

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6282

As of January 20, 1998

Title: An act relating to federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Brief Description: Planning for the impact of federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Sponsors: Senators Swecker, Oke and Schow.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 1/27/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Background: The listing of threatened or endangered fish under the Endangered Species Act will require the development of a recovery plan for each listing. Recovery plans frequently consist of measures that prevent the take of a species, and improve or protect the habitat necessary for the well being of a species. Washington State currently has four listings of threatened or endangered fish species and more are expected in the near future.

A mechanism is needed for making funding decisions for endangered species habitat improvement or protection projects.

Summary of Bill: A 16-member salmon restoration funding task force is created. It consists of representatives from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, Ecology, Natural Resources, Community, Trade, and Economic Development, and treaty tribes, cities, counties, a business organizations, an environmental organization, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and the University of Washington, in addition to four legislative members.

The task force must develop recommendations on a funding process for salmonid restoration projects, including a standard methodology, prioritization, statewide data base, and project applications. A preliminary report is due to the Legislature by August 1, 1998, with a final report by December 1, 1998.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 1998.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.