HOUSE BILL 2293

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Wilcox, Chapman, Kretz, Dent, Barkis, and Barnard

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the effects of avian predation of 2 salmon; adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and providing an 3 expiration date.

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

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 77.12 6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall convene an avian salmon predation work 8 group to: Identify all avian species that contribute to predation of 9 juvenile salmon; determine whether such species are overpopulated, 10 overconsuming, or both; and identify remedies and regulatory 11 restrictions for harvest or abatement to these overpopulated species.

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(2) The avian salmon predation work group consists of:

(a) Five members from federally recognized Indian tribes with
 treaty fishing rights in Washington waters, invited by the department
 as comanagers;

(b) One member each from the department of wildlife, the United States fish and wildlife service, the United States army corps of engineers, and the national marine fisheries service west coast region; and

(c) One member each representing recreational fishers, commercialfishers, and a salmon conservation organization.

(3) If a member has not been designated for a position set forth
in subsection (2) of this section, the work group must still conduct
business and report as required in subsection (4) of this section.
(4) The work group must report annually to the department and the
legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 by June 30th.
(5) This section expires July 1, 2034.

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