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**State Government & Tribal Relations  
Committee**

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**HB 1653**

**Brief Description:** Improving statewide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lekanoff, Chapman, Ryu, Ramel and Pollet.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Assigns the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office specific tasks with respect to its coordination with regional salmon recovery organizations, such as ensuring that salmon recovery plan elements are incorporated into planning under the Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act.
- Creates the Salmon Cabinet to foster statewide coordination and interagency relationships on salmon and steelhead recovery.
- Requires many state agencies to interpret their responsibilities in a manner that is supportive of the state anadromous fish protection and recovery goals.

**Hearing Date:** 1/20/22

**Staff:** Jason Zolle (786-7124).

**Background:**

Anadromous Fish Management.

Several species of salmon, as well as Puget Sound steelhead trout, are listed as either threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. Other

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state agencies are responsible for various other issues that relate to salmon recovery: for example, water quality, land management, and fish passage barrier removal. Those agencies include the Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

#### The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (SRO) is responsible for coordinating the statewide strategy for salmon recovery to healthy, sustainable population levels. A primary purpose of the office is to coordinate and assist in the development, implementation, and revision of regional salmon recovery plans. These regional plans are an integral part of the strategy for a coordinated and consistent statewide approach to salmon recovery.

For administrative purposes, the SRO is located within the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

#### The Growth Management Act.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for counties and cities in Washington. The GMA establishes land use designation and environmental protection requirements for all Washington counties and cities, and a significantly wider array of planning duties for the counties and the cities within that are obligated by population-based criteria or choice to satisfy all planning requirements of the GMA.

#### The Shoreline Management Act.

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) requires all counties and most towns and cities to develop and implement shoreline master programs. Most developments near state shorelines must then be consistent with those shoreline master programs.

### **Summary of Bill:**

#### The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

The SRO is given specific tasks with respect to its coordination with regional salmon recovery organizations. It must:

- integrate statewide salmon recovery goals, methods, monitoring, and outcomes into each regional salmon recovery plan; and
- ensure that salmon recovery plan elements are incorporated into GMA and SMA planning; and
- annually review and update each regional salmon recovery plan to ensure that each plan is achieving positive outcomes for salmon recovery and is in alignment with the statewide salmon recovery strategy.

The SRO is relocated from the RCO to the Office of the Governor. The SRO must work in direct relationship with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

#### The Salmon Cabinet.

A Salmon Cabinet (Cabinet) is established to:

- foster statewide coordination and interagency relationships on salmon and steelhead recovery;
- receive updates on progress toward recovery goals;
- monitor progress on recovery initiatives; and
- make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on agency actions, legislation, and budget priorities to enhance salmon and steelhead recovery.

The members of the Cabinet are as follows:

- the policy advisor to the Governor whose responsibilities include advising the Governor on issues related to salmon;
- the chairs of two federally recognized Indian tribes, one located east and one located west of the crest of the Cascade Mountains;
- the Director of WDFW;
- the Commissioner of Public Lands;
- the Director of Ecology;
- the Director of the RCO;
- the Director of the State Conservation Commission (SCC);
- the Director of the Department of Commerce (Commerce);
- the Director of the Office of Financial Management;
- the Director of WSDOT;
- the Director of the Department of Agriculture (Agriculture);
- the Director of the Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks);
- the Director of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP); and
- four legislators—one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

#### State Agencies.

The following state agencies are required to interpret their responsibilities in a manner that is supportive of the state anadromous fish protection and recovery goals: Ecology, Agriculture, DNR, the Department of Health, Commerce, Parks, WDFW, WSDOT, the SCC, the PSP, and the RCO.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 11, 2022.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.