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HOUSE BILL 2713

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Goldsmith, Koster, Boldt, Hargrove and Benton

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to eliminating the exclusivity of gill net gear in  
2 certain waters; amending RCW 75.12.010; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an effective date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.      **Sec. 1.**      The legislature finds that fisheries  
6 managers need the greatest possible flexibility in the types of fishing  
7 gear which can be made available for use in the harvest of salmon  
8 resources in Puget Sound. Future fishing activities will increasingly  
9 call for fishing operations to be able to release alive those fish not  
10 targeted for catch. This is particularly true in those near-terminal  
11 areas in which there are substantial stocks of commercially harvestable  
12 salmon available as well as certain stocks in need of protection. The  
13 exclusive limitation in those areas to fisheries using gear not capable  
14 of meaningful live release is contrary to the long-term needs of  
15 allowing productive harvests of surplus salmon stocks while minimizing  
16 impacts on weak-wild salmon stocks of concern.

17            **Sec. 2.**      RCW 75.12.010 (Referendum Bill No. 45) and 1995 1st sp.s.  
18 c 2 s 25 are each amended to read as follows:

1 (1) Except as provided in this section, it is unlawful to fish  
2 commercially for salmon within the waters described in subsection (2)  
3 of this section.

4 (2) All waters east and south of a line commencing at a concrete  
5 monument on Angeles Point in Clallam county near the mouth of the Elwha  
6 River on which is inscribed "Angeles Point Monument" (latitude 48½ 9'  
7 3"north, longitude 123½ 33' 01" west of Greenwich Meridian); thence  
8 running east on a line 81½ 30' true across the flashlight and bell buoy  
9 off Partridge Point and thence continued to longitude 122½ 40' west;  
10 thence north to the southerly shore of Sinclair Island; thence along  
11 the southerly shore of the island to the most easterly point of the  
12 island; thence 46½ true to Carter Point, the most southerly point of  
13 Lummi Island; thence northwesterly along the westerly shore line of  
14 Lummi Island to where the shore line intersects line of longitude 122½  
15 40' west; thence north to the mainland, including: The southerly  
16 portion of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay,  
17 Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, Similk Bay, Saratoga Passage, Holmes  
18 Harbor, Possession Sound, Admiralty Inlet, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, and  
19 their inlets, passages, waters, waterways, and tributaries.

20 (3) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for sockeye  
21 salmon within the waters described in subsection (2) of this section  
22 during the period June 10 to July 25 and for other salmon from the  
23 second Monday of September through November 30, except during the hours  
24 between 4:00 p.m. of Friday and 4:00 p.m. of the following Sunday.

25 (4) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for salmon with  
26 gill net, purse seine, and other lawful gear prior to the second Monday  
27 in September within the waters of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Samish  
28 Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay, Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, and Similk  
29 Bay, to wit: Those waters northerly and easterly of a line commencing  
30 at Stanwood, thence along the south shore of Skagit Bay to Rocky Point  
31 on Camano Island; thence northerly to Polnell Point on Whidbey Island.

32 (5) Whenever the commission determines that a stock or run of  
33 salmon cannot be harvested in the usual manner, and that the stock or  
34 run of salmon may be in danger of being wasted and surplus to natural  
35 or artificial spawning requirements, the commission may authorize units  
36 of gill net and purse seine gear in any number or equivalents, by time  
37 and area, to fully utilize the harvestable portions of these salmon  
38 runs for the economic well being of the citizens of this state. Gill

1 net and purse seine gear other than emergency and test gear authorized  
2 by the director shall not be used in Lake Washington.

3 (6) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for pink salmon  
4 in each odd-numbered year from August 1 through September 1 in the  
5 waters lying inside of a line commencing at the most easterly point of  
6 Dungeness Spit and thence projected to Point Partridge on Whidbey  
7 Island and a line commencing at Olele Point and thence projected  
8 easterly to Bush Point on Whidbey Island.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act shall take effect July  
10 1, 1996.

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