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HOUSE BILL 2625

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Buck, Van Luven and Lysen

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the exclusivity of gill net gear in  
2 certain waters; amending RCW 77.50.010; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the economic  
6 well-being and stability of the fishing industry and the conservation  
7 of the food fish resources of the state of Washington are best served  
8 by providing managers with all available tools to stabilize and  
9 distribute the commercial harvest of targeted Puget Sound salmon  
10 stocks. In recent years, segments of the industry in cooperation with  
11 the department of fish and wildlife have funded studies examining  
12 modification of harvest practices and fishing gear, particularly purse  
13 seine gear, to minimize or avoid impacts on nontargeted Puget Sound  
14 salmon stocks.

15 The legislature finds that the new Pacific salmon treaty agreement  
16 of 1999 will drastically reduce the commercial harvest of Fraser river  
17 sockeye salmon while likely providing increased harvest opportunities  
18 in areas of Puget Sound where only gill net gear is now authorized.  
19 This exclusive limitation is contrary to the long-term needs of the

1 fishing industry and inconsistent with the legislature's intent to  
2 stabilize harvest levels while selectively targeting healthy salmon  
3 stocks.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.50.010 and 1998 c 190 s 75 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for sockeye  
7 salmon within the waters described in subsection (2) of this section  
8 only during the period June 10th to July 25th and for other salmon only  
9 from the second Monday of September through November 30th, except  
10 during the hours between 4:00 p.m. of Friday and 4:00 p.m. of the  
11 following Sunday.

12 (2) All waters east and south of a line commencing at a concrete  
13 monument on Angeles Point in Clallam county near the mouth of the Elwha  
14 River on which is inscribed "Angeles Point Monument" (latitude 48½ 9'  
15 3" north, longitude 123½ 33' 01" west of Greenwich Meridian); thence  
16 running east on a line 81½ 30' true across the flashlight and bell buoy  
17 off Partridge Point and thence continued to longitude 122½ 40' west;  
18 thence north to the southerly shore of Sinclair Island; thence along  
19 the southerly shore of the island to the most easterly point of the  
20 island; thence 46½ true to Carter Point, the most southerly point of  
21 Lummi Island; thence northwesterly along the westerly shore line of  
22 Lummi Island to where the shore line intersects line of longitude 122½  
23 40' west; thence north to the mainland, including: The southerly  
24 portion of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay,  
25 Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, Similk Bay, Saratoga Passage, Holmes  
26 Harbor, Possession Sound, Admiralty Inlet, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, and  
27 their inlets, passages, waters, waterways, and tributaries.

28 (3) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for salmon with  
29 gill net, purse seine, and other lawful gear prior to the second Monday  
30 in September within the waters of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Samish  
31 Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay, Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, and Similk  
32 Bay, to wit: Those waters northerly and easterly of a line commencing  
33 at Stanwood, thence along the south shore of Skagit Bay to Rocky Point  
34 on Camano Island; thence northerly to Polnell Point on Whidbey Island.

35 (4) Whenever the commission determines that a stock or run of  
36 salmon cannot be harvested in the usual manner, and that the stock or  
37 run of salmon may be in danger of being wasted and surplus to natural  
38 or artificial spawning requirements, the commission may authorize units

1 of gill net and purse seine gear in any number or equivalents, by time  
2 and area, to fully utilize the harvestable portions of these salmon  
3 runs for the economic well being of the citizens of this state. Gill  
4 net and purse seine gear other than emergency and test gear authorized  
5 by the director shall not be used in Lake Washington.

6 (5) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for pink salmon  
7 in each odd-numbered year from August 1st through September 1st in the  
8 waters lying inside of a line commencing at the most easterly point of  
9 Dungeness Spit and thence projected to Point Partridge on Whidbey  
10 Island and a line commencing at Olele Point and thence projected  
11 easterly to Bush Point on Whidbey Island.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,  
13 2002.

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