
HOUSE BILL 2528

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Hatfield, Pennington and Basich

Read first time 01/12/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying harbor seal and sea lion predation on
2 anadromous fish; 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 fish and wildlife commission shall
5 contract with the University of Washington, Washington State
6 University, a Native American tribe with fishing rights in the Boldt
7 case area, or a private consulting firm for the purpose of determining
8 the food habits and population estimates of harbor seals and sea lions.
9 The commission shall award the contract, oversee the performance of the
10 contract, and receive the final report of the contractor's findings.
11 In addition, the commission shall make application to the national
12 marine fisheries service for the necessary permits to perform sampling
13 of the harbor seal and sea lion population for food habit analysis.

14 The food habit study shall be conducted with statistically valid
15 sample sizes of harbor seals and sea lions that will be collected by
16 lethal capture methods and necropsied for the purpose of determining
17 food habits. The study shall focus upon the occurrence of various life
18 stages of anadromous salmonid fish in the stomach contents of the

1 sampled marine mammals, but shall also record occurrences of other life
2 forms.

3 The study shall include a sampling program to determine the effects
4 of harbor seals and sea lions on the levels of fecal coliform bacteria
5 in commercial shellfish growing areas. The proportion of fecal
6 coliform bacterial contamination due to harbor seals and sea lions
7 shall be estimated for important shellfish production areas, such as,
8 but not limited to, Willapa Bay, Hood Canal, southern Puget Sound and
9 northern Puget Sound.

10 A population estimate shall be made for harbor seals and sea lions
11 in Washington state waters.

12 Results of the population estimate and the seal and sea lion food
13 habit study shall be provided to the appropriate committees of the
14 legislature, the national marine fisheries service, Native American
15 tribes with fishing rights to anadromous fish, the fisheries management
16 agencies of the states of Oregon and Alaska, and the province of
17 British Columbia.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand
19 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
20 the biennium ending June 30, 1997, from the state general fund to the
21 fish and wildlife commission for the purpose of the study in section 1
22 of this act.

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