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SENATE BILL 6149

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the regional fisheries enhancement group  
2 advisory board; and amending RCW 75.50.115.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 75.50.115 and 1995 c 367 s 6 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall:

7 (a) Assess the training and technical assistance needs of the  
8 regional fisheries enhancement groups;

9 (b) Develop a training and technical assistance services plan in  
10 order to provide timely, topical technical assistance and training  
11 services to regional fisheries enhancement groups. The plan shall be  
12 provided to the director and to the senate and house of representatives  
13 natural resources committees no later than October 1, 1995, and shall  
14 be updated not less than every year. The advisory board shall provide  
15 ample opportunity for the public and interested parties to participate  
16 in the development of the plan. The plan shall include but is not  
17 limited to:

18 (i) Establishment of an information clearinghouse service that is  
19 readily available to regional fisheries enhancement groups. The

1 information clearinghouse shall collect, collate, and make available a  
2 broad range of information on subjects that affect the development,  
3 implementation, and operation of diverse fisheries and habitat  
4 enhancement projects. The information clearinghouse service may  
5 include periodical news and informational bulletins;

6 (ii) An ongoing program in order to provide direct, on-site  
7 technical assistance and services to regional fisheries enhancement  
8 groups. The advisory board shall assist regional fisheries enhancement  
9 groups in soliciting federal, state, and local agencies, tribal  
10 governments, institutions of higher education, and private business for  
11 the purpose of providing technical assistance and services to regional  
12 fisheries enhancement group projects; and

13 (iii) A cost estimate for implementing the plan;

14 (c) Propose a budget to the director for operation of the advisory  
15 board and implementation of the technical assistance plan;

16 (d) Make recommendations to the director regarding regional  
17 enhancement group project proposals and funding of those proposals; and

18 (e) Establish criteria for the redistribution of unspent project  
19 funds for any regional enhancement group that has a year ending balance  
20 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.

21 (2) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board may:

22 (a) Facilitate resolution of disputes between regional fisheries  
23 enhancement groups and the department;

24 (b) Promote community and governmental partnerships that enhance  
25 the salmon resource and habitat;

26 (c) Promote environmental ethics and watershed stewardship;

27 (d) Advocate for watershed management and restoration;

28 (e) Coordinate regional fisheries enhancement group workshops and  
29 training;

30 (f) Monitor and evaluate regional fisheries enhancement projects;

31 (g) Provide guidance to regional fisheries enhancement groups; and

32 (h) Develop recommendations to the director to address identified  
33 impediments to the success of regional fisheries enhancement groups.

34 (3)(a) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board  
35 shall develop recommendations for limitations on the amount of overhead  
36 that a regional fisheries enhancement group may charge from each of the  
37 following categories of funding provided to the group:

38 (i) Federal funds;

39 (ii) State funds;

1        (iii) Local funds; and

2        (iv) Private donations.

3        (b) The advisory board shall develop recommendations for  
4 limitations on the number and salary of paid employees that are  
5 employed by a regional fisheries enhancement group. The regional  
6 fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall adhere to the founding  
7 principles for regional groups that emphasize the volunteer nature of  
8 the groups, maximization of field-related fishery resource benefits,  
9 and minimization of overhead.

10       (c) The advisory board shall evaluate and make recommendations for  
11 the limitation or elimination of commissions, finders fees, or other  
12 reimbursements to regional fisheries enhancement group employees.

13       (d) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall  
14 report to the appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 1999, on  
15 the board recommendations for overhead limitations, paid employee  
16 limitations, and commission limitations for regional fisheries  
17 enhancement groups.

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