
SENATE BILL 5347

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Oke, Winsley, Snyder, Bauer, Swecker, Morton, Schow, Zarelli, Rossi, Strannigan and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing fishing opportunities for juveniles;
2 adding new sections to chapter 77.32 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that providing
5 juvenile fishers with increased opportunity to fish with recreational
6 gear will provide wholesome activities that will better their lives and
7 instill an appreciation for the state's natural resources. Society as
8 a whole will gain from these positive, youthful experiences, and an
9 important tradition of Northwest life will be perpetuated. Many
10 youthful fishers will be exposed to a natural experience that will
11 teach them self-confidence, respect for the resource, and remain with
12 them for the rest of their lives.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The fish and wildlife commission must
14 identify, establish, and expand upon specific areas throughout the
15 state that are suitable for a juvenile fishing-only program. The
16 department must restrict the fishing opportunities in these waters to
17 persons less than eighteen years of age. The length of the fishing
18 season for juvenile fishing-only waters must be as long as possible to

1 encourage participation year around. Some juvenile fishing-only waters
2 must be easily accessible from urban areas so as to encourage inner-
3 city youth to participate in fishing activities.

4 The department must, as is practical, utilize fish produced in fish
5 hatcheries as a basis for the juvenile fishing opportunities in
6 juvenile fishing-only waters. The purpose of reliance upon hatchery-
7 produced fish is to provide readily available recreation without
8 adversely impacting naturally produced salmonid stocks. The
9 utilization of hatchery-produced fish enables the capture and retention
10 of the fish by juvenile fishers without the requirement for catch and
11 release fishing. The department may establish some waters for juvenile
12 catch and release fishing only, but the major emphasis of the program
13 is upon allowance of catch and retention.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department must work with cooperative
15 groups, regional fisheries enhancement groups, government agencies,
16 Indian tribes, and civic groups for the purpose of expanding juvenile
17 fishing-only waters throughout the state. Organized groups that
18 sponsor group outings for juvenile fishers must be encouraged to the
19 fullest extent.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of fish and wildlife must
21 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the progress
22 of the juvenile fishing-only program on or before January 31, 1998.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
24 to chapter 77.32 RCW.

--- END ---