
SENATE BILL 6197

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Craswell and Oke

Read first time 01/21/92. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing Hood Canal as a marine fish
2 preservation area; adding new sections to Title 75 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 75.12 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that poor returns
6 of Hood Canal origin coho salmon have resulted in costly and
7 undesirable limitations on the sport and commercial harvest of other,
8 more healthy salmon stocks. There is a need for a thorough study to
9 identify the causes of decline in Hood Canal origin coho salmon so that
10 appropriate corrective measures may be taken. For such a study to be
11 effective, and for the conservation and protection of the Hood Canal
12 coho salmon resource, salmon fishing in all salmon staging areas near
13 the mouths of Hood Canal coho salmon spawning streams must be ended.
14 The legislature believes that fishing in these areas is harmful to

1 proper and necessary conservation of the coho salmon resource in Hood
2 Canal. Studying and correcting this problem, to protect Hood Canal
3 coho salmon, will result in substantial economic and social benefits
4 for Washington citizens in both sport and commercial fishing
5 opportunity and will generate a significant return in positive economic
6 activity. The legislature finds that protecting and enhancing salmon
7 stocks in the preserve area would aid in its designation as a marine
8 fish preservation area.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of fisheries shall
10 conduct a study for the purpose of determining the causes of decline in
11 runs of Hood Canal origin coho salmon, which might be the result of
12 habitat and survival conditions in the canal or the result of any other
13 causes. This study shall formulate recommendations to the legislature
14 concerning appropriate specific actions which should be taken to
15 correct any problems which are identified and their respective
16 practicality. The study shall also address and estimate the probable
17 costs of any corrective actions which are considered. The study shall
18 address the issues of freshwater and saltwater habitats, pollution,
19 water temperature, stream bed conditions, health of estuaries,
20 availability of feed, predation by other fish and animals, and all
21 other natural survival and habitat issues, and shall also address any
22 other issues which may bear on the decline of Hood Canal natural coho
23 salmon stocks. The study shall include the department's
24 recommendations for possible legislative action. In addition, the
25 study shall indicate what regulatory and administrative action the
26 department or the legislature can take to correct those problems which
27 are identified and will include recommendations for administrative,
28 regulatory, or legislative action by other state agencies and by

1 federal and local governmental bodies. The department shall produce a
2 report to the legislature no later than January 1, 1993.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to Title 75 RCW to
4 read as follows:

5 Based on the best scientific data available, the department shall
6 determine and establish no fishing zones at salmon staging areas with
7 a minimum size of five hundred yards in width located at the mouths of
8 all Hood Canal streams and rivers which are known or believed to be
9 actual or potential coho salmon spawning habitat. All salmon fishing
10 of any kind, sport or commercial, shall be prohibited in the no fishing
11 zones. The department shall take appropriate administrative action to
12 advise the public of the no fishing zones it establishes and to enforce
13 this requirement.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to Title 75 RCW to
15 read as follows:

16 All marine fishing areas in Hood Canal south of the Hood Canal
17 floating bridge are established as a marine fish preservation area.
18 This designation is intended to preserve, protect, and enhance the
19 marine fish resource, to restore the historic productivity of the fish
20 resource, and to encourage the full development of fishing
21 opportunities.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 75.12 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 It is unlawful to take food fish with skin diving or scuba diving
25 gear in the marine fish preservation area established in section 4 of
26 this act until such time that food fish stocks have been restored to
27 abundant levels.