

**HB 3237** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation

1       Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3       "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the aquatic  
4 lands program in the department of natural resources manages over two  
5 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands. The legislature further  
6 finds that the state faces a diverse and complex set of issues in  
7 managing state lands for public access, leasing aquatic lands for  
8 commercial purposes, the harvest of geoduck, providing proper  
9 stewardship of near-shore areas, cleanup of hazardous materials on  
10 aquatic lands, and a number of other issues. The legislature further  
11 finds that the funding for these activities largely comes from the  
12 revenues generated from the leasing of state aquatic lands and the sale  
13 of valuable materials, including geoduck. Therefore, the legislature  
14 finds that there should be a thorough review of the funding and  
15 management of state aquatic lands to determine the proper funding  
16 source and levels necessary to properly manage those resources.

17       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review  
18 committee shall, consistent with chapter 44.28 RCW:

19       (a) Conduct a performance audit of the department of natural  
20 resources' aquatic resources program to determine the success of the  
21 department in meeting the objectives established in statute for  
22 managing aquatic lands;

23       (b) Review management policies to determine if decisions to  
24 generate revenues to support the aquatics program are consistent with  
25 policies established in statute for managing aquatic lands;

26       (c) Review the percentage of revenues retained by the department of  
27 natural resources from the resource management cost account and the  
28 aquatic lands enhancement account for the aquatics program to determine  
29 if the percentages are appropriate to support the program; and

1 (d) Make recommendations on whether the use of nonagency generated  
2 revenues, such as the state general fund, would provide a better  
3 funding mechanism for the management of state-owned aquatic lands.

4 (2) The final performance audit and recommendations required by  
5 this section must be completed by December 15, 2007."

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6 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
7 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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