

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5399

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources & Parks, February 21, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to juvenile hunting, fishing, shellfish, and seaweed licenses.

**Brief Description:** Revising the juvenile age limits on hunting, fishing, shellfish, and seaweed licenses.

**Sponsors:** Senators Roach and Strannigan.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 1/14/97, 2/21/97 [DP-WM].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Oke, Chair; Rossi, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Jacobsen, Morton, Prentice, Roach, Snyder, Spanel, Stevens and Swecker.

**Staff:** Ross Antipa (786-7413)

**Background:** Juveniles under the age of 15 are allowed to fish in recreational fisheries without a fishing license. They are also allowed to collect shellfish and seaweed without a license.

A reduced fee steelhead fishing license is available for \$6 to juveniles under 15 years old.

Increasing the age for free juvenile fishing and for the reduced fee steelhead license will encourage recreational fishing by youthful fishers.

**Summary of Bill:** Juveniles under 18 years old may fish recreationally for food fish and game fish, and collect shellfish and seaweed without a license.

The reduced fee juvenile steelhead license is available to persons under 18 years of age.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Increasing the age for free juvenile fishing will help the responsible development of youth and provide much-needed recreational opportunities.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Laurie Glass-Goerg, R&R (pro); James Goerg, The Reel News (pro); Tom Nelson, Puget Sound Anglers (pro); Lynn Norden, Chairman, Parks Commission, City of Duvall; Shari Stoican, Rods & Reels for Kid, Puget Sound angler (pro); Ric Abbett, Trout Unlimited (pro).