 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Chinook, or
5 king salmon, is the largest and most highly regarded salmon species in
6 the state. It is a premier sport fish and is widely recognized for its
7 superior table qualities. The Chinook provide important fisheries with
8 three distinct stocks: Spring, summer, and fall runs. In addition,
9 immature Chinook provide important blackmouth recreational fisheries.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The director shall consider the hatchery
11 propagation, rearing, and release of Chinook salmon into state waters
12 as the highest priority among department hatchery programs.

13 Every available viable Chinook salmon egg shall be utilized for
14 increasing the runs of Chinook salmon in state waters. Sale of Chinook
15 salmon eggs by the department, or by volunteer cooperative projects
16 that have received Chinook eggs from the department, shall be
17 prohibited.

1 The director shall emphasize the rearing of Chinook salmon in
2 hatchery, net pens, and rearing pond facilities that are well adapted
3 to the production of Chinook. Hatchery programs that are poor or
4 marginal producers of other salmon species shall be considered for
5 reprogramming to Chinook salmon production.

6 The director shall investigate additional locations that are
7 suitable for semi-intensive pen rearing or pond rearing of Chinook
8 salmon, similar to the department's Percival Cove program or Squaxin
9 Island project, and report the findings to the appropriate legislative
10 committees on or prior to December 31, 1993.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director shall take measures that assure
12 proper escapement of Chinook salmon adults occur to natural spawning
13 areas and to hatchery locations. Consideration shall be given to
14 providing extra protection in low or warm water years, or in years or
15 areas with weak run sizes.

16 Measures are to be taken to improve survival in areas, such as the
17 Elwha river, where unusually high mortality has occurred in adult
18 Chinook salmon prior to spawning. If additional legislative
19 appropriations are needed for these critical improvements, the director
20 shall immediately make a case for increased funding with the governor
21 and legislature.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Salmon tagging information shall be
23 immediately reviewed and analyzed to determine what locations, Chinook
24 salmon stocks, or rearing techniques are most effective in producing
25 resident blackmouth recreational fisheries. The department shall then
26 develop an expanded resident blackmouth production program based on
27 this and the best other information available. The expansion of a
28 blackmouth production program shall have a higher priority than
29 production of other salmon species. Enhanced blackmouth production is
30 especially important in southern Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and in
31 central Puget Sound. Enhancement in these areas will produce increased
32 blackmouth catches in other fishing areas as well, such as north Puget
33 Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Recreational fishers are required to
35 purchase a Chinook salmon recreational stamp in order to fish for
36 Chinook salmon. This requirement is in addition to other catch record

1 and personal use license requirements. The annual fee for a Chinook
2 salmon recreational stamp is twenty dollars.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Commercial fishers are required to purchase
4 a Chinook salmon commercial stamp in order to fish for, sell, or fish
5 for or sell Chinook salmon. This requirement is in addition to other
6 commercial fishing license requirements. The annual fee for a Chinook
7 salmon commercial stamp is five hundred dollars.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Licensed charter boat operators are required
9 to purchase a Chinook salmon charter boat stamp in order to fish for
10 Chinook salmon. This requirement is in addition to other charter boat
11 license requirements. The annual fee for a Chinook salmon charter boat
12 stamp is two hundred fifty dollars.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The revenue generated in sections 5, 6, and
14 7 of this act shall be deposited in the Chinook salmon enhancement
15 account hereby created in the general fund. Moneys in the account may
16 be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may
17 be used only for enhancement of Chinook salmon populations for the
18 purpose of improving catches of Chinook salmon in state-managed
19 fisheries.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 75 RCW.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this act shall take
23 effect January 1, 1994.

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