
SENATE BILL 5159

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Oke, Haugen and Hochstatter

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to a warm water game fish enhancement program;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 77 RCW; providing effective dates; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A warm water game fish enhancement program
6 is created in the department to be funded from the sale of a warm water
7 game fish surcharge and the revenue attributed to the sale of
8 department fishing licenses that are purchased by fishers who fish for
9 certain warm water game fish species. The enhancement program shall be
10 designed to increase the opportunities to fish for and catch warm water
11 game fish including: Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass,
12 channel catfish, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, and tiger
13 musky. The program shall be designed to use a practical applied
14 approach to increasing warm water fishing. The department shall use
15 the funds available efficiently to assure the greatest increase in the
16 fishing for warm water fish at the lowest cost. This approach shall
17 involve the minimization of overhead and administrative costs and the
18 maximization of productive in-the-field activities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
2 otherwise, as used in this chapter, "warm water game fish" includes the
3 following species: Bass, channel catfish, walleye, crappie, and other
4 species as defined by the department.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A warm water game fish surcharge allows
6 a person to fish throughout the state for warm water game fish.

7 (2) The annual fee for a game fish surcharge is five dollars and
8 the surcharge is required in addition to an annual game fishing
9 license, except for those persons under fifteen years of age for which
10 there is no charge, and for those residents seventy years of age or
11 older for which the surcharge is one dollar. Holders of three-day
12 resident fishing licenses, three-day nonresident fishing licenses, and
13 nonresident annual fishing licenses shall pay a five-dollar surcharge
14 to fish for warm water fish.

15 (3) The department shall use the most cost-effective format in
16 designing and administering the warm water game fish surcharge.

17 (4) A warm water game fish surcharge shall only be required to
18 fish for: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, black crappie,
19 white crappie, channel catfish, and tiger musky.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The goals of the warm water game fish
21 enhancement program are to improve the fishing for warm water game fish
22 using cost-effective management. Development of new ponds and lakes
23 shall be an important and integral part of the program. The department
24 shall work with the department of natural resources to coordinate the
25 reclamation of surface mines and the development of warm water game
26 fish ponds. Improvement of warm water fishing shall be coordinated
27 with the protection and conservation of cold water fish populations.
28 This shall be accomplished by carefully designing the warm water
29 projects to have minimal adverse effects upon the cold water fish
30 populations. New pond and lake development should have beneficial
31 effects upon wildlife due to the increase in lacustrine and wetland
32 habitat that will accompany the improvement of warm water fish habitat.
33 The department shall not develop projects that will increase the
34 populations of undesirable or deleterious fish species such as carp,
35 squawfish, walking catfish, and others.

36 Fish culture programs shall be used in conditions where they will
37 prove to be cost-effective. Consideration should be made for

1 development of urban area enhancement of fishing opportunity for put-
2 and-take species, such as channel catfish, that are amenable to
3 production by low-cost fish culture methods. Fish culture shall also
4 be used for stocking of high value species, such as walleye, smallmouth
5 bass, and tiger musky. Introduction of special genetic strains that
6 show high potential for recreational fishing improvement, including
7 Florida strain largemouth bass, shall be considered.

8 Transplantation and introduction of exotic warm water fish shall be
9 carefully reviewed to assure that adverse effects to native fish and
10 wildlife populations do not occur. This review shall include an
11 analysis of consequences from disease and parasite introduction.

12 Population management through the use of fish toxicants, including
13 rotenone or derris root, shall be an integral part of the warm water
14 game fish enhancement program. However, any use of fish toxicants
15 shall be subject to a thorough review to prevent adverse effects to
16 cold water fish, desirable warm water fish, and other biota.
17 Eradication of deleterious fish species shall be a goal of the program.

18 Habitat improvement shall be a major aspect of the warm water game
19 fish enhancement program. Habitat improvement opportunities shall be
20 defined with scientific investigations, field surveys, and by using the
21 extensive experience of other state management entities. Installation
22 of cover, structure, water flow control structures, screens, spawning
23 substrate, vegetation control, and other management techniques shall be
24 fully used. The department shall work to gain access to privately
25 owned waters that can be developed with habitat improvements to improve
26 the warm water resource for public fishing. Habitat improvements shall
27 be conducted in such a manner as to have secondary benefits to
28 waterfowl, other wildlife, and cold water fish.

29 The department shall use the resources of cooperative groups to
30 assist in the planning and implementation of the warm water game fish
31 enhancement program. In the development of the program the department
32 shall actively involve the organized fishing clubs that primarily fish
33 for warm water fish.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The warm water game fish account is hereby
35 created in the state wildlife fund. Moneys in the account are subject
36 to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the purpose of
37 funding the warm water game fish enhancement program, including the
38 development of warm water pond and lake habitat, culture of warm water

1 game fish, improvement of warm water fish habitat, management of warm
2 water fish populations, and other practical activities that will
3 improve the fishing for warm water fish.

4 Funds from the sale of the warm water game fish surcharges shall be
5 placed in the warm water game fish account.

6 The director shall make every effort to divide equitably the
7 revenue raised from the basic game fish license among those fish
8 programs receiving funds from the basic game fish license.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 of this act are
12 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
13 or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public
14 institutions, and shall take effect shall take effect July 1, 1995.

15 (2) Section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1996.

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