
HOUSE BILL 1860

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives R. King and Morris.

Read first time February 12, 1991. Referred to Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife.

1 AN ACT Relating to commercial fishing; adding a new section to
2 chapter 75.08 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that fish species
5 caught incidental to commercial net target fisheries in state waters
6 may negatively impact the nontarget species, and that the sale of
7 incidentally caught fish provides an economic benefit to commercial
8 fishers. The legislature further finds that limiting the commercial
9 harvest of and preventing the sale of certain fish species may improve
10 the status of the fishery in state waters.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.08 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The director shall adopt rules that list each fish species that may
14 lawfully be commercially harvested and sold. A species list shall be

1 prepared for each management and catch reporting area designated by the
2 director, with associated seasons, open days, and open hours.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall develop a study
4 plan and design for observing and documenting incidental catch of fish
5 in commercial fisheries, and shall present the study plan to the
6 legislature by October 1, 1991. The study plan shall include:

7 (1) Elements of an observer training program; and

8 (2) A sample design that will allow identification of causes for
9 incidental catch, and that will allow for future recommendations on how
10 to minimize incidental catch. Variables measured shall include, at a
11 minimum, mesh size, depth of net, distance from net to shore, gear
12 type, incidentally caught species, target species, and time of day.