
SENATE BILL 5599

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator MacEwen

1 AN ACT Relating to commercial fishery licenses; and amending RCW
2 77.70.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.70.180 and 2001 c 163 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Within five years after adopting rules to govern the number
7 and qualifications of participants in an emerging commercial fishery,
8 the director shall provide to the appropriate senate and house of
9 representatives committees a report which outlines the status of the
10 fishery and a recommendation as to whether a separate commercial
11 fishery license, license fee, or limited harvest program should be
12 established for that fishery.

13 (2) For any emerging commercial fishery designated under RCW
14 77.50.030, the report must also include:

15 (a) Information on the extent of the program, including to what
16 degree mass marking and supplementation programs have been utilized
17 in areas where emerging commercial fisheries using selective fishing
18 gear have been authorized;

19 (b) Information on the benefit provided to commercial fishers
20 including information on the effectiveness of emerging commercial

1 fisheries using selective fishing gear in providing expanded fishing
2 opportunity within mixed stocks of salmon;

3 (c) Information on the effectiveness of selective fishing gear in
4 minimizing postrelease mortality for nontarget stocks, harvesting
5 fish so that they are not damaged by the gear, and aiding the
6 creation of niche markets; and

7 (d) Information on the department's efforts at operating
8 hatcheries in an experimental fashion by managing wild and hatchery
9 origin fish as a single run as an alternative to mass marking and the
10 utilization of selective fishing gear. The department shall consult
11 with commercial fishers, recreational fishers, federally recognized
12 treaty tribes with a fishing right, regional fisheries enhancement
13 groups, and other affected parties to obtain their input in preparing
14 the report under this subsection (2).

15 (3) (a) If the report in subsection (1) of this section recommends
16 establishment of a separate commercial fishery license, license fee,
17 or limited harvest program, a separate commercial fishery license,
18 license fee, or limited harvest program must be established per the
19 director's recommendation.

20 (b) The director may permit the conversion of an existing limited
21 entry commercial salmon fishing license to the newly designated
22 fishery. Under RCW 77.70.090, the establishment of a separate license
23 does not result in an increase in the number of Puget Sound
24 commercial licenses.

25 (c) Current holders of experimental licenses must be allowed to
26 convert the current experimental license to the commercial fishery
27 license in (a) of this subsection.

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