
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: H-3335.2/97 2nd draft

ATTY/TYPIST: ML:as

BRIEF TITLE:

2 **2SSB 5886** - CONF REPT
3 By Conference Committee

4

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

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) Currently, many of the salmon stocks on the Washington coast
9 and in Puget Sound are severely depressed and may soon be listed under
10 the federal endangered species act.

11 (b) Immediate action is needed to reverse the severe decline of
12 this resource and ensure its very survival.

13 (c) The cooperation and participation of private landowners is
14 crucial in efforts to restore and enhance salmon populations.

15 (d) Regional fisheries enhancement groups have been exceptionally
16 successful in their efforts to work with private landowners to restore
17 and enhance salmon habitat on private lands.

18 (e) State funding for regional fisheries enhancement groups has
19 been declining and is a significant limitation to current fisheries
20 enhancement and habitat restoration efforts.

21 (f) Therefore, a stable funding source is essential to the success
22 of the regional enhancement groups and their efforts to work
23 cooperatively with private landowners to restore salmon resources.

24 (2) The legislature further finds that:

25 (a) The increasing population and continued development throughout
26 the state, and the transportation system needed to serve this growth,
27 have exacerbated problems associated with culverts, creating barriers
28 to fish passage.

29 (b) These barriers obstruct habitat and have resulted in reduced
30 production and survival of anadromous and resident fish at a time when
31 salmonid stocks continue to decline.

32 (c) Current state laws do not appropriately direct resources for
33 the correction of fish passage obstructions related to transportation
34 facilities.

35 (d) Current fish passage management efforts related to
36 transportation projects lack necessary coordination on a watershed,

1 regional, and state-wide basis, have inadequate funding, and fail to
2 maximize use of available resources.

3 (e) Therefore, the legislature finds that the department of
4 transportation and the department of fish and wildlife should work with
5 state, tribal, local government, and volunteer entities to develop a
6 coordinated, watershed-based fish passage barrier removal program.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.50 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 The department may provide start-up funds to regional fisheries
10 enhancement groups for costs associated with any enhancement project.
11 The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board and the
12 department shall develop guidelines for providing funds to the regional
13 fisheries enhancement groups.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 75.50 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The regional fisheries enhancement salmonid recovery account is
17 created in the state treasury. All receipts from federal sources and
18 moneys from state sources specified by law must be deposited into the
19 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
20 Expenditures from the account may be used for the sole purpose of
21 fisheries enhancement and habitat restoration by regional fisheries
22 enhancement groups.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The regional fisheries enhancement group
24 advisory board shall conduct a study of federal, state, and local
25 permitting requirements for fisheries enhancement and habitat
26 restoration projects. The study shall identify redundant, conflicting,
27 or duplicative permitting requirements and rules, and shall make
28 recommendations for streamlining and improving the permitting process.
29 The results of the study shall be reported to the senate natural
30 resources and parks committee and the house of representatives natural
31 resources committee by November 1, 1997.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 75.50.080 and 1993 sp.s. c 2 s 47 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

1 Regional fisheries enhancement groups, consistent with the long-
2 term regional policy statements developed under RCW 75.50.020, shall
3 seek to:

4 (1) Enhance the salmon and steelhead resources of the state;

5 (2) Maximize volunteer efforts and private donations to improve the
6 salmon and steelhead resources for all citizens;

7 (3) Assist the department in achieving the goal to double the
8 state-wide salmon and steelhead catch by the year 2000 (~~under chapter~~
9 ~~214, Laws of 1988~~); and

10 (4) Develop projects designed to supplement the fishery enhancement
11 capability of the department.

12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 75.50.160 and 1995 c 367 s 2 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 The (~~department's habitat division shall work with~~) department
15 and the department of transportation shall convene a fish passage
16 barrier removal task force. The task force shall consist of one
17 representative each from the department, the department of
18 transportation, the department of ecology, tribes, cities, counties,
19 (~~and~~) a business organization, an environmental organization,
20 regional fisheries enhancement groups, and other interested entities as
21 deemed appropriate by the cochairs. The persons representing the
22 department and the department of transportation shall serve as cochairs
23 of the task force and shall appoint members to the task force. The
24 task force shall make recommendations to (~~develop a~~) expand the
25 program in RCW 75.50.170 to identify and expedite the removal of human-
26 made or caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most
27 efficient manner practical. Program recommendations shall include a
28 funding mechanism and other necessary mechanisms to coordinate and
29 prioritize state, tribal, local, and volunteer efforts within each
30 water resource inventory area. A priority shall be given to projects
31 that immediately increase access to available and improved spawning and
32 rearing habitat for depressed, threatened, and endangered stocks. The
33 department or the department of transportation may contract with cities
34 and counties to assist in the identification and removal of impediments
35 to anadromous fish passage.

36 A report on the (~~progress of impediment identification and removal~~
37 ~~and the need for~~) recommendations to develop a program to identify and
38 remove fish passage barriers and any additional legislative action

1 needed to implement the program shall be submitted to the (~~senate and~~
2 ~~the house of representatives natural resources~~) appropriate standing
3 committees of the legislature no later than (~~January 1, 1996~~)
4 December 1, 1997."

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8 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "program;" strike the
9 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 75.50.080 and
10 75.50.160; adding new sections to chapter 75.50 RCW; and creating new
11 sections."

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