
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5104

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, Spanel and Fraser)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to catch and release recreational fisheries; adding
2 new sections to chapter 77.12 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 the practice of
5 establishing exclusive catch and release recreational fisheries on
6 steelhead trout by the fish and wildlife commission requires that the
7 commission commit significant resources to assure that these fisheries
8 are not subject to abuse by unknowing or uncaring anglers, and that the
9 fish and wildlife commission adopt rules that maximize recreational
10 opportunities without harming the steelhead resource.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The commission shall not authorize steelhead catch and release
14 seasons or areas in cases where there is insufficient enforcement
15 staffing to assure that there is a low mortality rate for catch and
16 release steelhead fisheries.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The commission shall assess the threat to the steelhead trout
4 resource posed by catch and release fisheries that occur on the
5 spawning beds while spawning fish are present. The commission shall
6 adopt rules that minimize the adverse effects of catch and release
7 fisheries on spawning steelhead trout.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A steelhead catch and release mortality
9 study shall be conducted by the department of fish and wildlife in
10 order to assess the rates of steelhead mortality during a catch and
11 release fishery. At least one aspect of the study shall assess the
12 affects of warm stream conditions on the survival of released
13 steelhead.

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