
SENATE BILL 5500

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Conner and Hansen.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to game fish enhancement groups; and adding new
2 sections to chapter 77.12 RCW

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the
5 best interest of the game fish resource of the state to encourage the
6 development of regional game fish enhancement groups, and to provide
7 the groups with a source of funding for game fish enhancement projects.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature authorizes the formation
9 of regional game fish enhancement groups. These groups shall be
10 eligible for state financial support. The regional groups shall be
11 operated on a nonprofit basis. The regional boundaries for the game
12 fish enhancement groups shall be determined by the director in
13 consultation with the regional game fish enhancement group advisory
14 board.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The dedicated regional game fish
2 enhancement group account is created in the custody of the state
3 treasurer. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize
4 expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment
5 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required
6 for expenditures. The department shall collect a surcharge of one
7 dollar on each recreational fishing license and steelhead punchcard,
8 and a surcharge of fifty dollars on each fishing guide license, sold in
9 this state. The department shall deposit all receipts from these
10 surcharges in the regional game fish enhancement group account.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The regional game fish enhancement group
12 account must be used exclusively for regional game fish enhancement
13 group projects. The department shall not use funds from the regional
14 game fish enhancement group account as replacement funding for
15 currently funded department-operated game fish projects. The
16 department may use the account's funds for administrative costs and to
17 provide agency assistance to the regional game fish enhancement groups.

18 The amount of account funds used by the department shall be
19 determined by the director after the regional game fish enhancement
20 group advisory board has reviewed and made recommendations for
21 expenditures. The department shall not pay more than twenty percent of
22 annual contributions to the account in administrative costs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A regional game fish enhancement group
24 advisory board is established to review project proposals from the
25 regional game fish enhancement groups and to make recommendations to
26 the director regarding funding of the proposals. The advisory board
27 shall consist of seven members appointed by the director. Membership

1 on the board shall include sport fishers representing a cross-section
2 of game fishers in the state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The director, in consultation with the
4 regional game fish enhancement group advisory board, shall develop
5 objective criteria for funding of proposals.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Each regional game fish enhancement
7 group shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under Title 24
8 RCW. Any interested person or group is permitted to join. To the
9 extent permitted by the demographics of the region, the group shall be
10 representative of all classes of fishers, persons who have an interest
11 in game fishing within the region, and the general public.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The regional game fish enhancement
13 groups shall seek to:

- 14 (1) Enhance the game fish resources of the state;
15 (2) Maximize volunteer efforts and private donations to improve
16 the game fish resource for all citizens; and
17 (3) Assist the department in achieving the goal of doubling game
18 fish production by the year 2000 under RCW 77.12.710.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department and the regional game
20 fish enhancement group advisory board shall report at the end of each
21 biennium to the senate environment and natural resources committee, the
22 house of representatives fisheries and wildlife committee, the senate
23 ways and means committee and house of representatives fiscal
24 committees, or any successor committees beginning October 1, 1992. The
25 report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 26 (1) An evaluation of enhancement efforts;

- 1 (2) A description of projects;
- 2 (3) A region by region accounting of all financial contributions
- 3 and expenditures including the regional game fish enhancement group
- 4 account funds; and
- 5 (4) Volunteer participation and member affiliation.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act are
7 each added to chapter 77.12 RCW.