

2 **4SSB 5159** - H COMM AMD **ADOPTED 2-28-96**
3 By Committee on Appropriations

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

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A warm water game fish enhancement program
8 is created in the department to be funded from the sale of a warm water
9 game fish surcharge. The enhancement program shall be designed to
10 increase the opportunities to fish for and catch warm water game fish
11 including: Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, channel
12 catfish, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, and tiger musky. The
13 program shall be designed to use a practical applied approach to
14 increasing warm water fishing. The department shall use the funds
15 available efficiently to assure the greatest increase in the fishing
16 for warm water fish at the lowest cost. This approach shall involve
17 the minimization of overhead and administrative costs and the
18 maximization of productive in-the-field activities.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
20 otherwise, as used in this chapter, "warm water game fish" includes the
21 following species: Bass, channel catfish, walleye, crappie, and other
22 species as defined by the department.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A warm water game fish surcharge allows
24 a person to fish throughout the state for warm water game fish.

25 (2) The annual fee for a game fish surcharge is five dollars and
26 the surcharge is required in addition to an annual game fishing
27 license, except for those persons under fifteen years of age for which
28 there is no charge. Holders of three-day resident fishing licenses,
29 three-day nonresident fishing licenses, and nonresident annual fishing
30 licenses shall pay a five-dollar surcharge to fish for warm water fish.

31 (3) The department shall use the most cost-effective format in
32 designing and administering the warm water game fish surcharge.

1 (4) A warm water game fish surcharge shall only be required to
2 fish for: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, black crappie,
3 white crappie, channel catfish, and tiger musky.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The goals of the warm water game fish
5 enhancement program are to improve the fishing for warm water game fish
6 using cost-effective management. Development of new ponds and lakes
7 shall be an important and integral part of the program. The department
8 shall work with the department of natural resources to coordinate the
9 reclamation of surface mines and the development of warm water game
10 fish ponds. Improvement of warm water fishing shall be coordinated
11 with the protection and conservation of cold water fish populations.
12 This shall be accomplished by carefully designing the warm water
13 projects to have minimal adverse effects upon the cold water fish
14 populations. New pond and lake development should have beneficial
15 effects upon wildlife due to the increase in lacustrine and wetland
16 habitat that will accompany the improvement of warm water fish habitat.
17 The department shall not develop projects that will increase the
18 populations of undesirable or deleterious fish species such as carp,
19 squawfish, walking catfish, and others.

20 Fish culture programs shall be used in conditions where they will
21 prove to be cost-effective, and may include the purchase of warm water
22 fish from aquatic farmers defined in RCW 15.85.020. Consideration
23 should be made for development of urban area enhancement of fishing
24 opportunity for put-and-take species, such as channel catfish, that are
25 amenable to production by low-cost fish culture methods. Fish culture
26 shall also be used for stocking of high value species, such as walleye,
27 smallmouth bass, and tiger musky. Introduction of special genetic
28 strains that show high potential for recreational fishing improvement,
29 including Florida strain largemouth bass and striped bass, shall be
30 considered.

31 Transplantation and introduction of exotic warm water fish shall be
32 carefully reviewed to assure that adverse effects to native fish and
33 wildlife populations do not occur. This review shall include an
34 analysis of consequences from disease and parasite introduction.

35 Population management through the use of fish toxicants, including
36 rotenone or derris root, shall be an integral part of the warm water
37 game fish enhancement program. However, any use of fish toxicants
38 shall be subject to a thorough review to prevent adverse effects to

1 cold water fish, desirable warm water fish, and other biota.
2 Eradication of deleterious fish species shall be a goal of the program.

3 Habitat improvement shall be a major aspect of the warm water game
4 fish enhancement program. Habitat improvement opportunities shall be
5 defined with scientific investigations, field surveys, and by using the
6 extensive experience of other state management entities. Installation
7 of cover, structure, water flow control structures, screens, spawning
8 substrate, vegetation control, and other management techniques shall be
9 fully used. The department shall work to gain access to privately
10 owned waters that can be developed with habitat improvements to improve
11 the warm water resource for public fishing. Habitat improvements shall
12 be conducted in such a manner as to have secondary benefits to
13 waterfowl, other wildlife, and cold water fish.

14 The department shall use the resources of cooperative groups to
15 assist in the planning and implementation of the warm water game fish
16 enhancement program. In the development of the program the department
17 shall actively involve the organized fishing clubs that primarily fish
18 for warm water fish. The warm water fish enhancement program shall be
19 cooperative between the department and private landowners; private
20 landowners shall not be required to alter the uses of their private
21 property to fulfill the purposes of the warm water fish enhancement
22 program. The director shall not impose restrictions on the use of
23 private property, or take private property, for the purpose of the warm
24 water fish enhancement program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The warm water game fish account is hereby
26 created in the state wildlife fund. Moneys in the account are subject
27 to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the purpose of
28 funding the warm water game fish enhancement program, including the
29 development of warm water pond and lake habitat, culture of warm water
30 game fish, improvement of warm water fish habitat, management of warm
31 water fish populations, and other practical activities that will
32 improve the fishing for warm water fish. Funds from the warm water
33 game fish surcharge shall not serve as replacement funding for
34 department-operated warm water fish projects existing on December 31,
35 1994. Funds from the warm water game fish account shall not be used
36 for the operation or construction of the warm water fish culture
37 project at Ringold unless specifically authorized by legislation.

1 Funds from the sale of the warm water game fish surcharges shall be
2 deposited in the warm water game fish account, except that the first
3 two hundred thousand dollars collected shall be deposited into the
4 general fund before June 30, 1997.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
7 June 30, 1996, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
8 void.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department of fish and wildlife shall
10 provide to the natural resource committees of the legislature an
11 operational and management plan for the Ringold warm water fish culture
12 project on or before December 31, 1996.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
14 constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) Sections 1, 2, and 4 through 7 of this
16 act shall take effect July 1, 1996.

17 (2) Section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1997."

18 Correct the title accordingly.

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