

2 **SSB 5347** - H COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Natural Resources

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the fish and
8 wildlife commission provides juvenile fishers, under the age of
9 fifteen, with an opportunity to fish in waters that are reserved for
10 this age group. The legislature further finds that providing fishers
11 under the age of eighteen with increased opportunity to fish with
12 recreational gear will provide wholesome activities that will better
13 their lives and instill an appreciation for the state's natural
14 resources. Society as a whole will gain from these positive, youthful
15 experiences, and an important tradition of Northwest life will be
16 perpetuated. Many youthful fishers will be exposed to a natural
17 experience that will teach them self-confidence, respect for the
18 resource, and remain with them for the rest of their lives.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The fish and wildlife commission shall
20 identify, establish, and expand upon specific areas throughout the
21 state that are suitable for a youth fishing-only program. The
22 department shall restrict the fishing opportunities in these waters to
23 persons less than eighteen years of age. The length of the fishing
24 season for youth fishing-only waters shall be as long as possible to
25 encourage participation year around. Some youth fishing-only waters
26 shall be easily accessible from urban areas so as to encourage inner-
27 city youth to participate in fishing activities.

28 The department shall, as practical, use fish produced in private
29 and public fish hatcheries as a basis for fishing opportunities in
30 youth fishing-only waters. The purpose of reliance upon hatchery-
31 produced fish is to provide readily available recreation without
32 adversely impacting naturally produced salmonid stocks. The use of
33 hatchery-produced fish enables the catch and retention of the fish by
34 youth fishers without the requirement for catch and release fishing.
35 The department may establish some waters for youth catch and release

1 fishing only, but the major emphasis of the program is upon allowance
2 of catch and retention.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall work with cooperative
4 groups, regional fisheries enhancement groups, government agencies,
5 Indian tribes, private fish farmers, and civic groups for the purpose
6 of expanding youth fishing-only waters throughout the state. Organized
7 groups that sponsor group outings for youth fishers shall be encouraged
8 to the fullest extent.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of fish and wildlife shall
10 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the progress
11 of the youth fishing-only program on or before January 31, 1998.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
13 to chapter 77.32 RCW."

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