
SENATE BILL 5612

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Oke, Sheldon and Winsley

Read first time 01/30/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to management of salmon in Hood Canal; and adding
2 a new chapter to Title 75 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the recreational
5 fishing harvest of chinook salmon and coho salmon in Hood Canal has
6 seriously declined over the last ten years. This situation has
7 occurred during the terms of two governors and three different
8 department of fisheries and department of fish and wildlife directors.
9 Furthermore, there is no relief in sight given the current management
10 approach. The legislature finds that immediate management changes are
11 necessary in order to restore the recreational fisheries that have been
12 lost.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
14 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
15 chapter.

16 (1) "Eligible for commercial harvest" or "commercially harvestable"
17 means chum salmon and pink salmon.

1 (2) "Hood Canal" means all waters in Hood Canal south of the Hood
2 Canal bridge.

3 (3) "Not eligible for commercial harvest" means chinook salmon and
4 coho salmon.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director may not approve commercial
6 fishing gear for use in Hood Canal waters unless it meets the following
7 criteria:

8 (1) Capture of salmon must be conducted in a selective manner that
9 assures that captured salmon are alive and that the gear will permit
10 the live inspection of each captured salmon;

11 (2) Each captured salmon must be held in an unharmed condition
12 until it can be determined that the salmon is eligible for commercial
13 harvest or is a species or stock that is protected from commercial
14 harvest;

15 (3) Each captured salmon that is not eligible for commercial
16 harvest must be released unharmed into the waters from which it was
17 captured;

18 (4) The process of sorting captured salmon to determine which are
19 commercially harvestable and which must be released unharmed must be
20 conducted as quickly and accurately as possible;

21 (5) Beach seine gear, purse seine gear, and fish traps that are
22 operated in the proper manner qualify as legal commercial fishing gear
23 in Hood Canal;

24 (6) Gill net gear, trawling gear, and trolling gear are not legal
25 commercial fishing gear for Hood Canal; and

26 (7) The director may approve other commercial fishing gear that
27 meets the criteria in subsections (1) through (4) of this section.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Department salmon hatcheries or other salmon
29 culture facilities that are located on tributaries of Hood Canal or
30 that plant salmon into Hood Canal shall emphasize the production of
31 chinook salmon and coho salmon. Production of chum salmon and pink
32 salmon must be of lesser priority, in both numbers and pounds produced,
33 than the production of chinook salmon and coho salmon.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director shall discuss the management
35 implications of this chapter with the treaty Indian tribes that fish in
36 Hood Canal, and shall strive to make the management approach specified

1 by this chapter apply as broadly to the treaty Indian tribes as is
2 feasible consistent with preservation of treaty fishing rights.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 75 RCW.

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