

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2957

Chapter 179, Laws of 2018

(partial veto)

65th Legislature
2018 Regular Session

NONNATIVE FINFISH--MARINE AQUACULTURE--ESCAPE

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 7, 2018

Passed by the House February 14, 2018
Yeas 67 Nays 31

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2018
Yeas 31 Nays 16

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved March 22, 2018 11:16 AM with
the exception of section 1, which is
vetoed.

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the
House of Representatives of the
State of Washington, do hereby
certify that the attached is
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2957 as passed
by House of Representatives and the
Senate on the dates hereon set
forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 26, 2018

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2957

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Lytton, Peterson, Robinson, Wilcox, Taylor, Stambaugh, Sawyer, Chapman, Pollet, and Stanford

Read first time 01/30/18. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing escape of nonnative finfish from
2 marine finfish aquaculture facilities; amending RCW 77.115.010,
3 77.115.030, 77.115.040, 77.125.030, 77.12.047, and 50.04.075; adding
4 a new section to chapter 79.105 RCW; adding new sections to chapter
5 77.125 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 90.48 RCW; creating new
6 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

8 ****NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. Recent developments have thrown into***
9 ***stark relief the threat that nonnative marine finfish aquaculture may***
10 ***pose to Washington's native salmon populations. But just as evidence***
11 ***has emerged that nonnative marine finfish aquaculture may endanger***
12 ***Washington's native salmon populations, so too has evidence emerged***
13 ***that marine finfish aquaculture in general may pose unacceptable***
14 ***risks not only to Washington's native salmon populations but also to***
15 ***the broader health of Washington's marine environment. Given this***
16 ***evidence, the legislature intends to phase out nonnative finfish***
17 ***aquaculture in Washington's marine waters. Because the state of the***
18 ***science and engineering with regard to marine finfish aquaculture may***
19 ***be evolving, the legislature further intends to study this issue in***
20 ***greater depth, and to revisit the issue of marine finfish aquaculture***
21 ***once additional research becomes available.***

**Sec. 1 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.*

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79.105
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The department may not allow nonnative marine finfish
4 aquaculture as an authorized use under any new lease or other use
5 authorization.

6 (2) The department may not renew or extend a lease or other use
7 authorization in existence on the effective date of this section
8 where the use includes nonnative marine finfish aquaculture.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.125
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The department may authorize or permit activities associated
12 with the use of marine net pens for nonnative marine finfish
13 aquaculture only if these activities are performed under a lease of
14 state-owned aquatic lands in effect on the effective date of this
15 section. The department may not authorize or permit any of these
16 activities or operations after the expiration date of the relevant
17 lease of state-owned aquatic lands in effect on the effective date of
18 this section.

19 (2) For purposes of this section, "state-owned aquatic lands" has
20 the same meaning as defined in RCW 79.105.060.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) The department may issue national pollutant discharge
24 elimination system permits associated with nonnative marine finfish
25 aquaculture only if these activities are performed under a lease of
26 state-owned aquatic lands in effect on the effective date of this
27 section. The department may not issue national pollutant discharge
28 elimination system permits in connection with any of these activities
29 or operations after the expiration date of the relevant lease of
30 state-owned aquatic lands in effect on the effective date of this
31 section.

32 (2) For purposes of this section, "state-owned aquatic lands" has
33 the same meaning as defined in RCW 79.105.060.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The departments of ecology,
35 agriculture, and fish and wildlife, as well as the department of

1 natural resources, shall continue the existing effort to update
2 guidance and informational resources to industry and governments for
3 planning and permitting commercial marine net pen aquaculture. As
4 part of this effort, the departments shall seek advice and technical
5 assistance from the Northwest Indian fisheries commission, and the
6 national centers for coastal ocean science, and shall invite
7 consultation and participation from the University of Washington
8 school of aquatic and fishery sciences, Western Washington
9 University, Washington State University, Northwest Indian College,
10 and additional authorities, as appropriate, including federally
11 recognized Indian tribes. The guidance must be designed to eliminate
12 commercial marine net pen escapement and to eliminate negative
13 impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife. At
14 a minimum, the guidance must address the following topics:

15 (a) Local shoreline permitting;

16 (b) Water quality;

17 (c) The state of the science concerning marine finfish
18 aquaculture impacts on native fish, shellfish, and wildlife;

19 (d) Best management practices for the safe and effective
20 operation of finfish aquaculture in the marine environment;

21 (e) Interagency coordination in permitting, inspections, and
22 enforcement; and

23 (f) Recommendations for future legislative oversight of marine
24 finfish net pen aquaculture.

