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HOUSE BILL 2480

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Sump, Honeyford, McCune, Sheahan,  
Mulliken and Buck

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the unlawful release of fish; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 77.16 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an  
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.16 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) It is unlawful to release, plant, or place live fish within  
8 the state, except for a release of game fish into private waters for  
9 which a game fish stocking permit has been obtained or the planting of  
10 food fish by permit of the commission.

11 (b) A violation of (a) of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor.  
12 In addition, the court shall order the person to pay all costs the  
13 department incurs in capturing, killing, or controlling the fish  
14 released or its progeny. This does not affect the existing authority  
15 of the department to bring a separate civil action to recover the costs  
16 of capturing, killing, or controlling the fish released or their  
17 progeny, or restoration of habitat necessitated by the unlawful  
18 release.

1 (2)(a) It is unlawful to release, plant, or place live deleterious  
2 exotic fish within the state that have been classified as deleterious  
3 exotic fish by rule of the commission.

4 (b) A violation of (a) of this subsection is a class C felony. In  
5 addition, the court shall also order the person to pay all costs the  
6 department incurs in capturing, killing, or controlling the fish  
7 released or its progeny. This does not affect the existing authority  
8 of the department to bring a separate civil action to recover the costs  
9 of capturing, killing, or controlling the fish released or their  
10 progeny, or the restoration of habitat necessitated by the unlawful  
11 release.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 1998.

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