
HOUSE BILL 2920

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Pearson, Sump, Mielke, Boldt, Hinkle, Condotta and Buck

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to special economic recreational fisheries;
2 amending RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, and 77.12.760; adding a new section
3 to chapter 77.12 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 recreational
6 fishing generated approximately eight hundred thirty-five million
7 dollars in economic activity in 2001. The legislature further finds
8 that recreational fishing seasons provide significant economic benefits
9 to local economies. The legislature therefore finds that an advisory
10 group of affected stakeholders could assist the fish and wildlife
11 commission and the director in establishing fishing seasons and
12 allocation of harvestable fish in a manner that accomplishes fishery
13 management objectives and maximizes benefits to local communities.

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

16 (1) Recreational fishing stakeholders within a watershed resource
17 inventory area or multiple watershed resource inventory areas, as
18 defined in RCW 90.82.020, may form a special economic fishery advisory

1 committee by notifying the director. A special economic fishery
2 advisory committee shall consist of a minimum of five and no more than
3 fifteen members representing a balance of local interests including but
4 not limited to recreational fishers, sport fishing organizations, and
5 local business owners.

6 (2) A special economic fishery advisory committee may:

7 (a) Review and provide guidance on proposed recreational fishing
8 seasons within a watershed resource inventory area or multiple
9 watershed resource inventory areas;

10 (b) Advise the department of significant economic impacts to local
11 economies of proposed fishing seasons; and

12 (c) Work with the department and commission to develop alternative
13 fishing seasons that accomplish fishery management objectives and
14 maximize economic benefits to local communities.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.04.012 and 2000 c 107 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 Wildlife, fish, and shellfish are the property of the state. The
18 commission, director, and the department shall preserve, protect,
19 perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and
20 shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.

21 The department shall conserve the wildlife and food fish, game
22 fish, and shellfish resources in a manner that does not impair the
23 resource. In a manner consistent with this goal, the department shall
24 seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing
25 industry in the state. The department shall promote orderly fisheries
26 and shall enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in
27 this state. The department shall work with special economic fishery
28 advisory committees created in section 2 of this act to evaluate
29 alternative fishing seasons and consider the economic impacts to local
30 economies.

31 The commission may authorize the taking of wildlife, food fish,
32 game fish, and shellfish only at times or places, or in manners or
33 quantities, as in the judgment of the commission does not impair the
34 supply of these resources.

35 The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational
36 game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including
37 juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens.

1 Recognizing that the management of our state wildlife, food fish,
2 game fish, and shellfish resources depends heavily on the assistance of
3 volunteers, the department shall work cooperatively with volunteer
4 groups and individuals to achieve the goals of this title to the
5 greatest extent possible.

6 Nothing in this title shall be construed to infringe on the right
7 of a private property owner to control the owner's private property.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 77.04.055 and 2000 c 107 s 204 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) In establishing policies to preserve, protect, and perpetuate
11 wildlife, fish, and wildlife and fish habitat, the commission shall
12 meet annually with the governor to:

13 (a) Review and prescribe basic goals and objectives related to
14 those policies; and

15 (b) Review the performance of the department in implementing fish
16 and wildlife policies.

17 The commission shall maximize fishing, hunting, and outdoor
18 recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and
19 wildlife populations. The commission shall work with special economic
20 fishery advisory committees created in section 2 of this act to
21 evaluate alternative fishing seasons and consider the economic impacts
22 to local economies.

23 (2) The commission shall establish hunting, trapping, and fishing
24 seasons and prescribe the time, place, manner, and methods that may be
25 used to harvest or enjoy game fish and wildlife.

26 (3) The commission shall establish provisions regulating food fish
27 and shellfish as provided in RCW 77.12.047.

28 (4) The commission shall have final approval authority for tribal,
29 interstate, international, and any other department agreements relating
30 to fish and wildlife.

31 (5) The commission shall adopt rules to implement the state's fish
32 and wildlife laws.

33 (6) The commission shall have final approval authority for the
34 department's budget proposals.

35 (7) The commission shall select its own staff and shall appoint the
36 director of the department. The director and commission staff shall
37 serve at the pleasure of the commission.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 77.12.760 and 1993 sp.s. c 2 s 78 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Steelhead trout shall be managed solely as a recreational
4 fishery for non-Indian (~~(fishermen)~~) fishers under the rule-setting
5 authority of the fish and wildlife commission. The commission shall
6 work with special economic fishery advisory committees created in
7 section 2 of this act to evaluate alternative fishing seasons and
8 consider the economic impacts to local economies.

9 (2) Commercial non-Indian steelhead fisheries are not authorized.

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