

# ***HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS***

## ***HB 2079***

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***Title:*** An act relating to salmon recovery.

***Brief Description:*** Promoting salmon recovery.

***Sponsors:*** Representatives Regala, Buck, Eickmeyer, Anderson, Rockefeller, Romero, Veloria and Keiser.

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### **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

***Meeting Date:*** February 24, 1999.

***Bill Analysis Prepared by:*** Bill Lynch, Counsel (786-7092)

***Background:***

The Legislature enacted salmon recovery legislation during the 1998 legislative session which, among other provisions, created a critical pathways methodology to ensure salmon restoration activities would be prioritized and implemented in a sequential manner, created an independent science panel to assist in salmon recovery efforts, and an interagency review team to rank and dispense funds for habitat restoration projects.

Although an adaptive management strategy must be used as part of the critical pathways methodology, and the critical pathways methodology requires an identification of how projects will be monitored and evaluated, the critical pathways methodology does not specify that there must be a review of the monitoring data and an evaluation of the project performance. If there is no lead entity for an area, the interagency review team must rank and dispense funds for the area based upon whether there is a greater benefit to salmon recovery and whether it will be implemented in a critical area, but there are no standards for making these determinations listed in statute. Some additional minor amendments would assist in the implementation of the original legislation.

***Summary of Bill:***

The critical pathways methodology must include a review of monitoring data, an evaluation of project performance, and recommendations to the committee which compiled the list of habitat projects for the area as well as the interagency review team. The technical advisory team for the area is responsible for this task.

Vacancies on the independent science panel are filled in the same manner in which the original appointments were filled. The Governor's Salmon Recovery office may enter into a personal services contract with members of the independent science panel for compensation based upon available funding. References to compensating members of the independent science panel in accordance with the rate established for members of class four boards and commissions are deleted.

Representatives of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Ecology are added to the interagency review team to rank and dispense funds for habitat projects

Habitat project lists are submitted to the interagency review team for funding once a year instead of twice a year.

If there is a lead entity established for an area, the interagency review team must give preference to projects that are on the project list submitted by the lead entity. If there is no lead entity for an area, the interagency review team must give preference to projects that are based upon the limiting factors analysis identified for the area, provide greater benefit to salmon recovery based upon information contained in the Department of Fish and Wildlife salmonid stock inventory or a comparable science-based assessment, will be implemented in a more critical area based upon the stock status information contained in the department's salmonid stock inventory or a comparable science-based assessment, and other factors.

References to salmon habitat restoration projects are changed to salmon habitat projects to allow the funding of habitat protection projects, habitat projects that improve water quality, habitat projects that protect water quality, habitat-related mitigation projects, fish passage projects, fish screening projects, habitat project corrective maintenance, and monitoring activities.

***Appropriation:*** None.

***Fiscal Note:*** Not requested.

***Effective Date:*** Ninety days after session in which bill is passed.