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HOUSE BILL 1697

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen and Pennington

Read first time 02/01/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program to allow food fish  
2 caught in Canadian waters by sports fishers to be landed in Point  
3 Roberts; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and providing  
4 an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that Point  
7 Roberts is uniquely situated in this state. Unless approached by the  
8 water, it is necessary to travel through part of Canada to enter Point  
9 Roberts. Because of its location, residents of Point Roberts may be  
10 alongside Canadian boaters who are fishing in Canadian waters that are  
11 open for fishing, but the residents of Point Roberts are unable to land  
12 fish caught from these same waters at the same time. The legislature  
13 therefore finds that a limited pilot program should be established to  
14 determine if it is possible to extend sport fishing opportunities for  
15 residents of Point Roberts without exceeding conservation limits  
16 established for the fish.

17 (2) The department of fish and wildlife shall establish a one-year  
18 pilot program to allow food fish caught for personal use in Canadian  
19 waters during closed fishing periods in Washington waters to be landed

1 in Point Roberts. The department shall establish the number of fish  
2 that may be landed under this pilot program and reasonable enforcement  
3 mechanisms to enforce the landing requirements. The department shall  
4 adopt reasonable rules for the establishment of this pilot program.

5 (3) Nothing in this section eliminates the need for a valid  
6 Canadian fishing license if one is required.

7 (4) The department shall compare the landing levels under the pilot  
8 program with landing levels prior to establishment of the pilot  
9 program. The department shall report its findings, including any  
10 difficulties in enforcing the program, to the appropriate legislative  
11 committees by December 1, 2001.

12 (5) This section expires January 1, 2002.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as  
14 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
15 ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the department of fish  
16 and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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