
SENATE BILL 6590

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Swecker, Jacobsen, Oke, Sheahan, Rossi, Fairley, Morton, Rasmussen, Winsley, Kline and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to anadromous salmonid fishing; adding new sections
2 to chapter 77.12 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Sport fishing is an enjoyable, healthy, lifelong activity that
7 is enjoyed by many families;

8 (b) Anadromous salmonids are a treasure of the state of Washington
9 that provide unparalleled sport fishing opportunities;

10 (c) Without proper care and consideration, Washington's anadromous
11 salmonids and their spawning grounds can be unintentionally hurt by
12 sport fishers, with long-term consequences for the survival of the
13 species;

14 (d) Every effort that is made to help preserve the precious
15 resource of anadromous salmonids in Washington, no matter how small, is
16 important;

17 (e) It can often be difficult to distinguish between species of
18 anadromous salmonids and sport fishers may unintentionally take a
19 scarce fish that is needed for species protection;

1 (f) Catch and release fishing is beneficial to both sport fishers
2 and fish but must be done properly to prevent harm to the fish;

3 (g) The state's fishing laws and rules are useful for preserving
4 our fishing resources but, without study, can be difficult for sport
5 fishers to locate and follow;

6 (h) There is a need for sport fishers to be educated as to what
7 they can do to enjoy their sport while helping to preserve the fish and
8 environment;

9 (i) It is in the state's best interests to educate sport fishers,
10 young and old;

11 (j) It is necessary for the preservation of the species that all
12 young sport fishers who engage in sport fishing in Washington are
13 educated about anadromous salmonids; and

14 (k) Education and outreach are vital components of a long-term
15 protection and recovery strategy for the state.

16 (2) The legislature therefore declares that all sport fishers
17 should be educated about identification of anadromous salmonid types,
18 catch and release techniques, spawning bed and stream bank
19 identification and protection, and the location and knowledge of
20 fishing rules.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
22 throughout sections 2 and 3 of this act unless the context clearly
23 requires otherwise.

24 (1) "Anadromous salmonid" and its derivatives means any of the
25 following types of fish: Salmon of any variety, steelhead trout, and
26 searun cutthroat trout.

27 (2) "To fish" and its derivatives means an effort to kill, injure,
28 harass, or catch a game fish.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) All anglers should be offered a
30 voluntary, state-approved course of instruction addressing
31 identification of salmon types, catch and release techniques, spawning
32 bed and stream bank identification and protection, and location and
33 knowledge of fishing laws and rules.

34 (2) The director shall establish a program for training persons in
35 the identification of:

36 (a) Salmon types;

37 (b) Catch and release reasoning, equipment, and techniques;

1 (c) Spawning bed and stream bank identification and protection; and

2 (d) The location and knowledge of fishing laws and rules.

3 (3) The director may cooperate with organized fishing or sporting
4 groups and other public or private organizations in order to administer
5 the program at the lowest possible cost. The director may apply for
6 funding from alternate sources, both governmental and nongovernmental,
7 in order to lower the cost of the program to the participants.

8 (4) Upon successful completion of the course, a trainee shall
9 receive a fisher education certificate signed by an authorized
10 instructor.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
12 to chapter 77.12 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of twenty thousand dollars, or as
18 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund
19 to the department of fish and wildlife for the fiscal year ending June
20 30, 2001, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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