

2 **2SSB 5120** - H COMM AMD **ADOPTED 4-14-97**
3 By Committee on Natural Resources

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that trout and salmon
8 population levels are greatly below the carrying capacity of many state
9 waters, and that reintroduction of both trout and salmon can be
10 accomplished with the use of remote site incubators. Remote site
11 incubators have been shown to be a cost-effective means of bypassing
12 the early period of high mortality that is often experienced by
13 salmonid eggs that are naturally spawned in streams with degraded
14 habitat. In addition, remote site incubators provide an efficient
15 method for reintroduction of fish into areas that are not fully seeded
16 by natural spawn. The technology for remote site incubators is well
17 developed, and their application is easily accomplished in a wide
18 variety of habitat by persons with a moderate level of training.

19 It is a goal of the remote site incubator program to assist
20 reestablishment of sustainable fish populations so that the populations
21 may become naturally spawning in many cases. In other cases, primarily
22 where spawning conditions are not optimal or where numbers of spawners
23 are chronically low, the remote site incubator program may become a
24 cost-effective long-term solution for supplementation and restoration
25 of fish populations.

26 Another goal of the remote site incubator program is to provide a
27 means of utilizing excess or surplus salmonid eggs which in the past
28 would have been destroyed or not used in a way that would have rebuilt
29 fish populations.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall identify potential
31 sites throughout the state and potential fish species for each site
32 that are suitable for remote site incubators. The initial selection of
33 sites shall be completed by July 1, 1998. Thereafter the site
34 selection list shall be updated at least on an annual basis.

1 (2)(a) The director may use employees of the fish and wildlife
2 construction crew to construct remote site incubators.

3 (b) The director shall purchase commercially available remote site
4 incubators in cases in which it would be more economical to purchase
5 remote site incubators rather than to build them with the construction
6 crew.

7 (c) The director of fish and wildlife and the secretary of the
8 department of corrections shall jointly investigate the potential of
9 producing remote site incubators through the prison industries program
10 of the department of corrections, and shall jointly report their
11 finding to the natural resources committees of the house of
12 representatives and the senate by December 1, 1998.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall coordinate the
14 implementation of the remote site incubator program throughout the
15 state and shall make annual reports to the fish and wildlife commission
16 on the progress of the program.

17 (2) The department shall fully involve and depend chiefly upon
18 volunteer efforts to implement the remote site incubator program
19 through the regional fisheries enhancement groups, volunteer
20 cooperative groups, private nonprofit groups, treaty Indian tribes, and
21 interested individuals.

22 (3) The director shall approve a remote site incubator project
23 unless it is a direct threat to the salmonid resource. The director
24 may prioritize remote site incubator projects within regional
25 enhancement areas.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The director shall make every effort to
27 utilize appropriate salmonid eggs in remote site incubators if the eggs
28 are not allocated for other fish culture uses or would otherwise be
29 sold or donated.

30 (2) The director may purchase or accept as a gift to the state
31 viable salmonid eggs from private fish farmers for purposes of stocking
32 remote site incubators and for the stocking of all public waters.

33 (3) As required to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the
34 director shall contact the treaty Indian tribes, the federal fish and
35 wildlife service, and the state fish management agencies of Oregon and
36 Idaho for the purpose of obtaining donations of viable salmonid eggs
37 for stocking remote site incubators.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director shall direct the warm water
2 fish enhancement program of the department to investigate ways for
3 applying the remote site incubator technology to the production of warm
4 water fish.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act constitute
6 a new chapter in Title 75 RCW."

7 Correct the title.

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