

SB 5543-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Expands the long-range business plan, with regard to state and private partnerships for managing salmonid hatcheries, to include the harvesting of hatchery chum salmon.

Changes the authority of the department of fish and wildlife in establishing partnership agreements for salmon hatcheries to allow the agreements to be used for hatcheries in the Hood Canal basin.

Requires partnership agreements to: (1) Be consistent with existing federally recognized tribal rights; and

(2) Give preference to retaining classified employees when possible.

Requires the department of fish and wildlife to submit a report to the legislature summarizing any actions taken relating to the types and number of fish released, lessons learned, and suggestions for future program refinement.