
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5874

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Owen, Oke, Haugen, Hargrove, Erwin, Snyder, Franklin, Spanel, Sutherland, Sellar, McDonald, Bauer and Winsley)

Read first time 03/01/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving recreational fishing; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 75 RCW; creating new sections; making an
3 appropriation; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recreational
6 fishing opportunities for salmon and marine bottomfish have been
7 dwindling in recent years. It is important to restore diminished
8 recreational fisheries and to enhance the salmon and marine bottomfish
9 resource to assure sustained productivity. Investments made in
10 recreational fishing programs will repay the people of the state many
11 times over in increased economic activity and in an improved quality of
12 life.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created a new position in the
14 department subject to the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, to be
15 known as the sport fishing program administrator. The sport fishing
16 program administrator shall be an advocate for increasing recreational
17 salmon and marine bottomfish harvesting opportunities through programs
18 specifically designed to improve recreational fishing in south Puget

1 Sound, central Puget Sound, north Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and Lake
2 Washington.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The duties of the sport fishing program
4 administrator are to use resources within the department to: Develop
5 a short-term program of hatchery-based salmon enhancement using
6 freshwater pond sites for the final rearing phase; solicit support from
7 cooperative projects, regional enhancement groups, and other supporting
8 organizations; conduct comprehensive research on resident and migratory
9 salmon production opportunities; and conduct research on marine
10 bottomfish production limitations and on methods for artificial
11 propagation of marine bottomfish.

12 Long-term duties of the sport fishing program administrator are to:
13 Fully implement enhancement efforts for Puget Sound and Hood Canal
14 resident salmon and marine bottomfish; identify opportunities to
15 reestablish salmon runs into areas where they no longer exist;
16 encourage naturally spawning salmon populations to develop to their
17 fullest extent; and fully utilize hatchery programs to improve
18 recreational fishing.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall seek recommendations
20 from persons who are expert on the planning and operation of programs
21 for enhancement of recreational fisheries. The department shall fully
22 use the expertise of the University of Washington college of fisheries
23 and the sea grant program to develop research and enhancement programs.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall develop new locations
25 for the freshwater rearing of delayed-release chinook salmon. In
26 calendar year 1994, at least one freshwater pond chinook salmon rearing
27 site shall be developed and begin production in each of the following
28 areas: South Puget Sound, central Puget Sound, north Puget Sound, and
29 Hood Canal. Natural or artificial pond sites shall be preferred to net
30 pens due to higher survival rates experienced from pond rearing.
31 Rigorous predatory bird control measures shall be implemented. The
32 goal of the program is to increase the production and planting of
33 delayed release chinook salmon to a level of three million fish
34 annually by the year 2000.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall conduct research,
2 develop methods, and implement programs for the artificial rearing and
3 release of marine bottomfish species. Lingcod, halibut, rockfish, and
4 Pacific cod shall be the species of primary emphasis due to their
5 importance in the recreational fishery.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department shall undertake additional
7 research to more fully evaluate improved enhancement techniques,
8 hooking mortality rates, methods of mass marking, improvement of catch
9 models, and sources of marine bottomfish mortality. Research shall be
10 designed to give the best opportunity to provide information that can
11 be applied to real-world recreational fishing needs.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department shall work with the
13 department of ecology, the department of wildlife, and local government
14 entities to streamline the siting process for new enhancement projects.
15 The department is encouraged to work with the legislature to develop
16 statutory changes that enable expeditious processing and granting of
17 permits for fish enhancement projects.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department's information and education
19 section shall develop a public awareness program designed to educate
20 the public on the elements of the recreational fishing program and to
21 recruit volunteers to assist the department in implementing
22 recreational fishing projects. Economic benefits of the program shall
23 be emphasized.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The department shall increase efforts to
25 document the effects of bird predators, harbor seals, sea lions, and
26 predatory fish upon the salmon and marine fish resource. Every
27 opportunity shall be explored to convince the federal government to
28 amend the marine mammal protection act to allow for lethal removal of
29 predatory marine mammals, as well as to work with the United States
30 fish and wildlife service to achieve workable control measures for
31 predatory birds.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Indian tribal fishing interests and non-
33 Indian commercial fishing groups shall be invited to participate in
34 development of plans for selective fisheries that target hatchery-

1 produced fish and minimize catch of naturally spawned fish. In
2 addition, talks shall be initiated on the feasibility of altering the
3 rearing programs of department hatcheries to achieve higher survival
4 and greater production of chinook and coho salmon.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The department shall coordinate the sport
6 fishing program with the wild stock initiative to assure that the two
7 programs are compatible and potential conflicts are avoided.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The department shall develop plans for
9 increased recreational access to salmon and marine fish resources.
10 Proposals for new boat launching ramps and pier fishing access shall be
11 developed.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The department shall contract with private
13 consultants, aquatic farms, or construction firms, where appropriate,
14 to achieve the highest benefit-to-cost ratio for recreational fishing
15 projects.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** The requirements and provisions of this
17 chapter are to be performed in addition to and not at the expense of
18 existing salmon programs of the department. Nothing in this chapter
19 shall be construed to authorize the department to advocate or to
20 improve recreational fishing at the expense of commercial fishing or to
21 increase recreational enhancement to the detriment of commercial
22 enhancement.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Beginning January 1, 1994, persons who
24 recreationally fish for salmon or marine bottomfish in marine area
25 codes 5 through 13 shall be assessed an annual recreational surcharge
26 of ten dollars, in addition to other licensing requirements. Funds
27 from the surcharge shall be deposited in the recreational fisheries
28 enhancement account created in section 17 of this act, except that the
29 first five hundred thousand dollars shall be deposited in the general
30 fund before June 30, 1995, to repay the appropriation made by section
31 20, chapter, Laws of 1993 (section 20 of this act).

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** The recreational fisheries enhancement
33 account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from section 16

1 of this act shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account
2 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account
3 may be used only for recreational fisheries enhancement programs.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The department shall develop and present to
5 the legislature, no later than January 1, 1994, proposed legislation
6 for a recreational fishing capital facilities improvement program
7 financed through general obligation bonds.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** Sections 2 through 17 of this act shall
9 constitute a new chapter in Title 75 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars,
11 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
12 biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the
13 recreational fisheries enhancement account created in section 17 of
14 this act for the purpose of achieving early implementation of this act.
15 Funds appropriated by this section shall be repaid to the general fund
16 from the proceeds of the surcharge established in section 16 of this
17 act. Repayment shall occur before June 30, 1995.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
21 effect July 1, 1993.

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