

1 **ESSB 6125** - H AMDS TO FW COMM AMD (H-4385.2) **1285 ADOPTED 3-3-94**  
2 By Representative Ballasiotes

3 On page 1, line 22 of the striking amendment, after "account"  
4 strike all material through "needed" on line 25, and insert  
5 "created under section 19 of this act"

6 On page 1, beginning on line 26 of the striking amendment,  
7 strike all of section 2.

8 On page 10, after line 15 of the striking amendment, insert:  
9 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** A warm water game fish enhancement  
10 program is created in the department to be funded from the sale of  
11 a warm water game fish surcharge and the revenue attributed to the  
12 sale of department fishing licenses that are purchased by fishers  
13 who fish for certain warm water game fish species. The enhancement  
14 program shall be designed to increase the opportunities to fish for  
15 and catch warm water game fish including: Largemouth black bass,  
16 smallmouth black bass, channel catfish, black crappie, white  
17 crappie, walleye, and tiger musky, and other species as defined by  
18 the department. The program shall be designed to use a practical  
19 applied approach to increasing warm water fishing. The department  
20 shall use the funds available efficiently to assure the greatest  
21 increase in the fishing for warm water fish at the lowest cost.  
22 This approach shall involve the minimization of overhead and  
23 administrative costs and the maximization of productive in-the-  
24 field activities.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** In order to fish throughout the state  
26 for warm water game fish, a person fifteen years of age or older  
27 shall pay to the department an annual warm water game fish  
28 surcharge. For the purposes of this section, "warm water game

1 fish" means largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, walleye,  
2 black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, and tiger musky.  
3 The department shall use the most cost-effective format in  
4 designing and administering the surcharge. Revenues from the  
5 surcharge shall be deposited in the warm water game fish account  
6 created under section 19 of this act. The annual surcharge shall  
7 be in the following amounts:

8 (1) For residents and nonresidents between fifteen and sixty-  
9 nine years of age and for nonresidents seventy years of age or  
10 older who hold an annual fishing license issued under RCW  
11 77.32.101, five dollars;

12 (2) For residents seventy years of age or older who hold an  
13 annual fishing license issued under RCW 77.32.101, one dollar; and

14 (3) For residents and nonresidents between fifteen and sixty-  
15 nine years of age and nonresidents seventy years of age and older  
16 who hold a temporary fishing license under RCW 77.32.161, two  
17 dollars.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The goals of the warm water game fish  
19 enhancement program are to improve the fishing for warm water game  
20 fish using cost-effective management. Development of new ponds and  
21 lakes shall be an important and integral part of the program. The  
22 department shall work with the department of natural resources to  
23 coordinate the reclamation of surface mines and the development of  
24 warm water game fish ponds. Improvement of warm water fishing  
25 shall be coordinated with the protection and conservation of cold  
26 water fish populations. This shall be accomplished by carefully  
27 designing the warm water projects to have minimal adverse effects  
28 upon the cold water fish populations. New pond and lake  
29 development should have beneficial effects upon wildlife due to the  
30 increase in lacustrine and wetland habitat that will accompany the  
31 improvement of warm water fish habitat. The department shall not  
32 develop projects that will increase the populations of undesirable

1 or deleterious fish species such as carp, squawfish, walking  
2 catfish, and others.

3 Fish culture programs shall be used in conditions where they  
4 will prove to be cost-effective. Consideration should be made for  
5 development of urban area enhancement of fishing opportunity for  
6 put-and-take species, such as channel catfish, which are amenable  
7 to production by low-cost fish culture methods. Fish culture shall  
8 also be used for stocking of high value species, such as walleye,  
9 smallmouth bass, and tiger musky. Introduction of special genetic  
10 strains that show high potential for recreational fishing  
11 improvement, including Florida strain largemouth bass, shall be  
12 considered.

13 Transplantation and introduction of exotic warm water fish  
14 shall be carefully reviewed to assure that adverse effects to  
15 native fish and wildlife populations do not occur. This review  
16 shall include an analysis of consequences from disease and parasite  
17 introduction.

18 Population management through the use of fish toxicants,  
19 including rotenone or derris root, shall be considered as a  
20 management option in the warm water game fish enhancement program.  
21 However, any use of fish toxicants shall be subject to a thorough  
22 review to prevent adverse effects to cold water fish, desirable  
23 warm water fish, and other biota. Eradication of deleterious fish  
24 species shall be a goal of the program.

25 Habitat improvement shall be a major aspect of the warm water  
26 enhancement program. Habitat improvement opportunities shall be  
27 defined with scientific investigations, field surveys, and by using  
28 the extensive experience of other state management entities.  
29 Installation of cover, structure, water flow control structures,  
30 screens, spawning substrate, vegetation control, and other  
31 management techniques shall be fully used. The department shall  
32 work to gain access to privately owned waters that can be developed  
33 with habitat improvements to improve the warm water resource for

1 public fishing. Habitat improvements shall be conducted in such a  
2 manner as to have secondary benefits to waterfowl, other wildlife,  
3 and cold water fish.

4 The program may include research if necessary to achieve  
5 overall program goals.

6 The department shall use the resources of cooperative groups  
7 to assist in the planning and implementation of the warm water game  
8 fish enhancement program. In the development of the program the  
9 department shall actively involve the organized fishing clubs that  
10 primarily fish for warm water fish.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** The warm water game fish account is  
12 hereby created in the state wildlife fund. Moneys in the account  
13 are subject to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the  
14 purpose of funding the warm water game fish enhancement program  
15 under section 16 of this act. Revenues from the warm water game  
16 fish surcharge established under section 17 of this act shall be  
17 deposited into the account.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** The director shall make every effort  
19 to allocate funding among department fish management programs  
20 proportional to the revenues from the sale of fishing licenses  
21 issued under RCW 77.32.101 and attributable to fishing for the  
22 species managed within each of the programs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** Sections 16 through 20 of this act  
24 shall constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** (1) Sections 16 and 18 through 20 of  
26 this act shall take effect July 1, 1994.

1 (2) Section 17 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1995."

2 On page 10, line 18 of the striking amendment, after  
3 "Sections" strike "3" and insert "1"

4 On page 10, line 19 of the striking amendment, after "effect"  
5 strike "July 1, 1995" and insert "January 1, 1995"

6 On page 10, beginning on line 20 of the striking amendment,  
7 strike the remainder of the bill.

8 Renumber remaining sections consecutively and correct internal  
9 references accordingly.

EFFECT: Establishes a warm water game fish surcharge on fishing licenses to fish for the following warmwater species: bass, walleye, black and white crappie, channel catfish and tiger musky. Except for persons under the age of 15 and residents 70 years of age or older, holders of an annual fishing license pay a \$5 surcharge, and holders of a temporary fishing license pay a \$2 surcharge. Residents 70 years of age or older pay a \$1 surcharge.

The appropriated Warm Water Game Fish Account is created in Wildlife Fund. The account is funded by the warm water game fish surcharge.

Moneys in the account are subject to appropriation and shall be used to fund a water water game fish enhancement program in the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The surcharge takes effect January 1, 1995. The program and account are effective July 1, 1994.

The effective date of the sport fishing license fee increases is changed from July 1, 1995 to January 1, 1995 to coincide with calendar year license administration.