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SENATE BILL 6324

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senator Snyder

Read first time 01/24/92. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to purchase of Columbia river/Willapa Bay/Grays  
2 Harbor commercial salmon licenses; adding new sections to Title 75 RCW;  
3 and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The director shall develop a program for  
6 the purchase and permanent retirement of Columbia river/Willapa Bay and  
7 Columbia river/Grays Harbor commercial salmon fishing licenses. The  
8 director shall administer the program in three phases. The program  
9 shall be subject to funding and the program shall not begin until full  
10 funding was available for all three phases.

11 The director shall solicit funding from all potential funding  
12 sources for the purpose of sections 1 through 6 of this act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**        Phase one of the fishing license buy-out  
2 plan established in section 1 of this act shall be conducted as  
3 follows:

4        (1) A mandatory purchase of all licenses that have not landed  
5 either:

6            (a) One thousand pounds of salmon in Washington in each of the  
7 years of 1991, 1990, 1989, 1988, 1987; or

8            (b) Two thousand five hundred pounds of salmon in Washington during  
9 1990 and 1991.

10        (2) Phase one license purchases shall be at five thousand dollars  
11 each.

12        (3) Licensees may appeal to the director to waive the landing  
13 requirement in subsection (1) of this section on the grounds of illness  
14 or an unforeseen emergency. The director may review the appeals or  
15 establish an advisory board to hear the appeals under RCW 75.30.050.

16        (4) Licenses purchased in phase one shall be permanently retired  
17 from the fishing fleet.

18        (5) After phase one is completed, no minimum poundage requirements  
19 are necessary for license renewal.

20        (6) No additional vessel operators are allowed during phase one.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**        Phase two of the license buy-out plan  
22 established in section 1 of this act shall begin after phase one is  
23 completed and shall be in effect no longer than ninety days.

24        (1) All purchases of licenses in phase two shall be strictly  
25 voluntary. The licensees shall be afforded the opportunity to sell  
26 their licenses on a willing basis.

27        (2) The price of licenses purchased in phase two shall be fifty  
28 thousand dollars for Columbia river/Grays Harbor licenses, fifty  
29 thousand dollars for Columbia river/Willapa Bay licenses, and seventy-

1 five thousand dollars for Columbia river/Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay  
2 licenses.

3 (3) Licenses purchased in phase two shall be permanently retired  
4 from the fishing fleet.

5 (4) No minimum poundage requirements are in effect in phase two.

6 (5) No additional vessel operators are allowed in phase two.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Phase three of the buy-out plan  
8 established in section 1 of this act shall begin after phase two has  
9 ended and shall be in effect until the entire gillnet fleet is reduced  
10 to one hundred twenty-five Columbia river/Willapa Bay licenses and  
11 seventy-five Columbia River/Grays Harbor licenses.

12 Phase three shall be conducted in the following manner:

13 (1) A voluntary purchase of licenses on the basis of ten thousand  
14 dollars for a Columbia river/Grays Harbor license, ten thousand dollars  
15 for a Columbia river/Willapa Bay license, and thirty thousand dollars  
16 for a Columbia river/Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay license.

17 (2) The total number of Columbia river/Grays harbor and Columbia  
18 river/Willapa Bay licenses shall not be allowed to drop below one  
19 hundred fifty licenses.

20 (3) No minimum poundage requirements are in effect during and after  
21 phase three.

22 (4) Licenses purchased in phase three shall be permanently retired  
23 from the fishing fleet.

24 (5) When the number of licenses reaches two hundred, additional  
25 vessel operators may be added.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Columbia river/Grays Harbor, Columbia  
27 river/Willapa Bay, and Columbia river/Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay salmon  
28 gillnet licenses are freely transferable.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**        The salmon catch division between non-  
2 Indian commercial and recreational fisheries shall not change from  
3 historical levels experienced in the 1980-1991 time period as a result  
4 of sections 1 through 6 of this act.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**        Sections 1 through 6 of this act are  
6 each added to Title 75 RCW.

7        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**        If any provision of this act or its  
8 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
9 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
10 persons or circumstances is not affected.

11       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**        This act shall take effect January 1,  
12 1993.