

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5610

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As Passed Senate, March 16, 2005

**Title:** An act relating to salmon recovery and watershed health.

**Brief Description:** Promoting salmon recovery on a regionwide basis.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senator Jacobsen).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 2/9/05, 2/28/05 [DPS, w/oRec].

Passed Senate: 3/16/05, 44-3.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5610 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Jacobsen, Chair; Doumit, Vice Chair; Oke, Ranking Minority Member; Fraser, Hargrove, Spanel and Swecker.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Morton and Stevens.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** In 1990 coastal and Puget Sound restrictions were placed on coho and chinook fisheries due to declining stocks. The Legislature created regional fisheries enhancement groups to help increase stocks in 1991. Following numerous salmon and steelhead listings by the federal government during the 1990's the Legislature required a significant fish restoration program to be coordinated with the federal agencies and with the indian tribes as co-managers. Plans have been developed for regional enhancement based of the state's watersheds. The program needs to be coordinated and implemented at the direction of the Legislature. Lead entities are organizations made up of counties, cities, conservation districts, special districts, and tribal governments that volunteer to work together on salmon recovery.

**Summary of Bill:** Salmon recovery must be implemented through activities consistent with strong regional and watershed plans. A coordinated monitoring system must be implemented. Salmon recovery regions are defined based on watershed groups with common stocks of salmon. The Governor must report on statewide implementation on the salmon strategy in December of 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012.

The Salmon Recovery Office will assist regional groups in submitting plans to the federal government and must assist in obtaining federal assurances under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Governor may designate additional salmon recovery regions and block

grants may be given to lead entities by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Salmon Recovery Board may also give grants to regional recovery organizations to carry out implementation of the plans. The forum on salmon and watershed health is created to coordinate monitoring of the recovery plans.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 2, 2005.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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

**Testimony For:** It is very important for the Legislature to recognize the on-going regional and state efforts to protect and enhance salmon. The bill needs to be clarified so that the balance is towards regional groups and watershed planning. The monitoring requirements in the bill are a key to successful salmon recovery and future harvest levels.

**Testimony Against:** The process is too complex and there is too much state control and not enough authority given to the regional enhancement groups.

**Who Testified:** PRO: Neil Werner, Hood Canal HCSEG; Don Stuart, American Farmland Trust; Jogoda Perich-Anderson, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound; Bill Garvin, WFPA; Mike Kaputa, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board; David Trout, Nisqually Indian Tribe; Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board; Jay L. Watson, Hood Canal Coordinating Council; Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board; Sara Hemphill, Puget Sound ESA Business Coalition; Jay Gordon, Washington State Dairy Federation; Bob Nichols, Governors Salmon Office; Bob Lohn, Regional Director NOAA Fisheries.

CON: Doug Osterman, Water Resource Inventory Area #9.

**House Amendment(s):** The Salmon Recovery Office is extended from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Lead entities may form regional salmon recovery organizations and the Salmon Recovery Office may recognize those organizations. Block grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to lead entities must be used for habitat projects consistent with the Boards criteria. Annual reports from the lead entities are required to provide information on the activities and outcomes funded by the block grants. A definition is established for the salmon recovery strategy and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office authority will include gathering the regional plans for submission to the federal fish service agencies. Existing regional salmon recovery organizations that have developed draft recovery plans approved by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office by July 1, 2005 may continue to implement those plans.

Passed House: 94-4.