
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5120

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Morton)

Read first time 03/10/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to fish enhancement with remote site incubators;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 75 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that trout and salmon
5 population levels are greatly below the carrying capacity of many state
6 waters, and that reintroduction of both trout and salmon can be
7 accomplished with the use of remote site incubators. Remote site
8 incubators have been shown to be a cost-effective means of bypassing
9 the early period of high mortality that is often experienced by
10 salmonid eggs that are naturally spawned in streams with degraded
11 habitat. In addition, remote site incubators provide an efficient
12 method for reintroduction of fish into areas that are not fully seeded
13 by natural spawn. The technology for remote site incubators is well
14 developed, and their application is easily accomplished in a wide
15 variety of habitat by persons with a moderate level of training.

16 It is a goal of the remote site incubator program to assist
17 reestablishment of sustainable fish populations so that the populations
18 may become naturally spawning in many cases. In other cases, primarily
19 where spawning conditions are not optimal or where numbers of spawners

1 are chronically low, the remote site incubator program may become a
2 cost-effective long-term solution for supplementation and restoration
3 of fish populations.

4 Another goal of the remote site incubator program is to provide a
5 means of utilizing excess or surplus salmonid eggs which in the past
6 would have been destroyed or not used in a way that would have rebuilt
7 fish populations.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The fish and wildlife commission shall
9 instruct the director to employ existing fish management employees of
10 the department to identify potential sites throughout the state and
11 potential fish species for each site that are suitable for remote site
12 incubators.

13 The initial selection of sites is to be completed by July 1, 1998.
14 Thereafter the site selection list is to be updated at least on an
15 annual basis.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director may, if deemed necessary,
17 dedicate existing employees of the fish and wildlife construction crew
18 to the responsibility of constructing, and in some cases installing and
19 maintaining, remote site incubators. The director shall purchase
20 commercially available remote site incubators in cases in which it
21 would be more economical to purchase remote site incubators rather than
22 to build them with the construction crew.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director shall use existing staff to
24 coordinate the remote site incubator program throughout the state.
25 Remote site incubator coordinators shall make annual reports to the
26 fish and wildlife commission on the progress of the program.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director shall fully involve and depend
28 chiefly upon volunteer efforts in the remote site incubator program
29 through the regional fisheries enhancement groups; the cooperative
30 project program; private nonprofit groups, such as the long live the
31 kings organization; treaty Indian tribes; and interested individuals.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The director shall make every effort to
33 utilize appropriate salmonid eggs in remote site incubators if the eggs

1 are not allocated for other fish culture uses or would otherwise be
2 sold or donated.

3 (2) The director may purchase or accept as a gift to the state
4 viable salmonid eggs from private fish farmers for purposes of stocking
5 remote site incubators and for the stocking of all public waters.

6 (3) As required to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the
7 director shall contact the treaty Indian tribes, the federal fish and
8 wildlife service, and the state fish management agencies of Oregon and
9 Idaho for the purpose of obtaining donations of viable salmonid eggs
10 for stocking remote site incubators.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The director shall approve remote site
12 incubator projects unless it violates the wild salmonid policy, or is
13 a direct threat to the salmonid resource. The director may prioritize
14 remote site incubator locations within regional enhancement areas.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The director shall direct the warm water
16 fish enhancement program of the department to investigate ways for
17 applying the remote site incubator technology to the production of warm
18 water fish.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The director of fish and wildlife and the
20 secretary of the department of corrections shall jointly investigate
21 the potential of producing remote site incubators through the prison
22 industries program of the department of corrections, and they shall
23 jointly report their finding to the natural resources committees of the
24 house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 1998.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 2 through 8 of this act constitute
26 a new chapter in Title 75 RCW.

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