25 (2) The departments must report to the legislature, consistent
26 with RCW 43.01.036, by November 1, 2019.

27 (3) This section expires June 30, 2020.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 77.115.010 and 2000 c 107 s 122 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The director of agriculture and the director shall jointly
31 develop a program of disease inspection and control for aquatic
32 farmers as defined in RCW 15.85.020. The program shall be
33 administered by the department under rules established under this
34 section. The purpose of the program is to protect the aquaculture
35 industry and wildstock fisheries from a loss of productivity due to
36 aquatic diseases or maladies. As used in this section "diseases"
37 means, in addition to its ordinary meaning, infestations of parasites
38 or pests. The disease program may include, but is not limited to, the
39 following elements:

- 1 (a) Disease diagnosis;
- 2 (b) Import and transfer requirements;
- 3 (c) Provision for certification of stocks;
- 4 (d) Classification of diseases by severity;
- 5 (e) Provision for treatment of selected high-risk diseases;
- 6 (f) Provision for containment and eradication of high-risk
- 7 diseases;
- 8 (g) Provision for destruction of diseased cultured aquatic
- 9 products;
- 10 (h) Provision for quarantine of diseased cultured aquatic
- 11 products;
- 12 (i) Provision for coordination with state and federal agencies;
- 13 (j) Provision for development of preventative or control
- 14 measures;
- 15 (k) Provision for cooperative consultation service to aquatic
- 16 farmers; and
- 17 (l) Provision for disease history records.

18 (2) The commission shall adopt rules implementing this section.
19 However, such rules shall have the prior approval of the director of
20 agriculture and shall provide therein that the director of
21 agriculture has provided such approval. The director of agriculture
22 or the director's designee shall attend the rule-making hearings
23 conducted under chapter 34.05 RCW and shall assist in conducting
24 those hearings. The authorities granted the department by these rules
25 and by RCW 77.12.047(1)(g), 77.60.060, 77.60.080, 77.65.210,
26 (~~77.115.020~~) 77.115.030, and 77.115.040 constitute the only
27 authorities of the department to regulate private sector cultured
28 aquatic products and aquatic farmers as defined in RCW 15.85.020.
29 Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no action may
30 be taken against any person to enforce these rules unless the
31 department has first provided the person an opportunity for a
32 hearing. In such a case, if the hearing is requested, no enforcement
33 action may be taken before the conclusion of that hearing.

34 (3) The rules adopted under this section shall specify the
35 emergency enforcement actions that may be taken by the department,
36 and the circumstances under which they may be taken, without first
37 providing the affected party with an opportunity for a hearing.
38 Neither the provisions of this subsection nor the provisions of
39 subsection (2) of this section shall preclude the department from

1 requesting the initiation of criminal proceedings for violations of
2 the disease inspection and control rules.

3 (4) A person shall not violate the rules adopted under subsection
4 (2) or (3) of this section or violate RCW 77.115.040.

5 (5) In administering the program established under this section,
6 the department shall use the services of a pathologist licensed to
7 practice veterinary medicine.

8 (6) The director in administering the program shall not place
9 constraints on or take enforcement actions in respect to the
10 aquaculture industry that are more rigorous than those placed on the
11 department or other fish-rearing entities.

12 (7) The department must implement this section consistent with
13 section 3 of this act.

14 **Sec. 7.** RCW 77.115.030 and 2000 c 107 s 124 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The director shall consult regarding the disease inspection
17 and control program established under RCW 77.115.010 with federal
18 agencies and Indian tribes to assure protection of state, federal,
19 and tribal aquatic resources and to protect private sector cultured
20 aquatic products from disease that could originate from waters or
21 facilities managed by those agencies.

22 (2) With regard to the program, the director may enter into
23 contracts or interagency agreements for diagnostic field services
24 with government agencies and institutions of higher education and
25 private industry.

26 (3) The director shall provide for the creation and distribution
27 of a roster of biologists having a specialty in the diagnosis or
28 treatment of diseases of fish or shellfish. The director shall adopt
29 rules specifying the qualifications which a person must have in order
30 to be placed on the roster.

31 (4) The department must implement this section consistent with
32 section 3 of this act.

