AN ACT Relating to the replacement of shoreline armoring; and amending RCW 77.55.231.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 77.55.231 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 s 106 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) (a) Conditions imposed upon a permit must be reasonably related to the project. The permit conditions must ensure that the project provides proper protection for fish life, but the department may not impose conditions that attempt to optimize conditions for fish life that are out of proportion to the impact of the proposed project.

(b) Projects for the replacement of marine shoreline stabilization or armoring, bulkheads, or other measures to protect residential structures from marine shoreline erosion must consider the least impactful alternative for the protection of fish life in the following order of preference:

(i) Remove the hard structure and restore the beach;

(ii) Remove the hard structure and replace it with a soft structure constructed of natural materials, including bioengineering;
(iii) Remove the hard structure and replace it with a hard structure located landward of the existing structure, preferably at or above the ordinary high water line; or

(iv) Remove the hard structure and replace it with hard shoreline structure in the same footprint as the existing structure.

(2) The permit must contain provisions allowing for minor modifications to the plans and specifications without requiring reissuance of the permit.

(3) The permit must contain provisions that allow for minor modifications to the required work timing without requiring the reissuance of the permit. "Minor modifications to the required work timing" means a minor deviation from the timing window set forth in the permit when there are no spawning or incubating fish present within the vicinity of the project.

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