

5555

Sponsor(s): Senators Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Fairley, McAuliffe, Regala, Fraser and Thibaudeau

Brief Description: Preparing a recovery plan for orca whales in Washington waters.

SB 5555 - DIGEST

Declares that it is important that Washington state take strong measures to develop and implement a recovery strategy for the southern resident orcas, working closely with governmental and nongovernmental organizations with scientific, management, and regulatory responsibilities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Directs the fish and wildlife commission to prepare a recovery plan for orca whale populations that are seasonally resident in Washington waters.

Requires that the recovery plan shall be adopted by the fish and wildlife commission no later than June 30, 2005. Where plan elements require additional funding or additional statutory authority to implement, the fish and wildlife commission shall use its best efforts to make recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2005.