33 **Sec. 8.** RCW 77.115.040 and 2011 c 339 s 37 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) All aquatic farmers, as defined in RCW 15.85.020, shall
36 register with the department. The application fee is one hundred five
37 dollars. The director shall assign each aquatic farm a unique
38 registration number and develop and maintain in an electronic

1 database a registration list of all aquaculture farms. The department
2 shall establish procedures to annually update the aquatic farmer
3 information contained in the registration list. The department shall
4 coordinate with the department of health using shellfish growing area
5 certification data when updating the registration list.

6 (2) Registered aquaculture farms shall provide the department
7 with the following information:

8 (a) The name of the aquatic farmer;

9 (b) The address of the aquatic farmer;

10 (c) Contact information such as telephone, fax, web site, and
11 email address, if available;

12 (d) The number and location of acres under cultivation, including
13 a map displaying the location of the cultivated acres;

14 (e) The name of the landowner of the property being cultivated or
15 otherwise used in the aquatic farming operation;

16 (f) The private sector cultured aquatic product being propagated,
17 farmed, or cultivated; and

18 (g) Statistical production data.

19 (3) The state veterinarian shall be provided with registration
20 and statistical data by the department.

21 (4) The department must implement this section consistent with
22 section 3 of this act.

23 **Sec. 9.** RCW 77.125.030 and 2001 c 86 s 3 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 The director, in cooperation with the marine finfish aquatic
26 farmers, shall develop proposed rules for the implementation,
27 administration, and enforcement of marine finfish aquaculture
28 programs. In developing such proposed rules, the director must use a
29 negotiated rule-making process pursuant to RCW 34.05.310. The
30 proposed rules shall be submitted to the appropriate legislative
31 committees by January 1, 2002, to allow for legislative review of the
32 proposed rules. The proposed rules shall include the following
33 elements:

34 (1) Provisions for the prevention of escapes of cultured marine
35 finfish aquaculture products from enclosures, net pens, or other
36 rearing vessels;

37 (2) Provisions for the development and implementation of
38 management plans to facilitate the most rapid recapture of live
39 marine finfish aquaculture products that have escaped from

1 enclosures, net pens, or other rearing vessels, and to prevent the
2 spread or permanent escape of these products;

3 (3) Provisions for the development of management practices based
4 on the latest available science, to include:

5 (a) Procedures for inspections of marine aquatic farming
6 locations on a regular basis to determine conformity with law and the
7 rules of the department relating to the operation of marine aquatic
8 farming locations; and

9 (b) Operating procedures at marine aquatic farming locations to
10 prevent the escape of marine finfish, to include the use of net
11 antifoulants;

12 (4) Provisions for the eradication of those cultured marine
13 finfish aquaculture products that have escaped from enclosures, net
14 pens, or other rearing vessels found spawning in state waters;

15 (5) Provisions for the determination of appropriate species,
16 stocks, and races of marine finfish aquaculture products allowed to
17 be cultured at specific locations and sites;

18 (6) Provisions for the development of an Atlantic salmon watch
19 program similar to the one in operation in British Columbia, Canada.
20 The program must provide for the monitoring of escapes of Atlantic
21 salmon from marine aquatic farming locations, monitor the occurrence
22 of naturally produced Atlantic salmon, determine the impact of
23 Atlantic salmon on naturally produced and cultured finfish stocks,
24 provide a focal point for consolidation of scientific information,
25 and provide a forum for interaction and education of the public; and

26 (7) Provisions for the development of an education program to
27 assist marine aquatic farmers so that they operate in an
28 environmentally sound manner.

29 (8) The department must implement this section consistent with
30 section 3 of this act.

31 **Sec. 10.** RCW 77.12.047 and 2017 c 159 s 2 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The commission may adopt, amend, or repeal rules as follows:

34 (a) Specifying the times when the taking of wildlife, fish, or
35 shellfish is lawful or unlawful.

36 (b) Specifying the areas and waters in which the taking and
37 possession of wildlife, fish, or shellfish is lawful or unlawful.

38 (c) Specifying and defining the gear, appliances, or other
39 equipment and methods that may be used to take wildlife, fish, or

1 shellfish, and specifying the times, places, and manner in which the
2 equipment may be used or possessed.

