
SENATE BILL 5969

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Oke and Haugen

Read first time 02/24/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to appointment of a mediator to identify a solution
2 to a wasteful commercial fishing practice; creating new sections; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds a wasteful
6 commercial fishing practice occurs in the Hood Canal commercial chum
7 salmon fishery. Over the 1995 and 1996 seasons large numbers of adult
8 chum salmon were harvested, eggs were removed from the female salmon,
9 and the stripped female salmon and the male salmon were discarded along
10 the beaches and waters of Hood Canal. The practice of wasting a large
11 number of adult chum salmon is not acceptable to the legislature and
12 the people of the state of Washington. The legislature finds that the
13 wastage is primarily occurring in the commercial chum salmon fishery.
14 The majority of the wasted chum salmon are produced in state-funded and
15 state-operated salmon hatcheries.

16 (2) The ultimate management responsibility resides with the
17 comanagers of the salmon resource, the state and the treaty tribes as
18 represented by the fish and wildlife commission and the Northwest
19 Indian fisheries commission. These two deliberative decision-making

1 bodies must jointly act with a swift and determined decision to
2 permanently solve this serious resource devastation. The desultory and
3 capricious government policies that allowed this pillage for a second
4 year must be redirected by the ultimate management authorities.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature finds a mediator is
6 needed to help find a solution to the problem of chum salmon wastage in
7 Hood Canal. The mediator shall work cooperatively with the comanagers
8 of the salmon resource, the Northwest Indian fisheries commission and
9 the fish and wildlife commission. The mediator shall report to the
10 legislature on or before September 1, 1997, the results of the
11 mediation effort toward solving the chum salmon wastage problem.

12 (2) The legislature, under Article III, section 16 of the state
13 Constitution, respectfully appoints the lieutenant governor of the
14 state of Washington to act as the mediator for the Hood Canal chum
15 salmon wastage problem. The negotiation skills of the lieutenant
16 governor are critically needed to solve this problem with a
17 government-to-government approach. Neither the state of Washington,
18 which produces the chum salmon, or the treaty Indian tribes, which
19 catch the salmon, can solve this problem unilaterally. The lieutenant
20 governor is uniquely qualified to serve as mediator between the state
21 and the tribes.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

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