

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5302

---

As of January 24, 2017

**Title:** An act relating to establishing pilot projects for destination steelhead fisheries on the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat river.

**Brief Description:** Establishing pilot projects for destination steelhead fisheries on the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat river.

**Sponsors:** Senators Van De Wege, King and Ranker.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 1/26/17.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Establishes pilot projects relating to recreational steelhead fisheries for the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat River through June 30, 2022.
- Directs processes for managing, funding, and reviewing the pilot projects.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Staff:** Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

**Background:** Role of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) serves as manager of the state's fish and wildlife resources. Among other duties, DFW must classify wildlife and establish the basic rules and regulations governing the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife.

Fish Guide Licensing. A commercial license is required to act as a food fish or game fish guide. In general, the term guide refers to a person who accepts compensation while transporting or accompanying fishers and sharing techniques and expertise of the fish and waters.

Limited Entry and Surcharge Programs. In various instances, the Legislature has provided a dedicated funding source for specific fish and wildlife management activities by requiring stamps, permits, or surcharges in addition to a hunting or fishing license. Additionally, some

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

commercial fisheries are limited entry fisheries designed to reduce or maintain the capacity of that fishery.

**Summary of Bill:** Establishes Destination Recreational Steelhead Fishery Pilot Projects (Pilots). Two pilots are established, one each for the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat River. The stated purpose of the pilots is to protect the health and viability of the wild steelhead while providing consistent, high quality fishing opportunity by ensuring that the level of guided angling does not create adverse impacts.

The pilot lasts until June 30, 2022, and the geographic areas of the pilot are specified.

Creates a Process for Management and Funding of the Pilots. During the pilots, any fishing guide working in a pilot area and season must either purchase a tag or work for an outfitter that has a tag allowing participation in that pilot area. The fee for a guide tag is \$500 per year and an outfitter tag is \$2,500 per year. DFW must deposit fees collected in a non-appropriated account dedicated to implementing the pilots.

To purchase a tag, a guide or outfitter must demonstrate specified licensing and activity thresholds over the prior four years. Tags are only available for initial purchase during the first year of the pilots, and may be renewed in subsequent years only by a current tagholder. Tags are non-transferable.

Directs an Analysis and Review of the Pilots. Guides participating in the pilots must maintain log books that include specified information including:

- areas worked;
- hours fished;
- number of clients; and
- fish caught.

Guides must provide log books as directed by DFW. After two years of the pilots, DFW must analyze the log book data and convene a stakeholder process to review the data, assess the level of fishing pressure, and recommend management provisions. DFW must provide a report to the Legislature prior to the end of the pilots providing any recommended statutory changes.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 18, 2017.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

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