

---

**SENATE BILL 5874**

---

**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Owen, Oke, Haugen, Hargrove, Erwin, Snyder, Franklin, Spanel, Sutherland, Sellar, McDonald, Bauer and Winsley

Read first time 02/19/93. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving recreational fishing; adding a new  
2 chapter to Title 75 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective  
3 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recreational  
6 fishing opportunities for salmon and marine bottomfish have been  
7 dwindling in recent years. It is important to restore diminished  
8 recreational fisheries and to enhance the salmon and marine bottomfish  
9 resource to assure sustained productivity. Investments made in  
10 recreational fishing programs will repay the people of the state many  
11 times over in increased economic activity and in an improved quality of  
12 life.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created a new position in the  
14 department subject to the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, to be  
15 known as the sportfishing program administrator. The sportfishing  
16 program administrator shall be an advocate for increasing recreational  
17 salmon and marine bottomfish harvesting opportunities through programs

1 specifically designed to improve recreational fishing in south Puget  
2 Sound, central Puget Sound, north Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The duties of the sportfishing program  
4 administrator are to use resources within the department to: Develop  
5 a short-term program of hatchery-based salmon enhancement using fresh  
6 water pond sites for the final rearing phase; solicit support from  
7 cooperative projects, regional enhancement groups, and other supporting  
8 organizations; conduct comprehensive research on resident and migratory  
9 salmon production opportunities; and conduct research on marine  
10 bottomfish production limitations.

11 Long-term duties of the sportfishing program administrator are to:  
12 Fully implement enhancement efforts for Puget Sound and Hood Canal  
13 resident salmon and marine bottomfish; identify opportunities to  
14 reestablish salmon runs into areas where they no longer exist;  
15 encourage naturally spawning salmon populations to develop to their  
16 fullest extent; and fully utilize hatchery programs to improve  
17 recreational fishing.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall seek recommendations  
19 from persons who are expert on the planning and operation of programs  
20 for enhancement of recreational fisheries. The department shall fully  
21 use the expertise of the University of Washington college of fisheries  
22 to develop research and enhancement programs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall place particular  
24 emphasis upon development of new locations for the fresh water rearing  
25 of delayed-release chinook salmon. Natural or artificial pond sites  
26 shall be preferred to net pens due to higher survival rates experienced  
27 from pond rearing. Rigorous predatory bird control measures shall be  
28 implemented.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall develop additional  
30 rearing of coho salmon using net pens and other cost-effective means.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department shall undertake additional  
32 research to more fully evaluate improved enhancement techniques,  
33 hooking mortality rates, methods of mass marking, improvement of catch  
34 models, and sources of marine bottomfish mortality. Research shall be

1 designed to give the best opportunity to provide information that can  
2 be applied to real-world recreational fishing needs.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department shall work with the  
4 department of ecology, the department of wildlife, and local government  
5 entities to streamline the siting process for new enhancement projects.  
6 The department is encouraged to work with the legislature to develop  
7 statutory changes that enable expeditious processing and granting of  
8 permits for fish enhancement projects.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department's information and education  
10 section shall develop a public awareness program designed to educate  
11 the public on the elements of the recreational fishing program and to  
12 recruit volunteers to assist the department in implementing  
13 recreational fishing projects. Economic benefits of the program shall  
14 be emphasized.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The department shall increase efforts to  
16 document the effects of bird predators, harbor seals, sea lions, and  
17 predatory fish upon the salmon and marine fish resource. Every  
18 opportunity shall be explored to convince the federal government to  
19 amend the marine mammal protection act to allow for lethal removal of  
20 predatory marine mammals, as well as to work with the United States  
21 fish and wildlife service to achieve workable control measures for  
22 predatory birds.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Indian tribal fishing interests and non-  
24 Indian commercial fishing groups shall be invited to participate in  
25 development of plans for selective fisheries that target hatchery-  
26 produced fish and minimize catch of naturally spawned fish. In  
27 addition, talks shall be initiated on the feasibility of altering the  
28 rearing programs of department hatcheries to achieve higher survival  
29 and greater production of chinook and coho salmon.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The department shall coordinate the  
31 sportfishing program with the wild stock initiative to assure that the  
32 two programs are compatible and potential conflicts are avoided.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 13.**    The department shall develop plans for  
2 increased recreational access to salmon and marine fish resources.  
3 Proposals for new boat launching ramps and pier fishing access shall be  
4 developed.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 14.**    The department shall contact with private  
6 consultants, aquatic farms, or construction firms, where appropriate,  
7 to achieve the highest benefit-to-cost ratio for recreational fishing  
8 projects.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 15.**    Beginning July 1, 1993, persons who  
10 recreationally fish for salmon or marine bottomfish in marine area  
11 codes 5 through 13 shall be assessed an annual recreational surcharge  
12 of ten dollars, in addition to other licensing requirements. Funds  
13 from the surcharge shall be deposited in the recreational fisheries  
14 enhancement account created in section 16 of this act.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 16.**    The recreational fisheries enhancement  
16 account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from section 15  
17 of this act shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account  
18 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account  
19 may be used only for recreational fisheries enhancement programs.

20       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 17.**    The department shall develop and present to  
21 the legislature, no later than January 1, 1994, proposed legislation  
22 for a recreational fishing capital facilities improvement program  
23 financed through general obligation bonds.

24       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 18.**    Sections 2 through 16 of this act shall  
25 constitute a new chapter in Title 75 RCW.

26       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 19.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
28 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
29 effect July 1, 1993.

--- END ---