
SENATE BILL 5436

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Morton, Eide, Swecker, Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Fairley, Oke, Patterson and Kline

Read first time 01/22/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to abandoned fishing nets; adding a new section to
2 chapter 75.08 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Abandoned fishing nets are a problem that pose a risk to the
6 state's precious salmon resource;

7 (2) Because these nets often exist below the surface of the water,
8 they pose a unique challenge to locate and require a dedicated effort
9 to remove; and

10 (3) There are private agencies interested in partnering with the
11 state to remove this threat.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.08 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 The department shall oversee and coordinate action to locate and
15 remove abandoned fishing nets that are adrift in the waters of the
16 state. The department may solicit assistance from private
17 organizations to carry out efforts to locate and remove abandoned nets
18 in the most cost-effective manner possible. The department may accept

1 useful donations of private materials, funds, or labor in order to
2 locate and remove abandoned nets. The department shall report back to
3 the legislature before February 1, 2000, on the progress of this
4 program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
7 year ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the department of
8 fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
10 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
11 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
12 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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