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SENATE BILL 5400

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/23/2003. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to geoducks; amending RCW 79.96.085; and adding new  
2 sections to chapter 79.96 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.96 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The state and federally recognized Indian tribes must provide the  
7 labor and equipment necessary to reseed publicly owned aquatic lands  
8 after a geoduck harvest.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79.96.085 and 1990 c 163 s 5 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 (1) The department of natural resources shall designate the areas  
12 of aquatic lands owned by the state that are available for geoduck  
13 harvesting by licensed geoduck harvesters in accordance with chapter  
14 79.90 RCW.

15 (2) The department of natural resources must offer to lease to  
16 private parties aquatic lands that have already been harvested of  
17 geoducks for the purpose of allowing private parties to reseed and  
18 culture geoducks.

1       (3) A free-floating geoduck is the property of the landowner on  
2 whose property the geoduck alights.

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

5       The department of natural resources shall lease aquatic lands  
6 beyond seventy feet mean low water (0.0. ft.) for geoduck harvesting.

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