
SENATE BILL 6264

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Rasmussen and Morton

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to mass marking of chinook salmon; amending RCW
2 75.08.510; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that mass marking of
5 hatchery-raised salmon is an effective tool for implementing selective
6 salmon fisheries in this state. Mass marking of coho salmon is
7 currently underway and holds great promise for maintaining both
8 recreational and commercial fishing opportunities while protecting wild
9 stocks. In view of the anticipated listing of Puget Sound chinook
10 salmon as endangered under the federal endangered species act, the
11 legislature finds that it is essential to expeditiously proceed with
12 implementing a mass marking program for chinook salmon in Puget Sound
13 and elsewhere in the state.

14 Through a cooperative effort by state and federal agencies and
15 private enterprise, appropriate technologies have been developed for
16 marking chinook salmon. It is the intent of the legislature to use
17 these newly developed tools to implement chinook salmon mass marking
18 beginning in April 1999.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 75.08.510 and 1995 c 372 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The department shall mark appropriate coho salmon that are released
4 from department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner
5 that the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by
6 fishers for the purpose of maximized catch while sustaining wild and
7 hatchery reproduction.

8 The department shall mark all appropriate chinook salmon targeted
9 for contribution to the Washington catch that are released from
10 department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner that
11 the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by
12 fishers.

13 The goal of the marking program is: (1) The annual marking by June
14 30, 1997, of all appropriate hatchery origin ((~~chinook and~~)) coho
15 salmon produced by the department with marking to begin with the 1994
16 Puget Sound coho brood; and (2) the annual marking by June 30, 1999, of
17 all appropriate hatchery origin chinook salmon produced by the
18 department with marking to begin with the 1998 chinook brood. The
19 department may experiment with different methods for marking hatchery
20 salmon with the primary objective of maximum survival of hatchery
21 marked fish, maximum contribution to fisheries, and minimum cost
22 consistent with the other goals.

23 The department shall coordinate with other entities that are
24 producing hatchery chinook and coho salmon for release into public
25 waters to enable the broadest application of the marking program to all
26 hatchery produced chinook and coho salmon. The ultimate goal of the
27 program is the coast-wide marking of appropriate hatchery origin
28 chinook and coho salmon, and the protection of all wild chinook and
29 coho salmon, where appropriate.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one million dollars is
31 appropriated for fiscal year 1999 from the general fund--state to the
32 department of fish and wildlife solely for the purpose of implementing
33 a mass marking program for chinook salmon on a state-wide basis
34 beginning with the 1998 brood year. The funds shall be used for actual
35 marking of fish. None of the funds shall be used for equipment
36 purchase or additional staff.

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