
SENATE BILL 5076

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Jacobsen and T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to Puget Sound marine fish preserves; adding a new
2 section to chapter 75.54 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 79.96
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the continued
6 survival of marine bottomfish species in Puget Sound and adjacent
7 waters requires that preserves be established for their protection
8 within different geographical and ecological zones and that fishing and
9 harvesting of marine organisms be prohibited within the preserves.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.54 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The fish and wildlife commission shall establish a minimum of
13 twenty marine bottomfish preserves throughout Puget Sound, the Straits
14 of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, the San Juan Islands, and the Straits
15 of Georgia. The purpose of establishing marine bottomfish preserves is
16 to protect marine bottomfish species from overfishing, and to allow a
17 safe haven for spawning, growth, and maturation of marine bottomfish,
18 and to establish focal points where recolonization of marine bottomfish

1 may occur into ecosystems that are currently depleted of marine
2 bottomfish.

3 The commission shall select preserve locations that are rich in
4 habitat features that are required by depleted marine bottomfish
5 species or are needed by bottomfish species that need to be enhanced.
6 In establishing marine bottomfish preserves the commission shall
7 identify areas that are appropriate for protection of lingcod, rockfish
8 species, cabezon, greenling, Pacific cod, walleye pollack, tomcod, and
9 other species of bottomfish.

10 The commission may allow recreational diving in selected marine
11 bottomfish preserves, provided that spearfishing and collecting of
12 marine organisms shall not be allowed in any marine bottomfish
13 preserve, and that the recreational diving activities will not decrease
14 or diminish achieving the primary purpose of protection of marine
15 bottomfish.

16 The commission shall not authorize any recreational or commercial
17 fishing or harvesting of marine organisms within marine bottomfish
18 preserves.

19 The commission shall conduct public hearings within the affected
20 area of proposed marine bottomfish preserves and seek public input
21 before establishing marine bottomfish preserves.

22 The commission shall seek input from the treaty Indian tribes who
23 are affected by proposed marine bottomfish preserves prior to their
24 establishment.

25 (2) The commission shall report to the appropriate committees of
26 the legislature by January 1, 2000, and every other year subsequently,
27 on the progress and needs of the marine bottomfish preserve program.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 79.96 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 The commissioner of public lands shall not authorize harvesting of
31 shellfish within marine bottomfish preserves established by the fish
32 and wildlife commission.

--- END ---