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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6324**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Rasmussen, Oke, Swecker and West)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to fish enhancement with remote site incubators;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 75.50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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 populations are depleted in many state waters. Restoration of these  
6 populations to a healthy status requires improved protection of these  
7 species and their habitats. However, in some instances restoration of  
8 self-sustaining populations also requires the reintroduction of the  
9 fish into their native habitat.

10 Remote site incubators have been shown to be a cost-effective means  
11 of bypassing the early period of high mortality experienced by salmonid  
12 eggs that are naturally spawned in streams. In addition, remote site  
13 incubators provide an efficient method for reintroduction of fish into  
14 areas that are not seeded by natural spawning. The technology for  
15 remote site incubators is well developed, and their application is  
16 easily accomplished in a wide variety of habitat by persons with a  
17 moderate level of training.

18 It is a goal of the remote site incubator program to assist the  
19 reestablishment of wild salmon and trout populations that are self-

1 sustaining through natural spawning. In other cases, where the habitat  
2 has been permanently damaged and natural populations cannot sustain  
3 themselves, the remote site incubator program may become a cost-  
4 effective long-term solution for supplementation of fish populations.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.50 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall develop and implement a program utilizing  
8 remote site incubators in tributaries to the Columbia river downstream  
9 of Bonneville Dam. The program shall identify sites in these  
10 tributaries that are suitable for reestablishing self-sustaining,  
11 locally adapted populations of coho, chum, or chinook salmon. The  
12 initial selection of sites shall be completed by July 1, 1999, and  
13 updated annually thereafter.

14 (2) The department may only approve a remote site incubator project  
15 if the department deems it is consistent with the conservation of wild  
16 salmon and trout. The department shall only utilize appropriate  
17 salmonid eggs in remote site incubators, and may acquire eggs by gift  
18 or purchase.

19 (3) The department shall depend chiefly upon volunteer efforts to  
20 implement the remote site incubator program through volunteer  
21 cooperative projects and the regional fisheries enhancement groups.  
22 The department may prioritize remote site incubator projects within  
23 regional enhancement areas.

24 (4) The department may purchase remote site incubators and may use  
25 agency employees to construct remote site incubators. The director and  
26 the secretary of the department of corrections shall jointly  
27 investigate the potential of producing remote site incubators through  
28 the prison industries program of the department of corrections, and  
29 shall jointly report their finding to the natural resources committees  
30 of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 1999.

31 (5) The department shall investigate the use of the remote site  
32 incubator technology for the production of warm water fish.

33 (6) The department shall evaluate the initial results of the  
34 program and report to the legislature by December 1, 2000. Annual  
35 reports on the progress of the program shall be provided to the fish  
36 and wildlife commission.

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