

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5886

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources & Parks, March 4, 1997  
Ways & Means, March 10, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to the regional fisheries enhancement program.

**Brief Description:** Providing a stable funding source for fisheries enhancement and habitat restoration.

**Sponsors:** Senators Strannigan, Swecker, Jacobsen and Oke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 3/4/97 [DPS-WM].  
Ways & Means: 3/10/97 [DP2S].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5886 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Oke, Chair; Rossi, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Jacobsen, Morton, Prentice, Roach, Snyder, Stevens and Swecker.

**Staff:** Ross Antipa (786-7413)

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** That Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5886 be substituted therefor, and the second substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chair; Strannigan, Vice Chair; Bauer, Fraser, Hochstatter, Kohl, Long, Loveland, McDonald, Roach, Rossi, Schow, Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Swecker, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Zarelli.

**Staff:** Cathy Baker (786-7708)

**Background:** Regional fisheries enhancement groups were established by the Legislature in 1989 for the purpose of enhancement and restoration of salmon resources. Since that time, regional groups have incorporated, begun ambitious restoration activities, and quickly grown to utilize all available monetary resources.

There is interest in authorizing the regional fisheries enhancement groups to enhance steelhead trout, to expand their funding sources, and to streamline the permits needed for fish enhancement projects.

**Summary of Second Substitute Bill:** Regional fisheries enhancement groups are authorized to enhance steelhead trout. A surcharge of \$1 is collected on each steelhead license sold, and a surcharge of \$25 is collected on each fishing guide license and anadromous fish buyers license. Funds from these surcharges are deposited in the regional fisheries enhancement group account. It is clarified that the regional fisheries enhancement account may receive federal funds. The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board must make recommendations for streamlining the permitting process for fish enhancement projects.

**Second Substitute Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:** Provisions creating a new regional fisheries enhancement recovery account are removed. It is clarified that the existing account may receive federal funds.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The surcharge on fishing guide and anadromous fish buyers licenses is reduced to \$25 from \$100. The emergency clause is removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 24, 1997.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For (Natural Resources & Parks):** Regional groups need additional funding in order to expand their operations to include steelhead trout restoration projects.

**Testimony Against (Natural Resources & Parks):** None.

**Testified (Natural Resources & Parks):** Lawrence Oathout, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (pro); Al Adams, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (pro); John Kelly, King County Outdoor Sports Council (pro); Mike Kuttel, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (pro); Ric Abbett, Trout Unlimited (pro); Geoff Lebon, Regional Fisheries Enh. Adv. (pro); David Burger, Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (pro).

**Testimony For (Ways & Means):** This bill will increase the resources available to regional enhancement groups. The dollars are well spent and leverage a lot of in-kind donations.

**Testimony Against (Ways & Means):** None.

**Testified (Ways & Means):** Willy O'Neil, Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force (pro).