
SENATE BILL 6147

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Morton and Swecker

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the control of predators to assist in threatened
2 and endangered salmon recovery; creating new sections; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A core function of the department of fish
6 and wildlife is the evaluation of the effects of predation upon
7 threatened, endangered, or depressed salmonid populations and the
8 development of recommendations for the control of predators to assist
9 salmonid population recovery in order to implement the wild salmonid
10 policy and comply with the federal endangered species act. The
11 department shall immediately assess the extent and economic impact of
12 predation upon salmonids by predators such as, but not limited to,
13 seals, sea lions, cormorants, Caspian terns, mergansers, herons, and
14 other fish-eating predators who have a sufficiently large population to
15 cause mortality to salmonid populations. Predation assessment shall be
16 coordinated with treaty Indian tribes and federal fishery management
17 agencies.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of fish and wildlife shall
2 assign existing employees in each wildlife management region of the
3 state the duty to assess the degree of predation upon salmonids by
4 fish-eating predators within the existing budgetary resources. The
5 director may reassign personnel from the headquarters office to
6 regional offices for the purpose of the predator evaluation and control
7 program. Each wildlife region shall develop a predator control report
8 for the purpose of improving the survival of critical stocks of
9 salmonids utilizing the most cost-effective control measures. Each
10 region shall develop specific specie-by-specie recommendations for the
11 control of predators to assist in the recovery of threatened or
12 endangered salmonids. All department of fish and wildlife activities
13 specified within this section are time sensitive and must be completed
14 immediately in order to prevent further decline of threatened or
15 endangered salmonid populations.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The fish and wildlife commission shall
17 review the findings of each wildlife management region predator control
18 report and prepare a comprehensive state-wide report to the
19 legislature. The report must outline the necessary legislative actions
20 needed to allow predation control programs and shall include
21 recommendations for full funding to achieve predator control.
22 Recommendations shall be included addressing coordination initiatives
23 with the federal government to assure cooperation with the federal
24 fisheries and wildlife management agencies. The report shall address
25 corrections and changes needed in both state and federal law and policy
26 to control the predation of endangered species. The fish and wildlife
27 commission must submit the report to the appropriate legislative
28 committees by December 10, 1998. The commission shall jointly develop
29 with the treaty Indian tribes a joint state/tribal predator control
30 program.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
34 immediately.

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