
SENATE BILL 5666

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Metcalf, Snyder, Hansen, Patterson, Bauer, von Reichbauer, Barr and Thorsness.

Read first time February 13, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting salmon and steelhead; amending RCW
2 75.08.012 and 77.12.240; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that seals and sea
5 lions have increased to such a degree under the protection of the
6 Magnuson federal mammal act that they now endanger other natural
7 resources, including steelhead and salmon.

8 The state departments of wildlife and fisheries are wasting
9 thousands of dollars and countless hours shooting firecrackers and
10 water cannons, along with expending much time and money spreading nets
11 that are useless to prevent serious steelhead and salmon losses.

12 The Magnuson federal mammal protection act contains a provision to
13 solve this problem by appropriate action. The legislature now empowers
14 the department of fisheries and the department of wildlife to take

1 appropriate action under sections 2 and 3 of this act to protect this
2 state's steelhead and salmon resources.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 75.08.012 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 s 5 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage
6 the food fish and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.

7 (2) The department shall conserve the food fish and shellfish
8 resources in a manner that does not impair the resource. In a manner
9 consistent with this goal, the department shall seek to maintain the
10 economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state.
11 The department shall promote orderly fisheries and shall enhance and
12 improve recreational and commercial fishing in this state.

13 (3) The department shall remove or destroy nonendangered marine
14 mammals that are reducing the state's salmon or steelhead population.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.12.240 and 1989 c 197 s 1 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) The director may authorize the removal or killing of wildlife
18 that is destroying or injuring property, or when it is necessary for
19 wildlife management or research.

20 (2) The director or other employees of the department shall dispose
21 of determined by the director to be in the best interest of the state.
22 Proceeds from sales shall be deposited in the state treasury to be
23 credited to the state wildlife fund.

24 (3) The department shall remove or destroy nonendangered marine
25 mammals that are reducing the state's salmon or steelhead population.