

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6593

---

As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources & Parks, February 6, 1998  
Ways & Means, February 10, 1998

**Title:** An act relating to the department of natural resources.

**Brief Description:** Funding a study of locations for finfish net-pen aquaculture.

**Sponsors:** Senators Swecker, Rasmussen and Morton.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 2/5/98, 2/6/98 [DPS-WM].  
Ways & Means: 2/10/98 [DP2S].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6593 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, Morton, Roach, Stevens and Swecker.

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

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** That Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6593 be substituted therefor, and the second substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chair; Deccio, Vice Chair; Strannigan, Vice Chair; Hochstatter, Long, McDonald, Roach, Rossi, Schow, Snyder, Swecker and Winsley.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Spanel.

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

**Background:** Finfish pen culture in marine waters is limited by a lack of suitable sites that can receive the proper permits for development.

If the Department of Natural Resources would identify finfish net-pen aquaculture zones within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, then further development of finfish aquaculture would have an opportunity for further expansion.

**Summary of Second Substitute Bill:** The Department of Natural Resources must study establishment of finfish net-pen aquaculture zones within the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the

Pacific Ocean, which reduce land-use conflicts, minimize competition with other water-dependent uses, limit adverse environmental impacts, and provide marine and weather conditions for finfish net-pens.

The department must report its findings to the Legislature by January 1, 1999.

**Second Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The \$50,000 appropriation from the RMCA is removed.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Aquaculture zones are to be studied in Pacific Ocean areas.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 27, 1998.

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

**Testimony For:** The net-pen finfish aquaculture industry needs new site locations in order to expand their operations.

**Testimony Against:** Net-pen aquaculture harms the environment and may negatively affect native salmonids.

**Testified (Natural Resources & Parks):** Lanny Carpenter, Puget Sound Gillnet Association (con); Barbara Stenson, Marine Environmental Cons. (con); John Woodring, Peter Granber, Martin Blonso, Washington Fishermen Association (pro).

**Testified (Ways & Means):** John Woodring (pro).