
**Natural Resources, Ecology &
Parks Committee**

SSB 5676

Brief Description: Requiring oil spill contingency plans to include shellfish beds.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Kline, Shin, Spanel, Fraser and Kohl-Welles).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Adds shellfish beds to the list of natural resources to be considered for facility and vessel oil spill contingency planning purposes.

Hearing Date: 3/18/05

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7157).

Background:

The Legislature enacted oil spill prevention and response measures in 1991 to promote the safety of marine transportation and to protect state waters from oil spills. The Director of the Department of Ecology has the primary authority to oversee prevention, abatement, response, containment, and cleanup efforts for oil spills in state waters.

The oil spill program requires oil spill prevention plans, contingency response plans, and documentation of financial responsibility for vessels and facilities that may discharge oil into navigable waters.

Owners and operators of onshore and offshore facilities must prepare and submit oil spill contingency and prevention plans. The plans are valid for five years and may be combined into a single document. Facilities may opt to submit contingency plans for tank vessels unloading at the facility. Contingency plans must provide for protection of fisheries and wildlife, natural resources, and public and private property.

Summary of Bill:

Shellfish beds are specifically added to the list of natural resources to be considered for facility and vessel oil spill contingency planning purposes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 3/15/05.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.