
HOUSE BILL 1604

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Eickmeyer, Sump, Morris, Chase, O'Brien and Haigh

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Select
Committee on Puget Sound.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot project to study the effects of
2 oxygenation in Hood Canal; creating new sections; making
3 appropriations; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Hood Canal is
6 suffering from periodic episodes of low levels of dissolved oxygen that
7 results in the death of many types of aquatic animals. Further, the
8 legislature finds that during the last three years, Hood Canal has
9 experienced a constant condition of anoxia that has killed indigenous
10 bottom dwelling fish species. Therefore, in an effort to save these
11 species from extinction, the legislature declares that a pilot project
12 is necessary to test and evaluate whether the introduction of oxygen
13 into the waters of Hood Canal will preserve and enhance aquatic life.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife
15 shall implement a pilot program to test the viability and efficiency of
16 introducing oxygen to the waters of Hood Canal for the purpose of
17 protecting aquatic life. The pilot project must take place in a small

1 marine area where a large number of bottom dwelling fish species exist.

2 The pilot project has the following goals:

3 (a) To determine the feasibility and cost of designing and
4 constructing a mechanical system to inject oxygen into Hood Canal,
5 thereby reducing the impact of low levels of dissolved oxygen on
6 aquatic life; and

7 (b) To construct, operate, and evaluate a pilot facility to
8 increase levels of dissolved oxygen near Sund Rock on Hood Canal.

9 (2) In implementing the pilot project, the department of fish and
10 wildlife shall undertake the following activities:

11 (a) During the first year of the pilot project, the department of
12 fish and wildlife shall determine the best location, depth, size,
13 design, and cost of a device to inject oxygen into the waters; and

14 (b) During the second year of the pilot project, the department of
15 fish and wildlife shall construct and deploy a mechanical oxygen
16 delivery device. The department of fish and wildlife shall also
17 evaluate the impact of injected dissolved oxygen on aquatic life.

18 (3) The department of fish and wildlife shall seek the involvement
19 of other organizations, including state and federal agencies, tribes,
20 and affected counties.

21 (4) The department of fish and wildlife may contract with
22 universities or consultants to perform appropriate modeling, data
23 collection, and analysis. No more than fifteen percent of any funding
24 provided to implement this section may be expended for administrative
25 overhead or other deductions not directly associated with conducting
26 the research required by this section.

27 (5) Following the evaluation of the pilot project, the department
28 of fish and wildlife must report to the appropriate committees of the
29 legislature on the pilot project results and include recommendations
30 whether to proceed with a larger scale project to inject oxygen into
31 Hood Canal.

32 (6) This section expires January 1, 2010.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of one hundred thirty-five
34 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
35 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general
36 fund to the department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of this
37 act.

1 (2) The sum of six hundred forty-six thousand five hundred dollars,
2 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of
4 fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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