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HOUSE BILL 2301

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase and McDermott

Read first time 02/19/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to disturbances of spawning beds; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 77.95 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.95 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) No person may, during the time periods identified by the  
7 commission, lawfully engage in the following activities in rivers and  
8 streams, as designated by the commission, where salmon or steelhead  
9 spawning occur:

10 (a) Driving motor vehicles on spawning beds;

11 (b) Using high-powered jet or propeller-driven boats across  
12 spawning beds;

13 (c) Dragging anchors through spawning beds; and

14 (d) Similar activities capable of disturbing spawning fish or  
15 damaging or destroying nests of incubating eggs.

16 (2) A violation of this section is a natural resource infraction  
17 under chapter 7.84 RCW.

18 (3) The commission shall adopt rules to carry out this section,  
19 including the time periods when the rules are in effect.

1           (4) The department shall:  
2           (a) Publish rules adopted by the commission under this section in  
3 brochures that are disseminated to persons applying for fishing and  
4 boating licenses. The department must also distribute the brochures  
5 widely to retail outlets that cater to outdoor recreation;  
6           (b) Work cooperatively with the tribal comanagers for all fish  
7 resources in implementing and enforcing the requirements of this  
8 section; and  
9           (c) Report to the legislature concerning the effectiveness of this  
10 section after at least two spawning cycles of salmon and steelhead have  
11 occurred.

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