
SENATE BILL 6324

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Rasmussen, Oke, Swecker and West

Read first time 01/15/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that trout and salmon
6 populations are depleted in many state waters. Restoration of these
7 populations to a healthy status requires improved protection of these
8 species and their habitats. However, in some instances restoration of
9 self-sustaining populations also requires the reintroduction of the
10 fish into their native habitat.

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

1 It is a goal of the remote site incubator program to assist the
2 reestablishment of wild salmon and trout populations that are self-
3 sustaining through natural spawning. In other cases, where the habitat
4 has been permanently damaged and natural populations cannot sustain
5 themselves, the remote site incubator program may become a cost-
6 effective long-term solution for supplementation of fish populations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three hundred ninety-three
2 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
3 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, from the general
4 fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of this
5 act.

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