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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6264**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Oke, Rasmussen, Morton, Swecker and Anderson)

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to mass marking of chinook salmon; amending RCW  
2 75.08.510; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that mass marking of  
5 hatchery-raised salmon is an effective tool for implementing selective  
6 salmon fisheries in this state. Mass marking of coho salmon is  
7 currently underway and holds great promise for maintaining both  
8 recreational and commercial fishing opportunities while protecting wild  
9 stocks. In view of the anticipated listing of Puget Sound chinook  
10 salmon as endangered under the federal endangered species act, the  
11 legislature finds that it is essential to expeditiously proceed with  
12 implementing a mass marking program for chinook salmon in Puget Sound  
13 and elsewhere in the state.

14 Through a cooperative effort by state and federal agencies and  
15 private enterprise, appropriate technologies have been developed for  
16 marking chinook salmon. It is the intent of the legislature to use  
17 these newly developed tools to implement chinook salmon mass marking  
18 beginning in April 1999.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 75.08.510 and 1995 c 372 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The department shall mark appropriate coho salmon that are released  
4 from department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner  
5 that the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by  
6 fishers for the purpose of maximized catch while sustaining wild and  
7 hatchery reproduction.

8       The department shall mark all appropriate chinook salmon targeted  
9 for contribution to the Washington catch that are released from  
10 department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner that  
11 the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by  
12 fishers.

13       The goal of the marking program is: (1) The annual marking by June  
14 30, 1997, of all appropriate hatchery origin ((~~chinook and~~)) coho  
15 salmon produced by the department with marking to begin with the 1994  
16 Puget Sound coho brood; and (2) the annual marking by June 30, 1999, of  
17 all appropriate hatchery origin chinook salmon produced by the  
18 department with marking to begin with the 1998 chinook brood. The  
19 department may experiment with different methods for marking hatchery  
20 salmon with the primary objective of maximum survival of hatchery  
21 marked fish, maximum contribution to fisheries, and minimum cost  
22 consistent with the other goals.

23       The department shall coordinate with other entities that are  
24 producing hatchery chinook and coho salmon for release into public  
25 waters to enable the broadest application of the marking program to all  
26 hatchery produced chinook and coho salmon. The department shall work  
27 with the treaty Indian tribes in order to reach mutual agreement on the  
28 implementation of the mass marking program. The ultimate goal of the  
29 program is the coast-wide marking of appropriate hatchery origin  
30 chinook and coho salmon, and the protection of all wild chinook and  
31 coho salmon, where appropriate.

32       NEW SECTION.       **Sec. 3.** The sum of one million dollars is  
33 appropriated for fiscal year 1999 from the general fund--state to the  
34 department of fish and wildlife solely for the purpose of implementing  
35 a mass marking program for chinook salmon on a state-wide basis  
36 beginning with the 1998 brood year. The funds shall be used for actual

1 marking of fish. None of the funds shall be used for equipment  
2 purchase or additional staff.

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