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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5157**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1995 Regular Session**

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

Read first time 02/13/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to conspicuous external marking of hatchery  
2 produced chinook salmon and coho salmon; adding new sections to Title  
3 75 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that the state has  
6 a vital interest in the continuation of recreational fisheries for  
7 chinook salmon and coho salmon in mixed stock areas, and that the  
8 harvest of hatchery origin salmon should be encouraged while wild  
9 salmon should be afforded additional protection when required. A  
10 program of selective harvest shall be developed utilizing hatchery  
11 salmon that are externally marked in a conspicuous manner, regulations  
12 that promote the unharmed release of unmarked fish, when and where  
13 appropriate, and a public information program that educates the public  
14 about the need to protect depressed stocks of wild salmon.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department shall mark appropriate coho  
16 salmon that are released from department operated hatcheries and  
17 rearing ponds in such a manner that the fish are externally

1 recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by fishers for the purpose of  
2 maximized catch while sustaining wild and hatchery reproduction.

3 The department shall mark all appropriate chinook salmon targeted  
4 for contribution to the Washington catch that are released from  
5 department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner that  
6 the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by  
7 fishers.

8 The goal of the marking program is the annual marking by June 30,  
9 1997, of all appropriate hatchery origin chinook and coho salmon  
10 produced by the department with marking to begin with the 1994 Puget  
11 Sound coho brood. The department may experiment with different methods  
12 for marking hatchery salmon with the primary objective of maximum  
13 survival of hatchery marked fish, maximum contribution to fisheries,  
14 and minimum cost consistent with the other goals.

15 The department shall coordinate with other entities that are  
16 producing hatchery chinook and coho salmon for release into public  
17 waters to enable the broadest application of the marking program to all  
18 hatchery produced chinook and coho salmon. The ultimate goal of the  
19 program is the coast-wide marking of appropriate hatchery origin  
20 chinook and coho salmon, and the protection of all wild chinook and  
21 coho salmon, where appropriate.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall adopt rules to control  
23 the mixed stock chinook and coho fisheries of the state so as to  
24 sustain healthy stocks of wild salmon, allow the maximum survival of  
25 wild salmon, allow for spatially separated fisheries that target on  
26 hatchery stocks, foster the best techniques for releasing wild chinook  
27 and coho salmon, and contribute to the economic viability of the  
28 fishing businesses of the state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of five million dollars, or as much  
30 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending  
31 June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the department of fish and  
32 wildlife for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
34 added to Title 75 RCW.

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