

---

HOUSE BILL 1482

---

State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Pennington and Elliot

Read first time 01/26/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to conspicuous external marking of hatchery  
2 produced chinook salmon and coho salmon; adding new sections to Title  
3 75 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that the state has  
6 a vital interest in the continuation of recreational fisheries for  
7 chinook salmon and coho salmon in mixed stock areas, and that the  
8 harvest of hatchery origin salmon should be encouraged while naturally  
9 spawned salmon should be afforded additional protection. A program of  
10 selective recreational harvest shall be developed utilizing: Hatchery  
11 salmon that are externally marked in a conspicuous manner; regulations  
12 that allow for the unharmed release of unmarked fish; and a public  
13 information program that educates the public about the need to protect  
14 naturally spawned salmon.

15            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** The department shall mark yearling coho  
16 salmon that are released from department operated hatcheries and  
17 rearing ponds in such a manner that the fish are externally

1 recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by fishers for the purpose of  
2 maximized catch while sustaining natural and hatchery reproduction.

3 The department shall mark all yearling chinook salmon that are  
4 released from department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such  
5 a manner that the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin  
6 salmon by recreational fishers.

7 The department shall strive to mark as many zero-aged chinook  
8 salmon as possible in a similar manner as the yearling coho and  
9 yearling chinook, based on feasibility studies conducted by the  
10 department.

11 The goal of the marking program is the marking of all appropriate  
12 hatchery origin chinook and coho salmon produced by the department at  
13 the earliest possible date. The department may experiment with  
14 different methods for marking hatchery salmon with the primary  
15 objective of maximum survival of hatchery marked fish, maximum  
16 contribution to recreational fisheries, and minimum cost consistent  
17 with the other goals.

18 The department shall coordinate with other entities that are  
19 producing hatchery chinook and coho salmon for release into public  
20 waters to enable the broadest application of the marking program to all  
21 hatchery produced chinook and coho salmon. The ultimate goal of the  
22 program is the coast-wide marking of appropriate hatchery origin  
23 chinook and coho salmon, and the protection of all naturally spawned  
24 chinook and coho salmon.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall adopt rules to regulate  
26 the mixed stock recreational fisheries of the state to limit the taking  
27 of chinook and coho salmon to hatchery origin fish only, and to develop  
28 rules that will allow the maximum survival of naturally spawned salmon,  
29 minimize hooking mortality, allow for spatially separated fisheries  
30 that target on hatchery stocks, foster the best techniques for  
31 releasing naturally spawned salmon, and contribute to the economic  
32 viability of the recreational fishing businesses of the state.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall not authorize  
34 commercial fisheries for chinook salmon or coho salmon in mixed stock  
35 areas or in areas that will result in significant harvest of naturally  
36 spawned chinook salmon or coho salmon. Development and testing of  
37 selective commercial harvest methods should be conducted as soon as

1 possible with the goal being to shift the commercial salmon fishery  
2 away from nonselective methods to selective harvest methods in the near  
3 future.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of five million dollars, or as much  
5 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending  
6 June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the department of fish and  
7 wildlife for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
9 added to Title 75 RCW.

--- END ---