3 (d) Regulating the importation, transportation, possession,
4 disposal, landing, and sale of wildlife, fish, shellfish, or seaweed
5 within the state, whether acquired within or without the state.
6 However, this authority must be exercised consistent with sections 3
7 and 12 of this act. Additionally, the rules of the department must
8 prohibit any person, including department staff, from translocating a
9 live elk from an area with elk affected by hoof disease to any other
10 location except:

11 (i) Consistent with a process developed by the department with
12 input from the affected federally recognized tribes for translocation
13 for monitoring or hoof disease management purposes; or

14 (ii) Within an elk herd management plan area affected by hoof
15 disease.

16 (e) Regulating the prevention and suppression of diseases and
17 pests affecting wildlife, fish, or shellfish.

18 (f) Regulating the size, sex, species, and quantities of
19 wildlife, fish, or shellfish that may be taken, possessed, sold, or
20 disposed of.

21 (g) Specifying the statistical and biological reports required
22 from fishers, dealers, boathouses, or processors of wildlife, fish,
23 or shellfish.

24 (h) Classifying species of marine and freshwater life as food
25 fish or shellfish.

26 (i) Classifying the species of wildlife, fish, and shellfish that
27 may be used for purposes other than human consumption.

28 (j) Regulating the taking, sale, possession, and distribution of
29 wildlife, fish, shellfish, or deleterious exotic wildlife.

30 (k) Establishing game reserves and closed areas where hunting for
31 wild animals or wild birds may be prohibited.

32 (l) Regulating the harvesting of fish, shellfish, and wildlife in
33 the federal exclusive economic zone by vessels or individuals
34 registered or licensed under the laws of this state.

35 (m) Authorizing issuance of permits to release, plant, or place
36 fish or shellfish in state waters.

37 (n) Governing the possession of fish, shellfish, or wildlife so
38 that the size, species, or sex can be determined visually in the
39 field or while being transported.

1 (o) Other rules necessary to carry out this title and the
2 purposes and duties of the department.

3 (2)(a) Subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), (d), and (f) of this section
4 do not apply to private tideland owners and lessees and the immediate
5 family members of the owners or lessees of state tidelands, when they
6 take or possess oysters, clams, cockles, borers, or mussels,
7 excluding razor clams, produced on their own private tidelands or
8 their leased state tidelands for personal use.

9 (b) "Immediate family member" for the purposes of this section
10 means a spouse, brother, sister, grandparent, parent, child, or
11 grandchild.

12 (3) Except for subsection (1)(g) of this section, this section
13 does not apply to private sector cultured aquatic products as defined
14 in RCW 15.85.020. Subsection (1)(g) of this section does apply to
15 such products.

16 **Sec. 11.** RCW 50.04.075 and 2011 c 4 s 12 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) With respect to claims with an effective date prior to July
19 1, 2012, "dislocated worker" means any individual who:

20 (a) Has been terminated or received a notice of termination from
21 employment;

22 (b) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment
23 compensation benefits; and

24 (c) Is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's
25 principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing
26 demand for their skills in that occupation or industry.

27 (2) With respect to claims with an effective date on or after
28 July 1, 2012, "dislocated worker" means any individual who:

29 (a) Has been involuntarily and indefinitely separated from
30 employment as a result of a permanent reduction of operations at the
31 individual's place of employment, ~~((or))~~ has separated from a
32 declining occupation, or has separated from employment as a result of
33 this act; and

34 (b) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment
35 compensation benefits.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 77.125
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) For marine finfish aquaculture, the facility operator must
2 hire, at their own expense, a marine engineering firm approved by the
3 department to conduct inspections. Inspections must occur
4 approximately every two years, when net pens are fallow, and must
5 include topside and mooring assessments related to escapement
6 potential, structural integrity, permit compliance, and operations.
7 (2) Any net pen facility must be found to be in good working
8 order to receive fish.
9 (3) If the facility is found to be in imminent danger of collapse
10 or release of finfish, the director may require the operator to
11 remove fish or deny a fish transfer permit.

Passed by the House February 14, 2018.

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 22, 2018, with the exception of
certain items that were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 2018.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 1,
Engrossed House Bill No. 2957 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to reducing escape of nonnative finfish from
marine finfish aquaculture facilities."

Section 1 is unnecessary to implement the bill and I do not agree
with all the assertions made in this section.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 1 of Engrossed House Bill No.
2957.

With the exception of Section 1, Engrossed House Bill No. 2957 is
approved."

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