

SENATE BILL 5158

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Craswell, Oke, Sutherland and Conner.

Read first time January 22, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to management and enhancement of Hood Canal salmon
2 resources; adding new sections to chapter 75.28 RCW; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The optimum management of Hood Canal
6 salmon stocks is necessary in order to restore salmon runs and provide
7 for a successful recreational and commercial fishery. The department
8 of fisheries shall place special emphasis on conservation measures
9 which will restore all salmon resources in Hood Canal, with particular
10 emphasis on chinook and coho salmon stocks.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A Hood Canal commercial salmon fishing
12 permit is required of all licensed commercial fishers who fish in Hood
13 Canal. The fee for the Hood Canal commercial salmon fishing permit is
14 one hundred dollars annually. The director shall issue a maximum of

1 two hundred fifty Hood Canal commercial salmon fishing permits for gill
2 net fishers annually and a maximum of thirty Hood Canal commercial
3 salmon fishing permits for purse seine fishers annually.

4 The Hood Canal commercial salmon fishing permit is required in
5 addition to a valid commercial fishing license in order to commercially
6 fish Hood Canal waters for salmon.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Enforcement of commercial salmon fishing
8 rules shall be emphasized in Hood Canal commercial fisheries. The
9 department shall increase its program of fisheries patrol on Hood Canal
10 waters in order to achieve a higher level of compliance with department
11 rules.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall expand its use of
13 observers on Hood Canal commercial fishing boats for the primary
14 purpose of documenting the bycatch of immature chinook salmon, coho
15 salmon, and game fish in commercial fisheries. The department shall
16 develop a data base on where, when, and under what conditions
17 significant numbers of immature chinook salmon, coho salmon, and game
18 fish are captured in Hood Canal commercial fisheries.

19 The department shall manage the commercial fisheries in such a
20 manner as to minimize the capture of salmon or game fish which are
21 important to the recreational fisheries of Hood Canal.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Commercial fisheries shall be limited in
23 Hood Canal to areas where important recreational fisheries do not
24 exist. The department shall seek to conduct the majority of commercial
25 fisheries in the northern portion of Hood Canal.

26 Commercial fishing gear shall not be used in Hood Canal areas
27 shallower than one hundred feet in depth at mean lower low water.

1 Commercial fishing gear shall not be used within five hundred yards of
2 the shoreline in Hood Canal.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The director shall limit the types of
4 commercial fishing gear used in Hood Canal commercial fisheries in
5 order to minimize the bycatch of fish that are important to the
6 recreational fishery. Restrictions on mesh size, length, depth, and
7 other construction of commercial gear are to be considered based on
8 data that result from section 4 of this act, as well as other research
9 information available to the department.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The director shall investigate the
11 potential for enhancement projects designed to increase the abundance
12 and availability of Hood Canal blackmouth or immature chinook salmon
13 for the recreational fishery. Use of earthen rearing ponds such as the
14 formerly successful Percival Cove project, shall be fully investigated.

15 The director shall develop an action plan for enhancement of the
16 recreational blackmouth fishery in Hood Canal, and shall present such
17 report to the legislature on or before December 31, 1991. Included in
18 the report shall be draft legislation designed to accomplish
19 enhancement of the Hood Canal blackmouth recreational fishery.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are
21 each added to chapter 75.28 RCW.