
SENATE BILL 6581

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Poulsen, Jacobsen, Spanel and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/22/2002. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines.

1 AN ACT Relating to Puget Sound marine resource committees; amending
2 RCW 79.24.580; adding a new chapter to Title 77 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is growing
6 evidence that the marine ecosystem in Puget Sound is in serious
7 decline. The depletion of marine resources has hurt economies and
8 communities around the Puget Sound. In particular, the serious decline
9 of marine fish has caused great concern. In response to this problem,
10 a growing number of local governments and state agencies have begun
11 work constructing a network of marine protected areas, where fishing
12 and harvesting of marine organisms are discouraged or prohibited. A
13 primary goal of this effort is to rebuild stocks of marine fish, over
14 time, to harvestable levels. Local governments in the Northwest
15 Straits region have established marine resource committees to help
16 facilitate this process. The legislature recognizes there is a need to
17 expand this work into other parts of the Puget Sound. Furthermore,
18 while the legislature recognizes that much progress has been made in
19 this area by both state and local agencies, there is a need for better

1 coordination among these agencies so that limited financial resources
2 are used in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the policy of the state of Washington
4 to establish a scientifically defensible network of marine protected
5 areas in Puget Sound. The department, the department of ecology, the
6 department of natural resources, the Puget Sound action team, and the
7 state parks and recreation commission must work together and with local
8 authorities to achieve this goal.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislative authority for each city and
10 county that borders the marine waters of Puget Sound is authorized to
11 establish marine resource committees. The mission of the committee,
12 utilizing sound science, is to address the needs of the local marine
13 ecosystem. The committees must review current data and programs and
14 make prioritized recommendations for additional measures that might be
15 necessary to enhance protection of marine resources. The goals of the
16 committee include the following:

17 (1) Use existing data and, to the extent necessary, help gather new
18 data on the health of local marine resources. This includes a review
19 of data compiled by state and federal resource agencies;

20 (2) Make scientifically based recommendations on local candidate
21 sites for marine protected areas;

22 (3) Work closely with local and state officials to help implement
23 recommendations;

24 (4) Promote public outreach and education around these issues; and

25 (5) Any other activities that the participating city or county
26 deems appropriate.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Marine resource committees may be
28 created by the legislative authority of a city or county bordering the
29 marine waters of Puget Sound. In doing so, cities and counties must
30 coordinate and cooperate with all appropriate special districts within
31 their boundaries in establishing the marine resource committee and
32 implementing its recommendations. County and city legislative
33 authorities are encouraged to coordinate, especially in areas where
34 they border one another.

35 (2) Participating county and city legislative authorities must
36 select members of the marine resource committee, ensuring balanced

1 representation from: Local government; scientific experts; effected
2 economic interests; effected recreational interests; and environmental
3 and conservation interests.

4 (3) County and city residents may petition the county or city
5 legislative authority to create a marine resource committee. Upon
6 receipt of a petition, the city or county legislative authority must
7 respond in writing within sixty days as to whether they will authorize
8 the creation of a marine resource committee as well as the reasons for
9 their decision.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this chapter is intended to
11 expand or limit the authority of local marine resource committees
12 existing as of the effective date of this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The Puget Sound marine protection task
14 force is created. The task force must be chaired by the Puget Sound
15 action team and include representatives of the following state
16 agencies: The department of ecology; the department of fish and
17 wildlife; the parks and recreation commission; and the department of
18 natural resources.

19 (2) By December 31, 2002, the task force must report to the
20 legislature and provide recommendations on ways in which state and
21 local efforts to establish marine protected areas, marine reserves, and
22 similar programs can be better coordinated and make better use of
23 limited financial resources, while simultaneously ensuring protection
24 of the marine environment. Specifically, the task force must make
25 recommendations on the following:

26 (a) Mechanisms for better coordination of state-level marine
27 protection programs, including the department of fish and wildlife's
28 marine protected area designation and the department of natural
29 resources' marine reserves program; and

30 (b) Mechanisms for better communication and coordination with local
31 marine resource committees.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** In establishing marine reserves and marine
33 protected areas, state and local governments must recognize the
34 comanagement role of tribal governments. The state must coordinate on
35 a government-to-government basis with tribal governments prior to
36 adopting any marine reserve or marine protected area proposal.

1 **Sec. 8.** RCW 79.24.580 and 2001 c 227 s 7 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 After deduction for management costs as provided in RCW 79.64.040
4 and payments to towns under RCW 79.92.110(2), all moneys received by
5 the state from the sale or lease of state-owned aquatic lands and from
6 the sale of valuable material from state-owned aquatic lands shall be
7 deposited in the aquatic lands enhancement account which is hereby
8 created in the state treasury. After appropriation, these funds shall
9 be used solely for aquatic lands enhancement projects; for the
10 purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public
11 purposes; for providing and improving access to such lands; (~~and~~) for
12 volunteer cooperative fish and game projects; and for the funding of
13 Puget Sound marine resource committees created under the authority of
14 chapter 77.-- RCW (sections 1 through 5 and 7 of this act).

15 In providing grants for aquatic lands enhancement projects, the
16 department shall require grant recipients to incorporate the
17 environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications,
18 and the department shall utilize the statement of environmental
19 benefits in its prioritization and selection process. The department
20 shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to
21 be used both for management and performance assessment of the grants.
22 To the extent possible, the department should coordinate its
23 performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies
24 as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The department shall consult with
25 affected interest groups in implementing this section.

26 During the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2001, the funds may be
27 appropriated for boating safety, shellfish management, enforcement, and
28 enhancement and for developing and implementing plans for population
29 monitoring and restoration of native wild salmon stock.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 5 and 7 of this act
31 constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

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