
SENATE BILL 5934

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Parlette and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the relief of the Wenatchi Indians by providing
2 for their ceremonial and subsistence fishing in designated areas;
3 adding a new section 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 the P'squosa
6 Indians, otherwise known as the Wenatchi band of Indians, have made a
7 significant effort to maintain their traditional tribal culture,
8 including the activity of taking salmon for ceremonial and subsistence
9 purposes. The legislature further finds that the Wenatchis have been
10 repeatedly promised in multiple agreements a fishery in their
11 aboriginal territory and that the establishment of such a fishery would
12 benefit the Wenatchi people. The legislature further finds that it is
13 important to recognize the cultural importance of salmon fishing to
14 only the Wenatchi Indians by authorizing these people a ceremonial and
15 subsistence fishery, while also preserving the state's ability to
16 conserve and manage the salmon resource.

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

1 (1) The department shall work with the Wenatchi members of the
2 Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, as identified by the
3 Colville business council, to identify an area to take salmon for
4 ceremonial and subsistence purposes in either the Icicle river or
5 Wenatchee river. After identifying an area mutually acceptable to the
6 Wenatchi members and the department, the director shall establish an
7 annual permit system that will authorize fishing only during the
8 calendar year in which such permits are issued. The permit system
9 shall provide that permits must be issued to up to fifty Wenatchi
10 members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation as
11 identified by the Colville business council.

12 (2) This section shall not be construed to create a right to fish
13 for commercial purposes.

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