

---

HOUSE BILL 2207

---

State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Grant, Buck, G. Chandler, Mulliken and Mielke

Read first time 02/27/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to elimination of the salmon recovery office;  
2 amending RCW 77.85.005; creating a new section; and repealing RCW  
3 77.85.030 and 77.85.150.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the primary  
6 purpose of the salmon recovery office was the development of the  
7 statewide salmon recovery strategy for submittal to the  
8 appropriate federal agencies. The legislature further finds that  
9 since the development and submittal of this strategy has been  
10 accomplished, the remaining tasks of the salmon recovery office  
11 can be accomplished through existing state agencies. The  
12 legislature believes that by relying upon existing state agencies  
13 to accomplish salmon recovery, there will be less duplication of  
14 effort within the executive branch and a corresponding savings of  
15 resources.

16            **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.85.005 and 1999 sp.s. c 13 s 1 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

1       The legislature finds that repeated attempts to improve  
2 salmonid fish runs throughout the state of Washington have failed  
3 to avert listings of salmon and steelhead runs as threatened or  
4 endangered under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C.  
5 Sec. 1531 et seq.). These listings threaten the sport, commercial,  
6 and tribal fishing industries as well as the economic well-being  
7 and vitality of vast areas of the state. It is the intent of the  
8 legislature to begin activities required for the recovery of  
9 salmon stocks as soon as possible, although the legislature  
10 understands that successful recovery efforts may not be realized  
11 for many years because of the life cycle of salmon and the complex  
12 array of natural and human-caused problems they face.

13       The legislature finds that it is in the interest of the  
14 citizens of the state of Washington for the state to retain  
15 primary responsibility for managing the natural resources of the  
16 state, rather than abdicate those responsibilities to the federal  
17 government, and that the state may best accomplish this objective  
18 by integrating local and regional recovery activities into a  
19 statewide plan that can make the most effective use of provisions  
20 of federal laws allowing for a state lead in salmon recovery. The  
21 legislature also finds that a statewide salmon recovery plan must  
22 be developed and implemented through an active public involvement  
23 process in order to ensure public participation in, and support  
24 for, salmon recovery. The legislature also finds that there is a  
25 substantial link between the provisions of the federal endangered  
26 species act and the federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251  
27 et seq.). The legislature further finds that habitat restoration is  
28 a vital component of salmon recovery efforts. Therefore, it is the  
29 intent of the legislature to specifically address salmon habitat  
30 restoration in a coordinated manner and to develop a structure  
31 that allows for the coordinated delivery of federal, state, and  
32 local assistance to communities for habitat projects that will  
33 assist in the recovery and enhancement of salmon stocks.

34       The legislature also finds that credible scientific review and  
35 oversight is essential for any salmon recovery effort to be  
36 successful.

37       The legislature further finds that it is important to monitor  
38 the overall health of the salmon resource to determine if recovery

1 efforts are providing expected returns. It is important to monitor  
2 salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities to  
3 determine their effectiveness in order to secure federal  
4 acceptance of the state's approach to salmon recovery. Adaptive  
5 management cannot exist without monitoring. For these reasons, the  
6 legislature believes that a coordinated and integrated monitoring  
7 process should be developed.

8 The legislature therefore finds that a coordinated framework  
9 for responding to the salmon crisis is needed immediately. To that  
10 end, (~~the salmon recovery office should be created within the~~  
11 ~~governor's office to provide overall coordination of the state's~~  
12 ~~response;~~) an independent science panel is needed to provide  
13 scientific review and oversight; a coordinated state funding  
14 process should be established through a salmon recovery funding  
15 board; the appropriate local or tribal government should provide  
16 local leadership in identifying and sequencing habitat projects to  
17 be funded by state agencies; habitat projects should be  
18 implemented without delay; and a strong locally based effort to  
19 restore salmon habitat should be established by providing a  
20 framework to allow citizen volunteers to work effectively.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
22 repealed:

23 (1) RCW 77.85.030 (Governor's salmon recovery office--Creation--  
24 Purpose) and 2000 c 107 s 93, 1999 sp.s. c 13 s 8, & 1998 c 246 s  
25 5; and

26 (2) RCW 77.85.150 (Statewide salmon recovery strategy--  
27 Prospective application) and 1999 sp.s. c 13 s 9.

--- END ---

