

SENATE BILL 5229

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Owen and Oke.

Read first time January 24, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to Pacific cod; adding new sections to Title 75
2 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the Puget
5 Sound stocks of Pacific cod (Gadus macrocephalus) are severely
6 depressed and that a conservation closure is necessary to prevent the
7 elimination of the species in Puget Sound.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The director shall establish a Pacific
9 cod spawning zone closure in Agate Pass at the north end of Bainbridge
10 Island and shall prevent fishing by recreational and commercial fishers
11 in that zone from January 1 to March 31 of each year for a period of
12 five years from the effective date of this act.

13 (2) It is unlawful to retain Pacific cod in personal use or
14 commercial catches within the waters of Puget Sound south of a line

1 projected from Point Wilson to Admiralty Head, and within all marine
2 waters east of Whidbey and Camano Islands, for a period of five years
3 from the effective date of this act. Commercial fishing for Pacific
4 cod is prohibited in marine waters east of Port Angeles. A person
5 violating this subsection is subject to the penalty under RCW
6 75.10.110.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director shall work with the national
8 marine fisheries service to seek control of sea mammals that are
9 predators of Pacific cod in Puget Sound.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director shall assess the population
11 levels of walleye pollack, ling cod, and other Puget Sound marine fish
12 species that could be endangered and propose conservation measures that
13 will assure a healthy population of those species for future
14 generations of fishers.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
16 added to Title 75 RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
20 effect immediately.