
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6206

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Owen, Oke, Hargrove, Erwin and Haugen)

Read first time 01/31/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to game fish; adding a new chapter to Title 77 RCW;
2 and providing effective dates.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A warm water game fish enhancement program
5 is created in the department to be funded from the sale of a warm water
6 game fish surcharge and the revenue attributed to the sale of
7 department fishing licenses that are purchased by fishers who fish for
8 certain warm water game fish species. The enhancement program shall be
9 designed to increase the opportunities to fish for and catch warm water
10 game fish including: Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass,
11 channel catfish, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, and tiger
12 musky. The program shall be designed to use a practical applied
13 approach to increasing warm water fishing. The department shall use
14 the funds available efficiently to assure the greatest increase in the
15 fishing for warm water fish at the lowest cost. This approach shall
16 involve the minimization of overhead and administrative costs and the
17 maximization of productive in-the-field activities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A warm water game fish surcharge allows
2 a person to fish throughout the state for warm water game fish.

3 (2) The annual fee for a game fish surcharge is five dollars and
4 the surcharge is required in addition to an annual game fishing
5 license, except for those persons under fifteen years of age for which
6 there is no charge, and for those residents seventy years of age or
7 older for which the surcharge is one dollar. Holders of three-day
8 resident fishing licenses, three-day nonresident fishing licenses, and
9 nonresident annual fishing licenses shall pay a five-dollar surcharge
10 to fish for warm water fish.

11 (3) The department shall use the most cost-effective format in
12 designing and administering the warm water game fish surcharge.

13 (4) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, "warm water game
14 fish" includes the following species: Bass, channel catfish, walleye,
15 crappie, and other species as defined by the department. However, a
16 warm water game fish surcharge shall only be required to fish for:
17 Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, black crappie, white
18 crappie, channel catfish, and tiger musky.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The goals of the warm water game fish
20 enhancement program are to improve the fishing for warm water game fish
21 using cost-effective management. Development of new ponds and lakes
22 shall be an important and integral part of the program. The department
23 shall work with the department of natural resources to coordinate the
24 reclamation of surface mines and the development of warm water game
25 fish ponds. Improvement of warm water fishing shall be coordinated
26 with the protection and conservation of cold water fish populations.
27 This shall be accomplished by carefully designing the warm water
28 projects to have minimal adverse effects upon the cold water fish
29 populations. New pond and lake development should have beneficial
30 effects upon wildlife due to the increase in lacustrine and wetland
31 habitat that will accompany the improvement of warm water fish habitat.
32 The department shall not develop projects that will increase the
33 populations of undesirable or deleterious fish species such as carp,
34 squawfish, walking catfish, and others.

35 Fish culture programs shall be used in conditions where they will
36 prove to be cost-effective. Consideration should be made for
37 development of urban area enhancement of fishing opportunity for put-
38 and-take species, such as channel catfish, which are amenable to

1 production by low-cost fish culture methods. Fish culture shall also
2 be used for stocking of high value species, such as walleye, smallmouth
3 bass, and tiger musky. Introduction of special genetic strains that
4 show high potential for recreational fishing improvement, including
5 Florida strain largemouth bass, shall be considered.

6 Transplantation and introduction of exotic warm water fish shall be
7 carefully reviewed to assure that adverse effects to native fish and
8 wildlife populations do not occur. This review shall include an
9 analysis of consequences from disease and parasite introduction.

10 Population management through the use of fish toxicants, including
11 rotenone or derris root, shall be an integral part of the warm water
12 game fish enhancement program. However, any use of fish toxicants
13 shall be subject to a thorough review to prevent adverse effects to
14 cold water fish, desirable warm water fish, and other biota.
15 Eradication of deleterious fish species shall be a goal of the program.

16 Habitat improvement shall be a major aspect of the warm water
17 enhancement program. Habitat improvement opportunities shall be
18 defined with scientific investigations, field surveys, and by using the
19 extensive experience of other state management entities. Installation
20 of cover, structure, water flow control structures, screens, spawning
21 substrate, vegetation control, and other management techniques shall be
22 fully used. The department shall work to gain access to privately
23 owned waters that can be developed with habitat improvements to improve
24 the warm water resource for public fishing. Habitat improvements shall
25 be conducted in such a manner as to have secondary benefits to
26 waterfowl, other wildlife, and cold water fish.

27 The department shall use the resources of cooperative groups to
28 assist in the planning and implementation of the warm water game fish
29 enhancement program. In the development of the program the department
30 shall actively involve the organized fishing clubs that primarily fish
31 for warm water fish.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The warm water game fish account is hereby
33 created in the state wildlife fund. Moneys in the account are subject
34 to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the purpose of
35 funding the warm water game fish enhancement program, including the
36 development of warm water pond and lake habitat, culture of warm water
37 game fish, improvement of warm water fish habitat, management of warm

1 water fish populations, and other practical activities that will
2 improve the fishing for warm water fish.

3 Funds from the sale of the warm water game fish surcharges shall be
4 placed in the warm water game fish account. Once each year the
5 director shall deposit into the warm water game fish account the amount
6 of funds that are attributable to those persons who purchase game fish
7 fishing licenses for the purpose of fishing primarily for warm water
8 game fish. The director may estimate the proportion of game fish
9 anglers who fish primarily for warm water fish by using the most
10 accurate angler survey data.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall
12 constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Sections 1, 3, and 4 of this act shall
14 take effect July 1, 1994.

15 (2) Section 2 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1995.

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