

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5947

C 3 L 17 E 3
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the Columbia river salmon and steelhead endorsement program.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Pearson).

Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background: Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program (Program). In 2009, the Legislature established the Program, which is administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The statutory purpose of the program is to continue and, to the maximum extent possible, increase recreational selective fishing opportunities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The Program provides funding to supplement resources available to carry out monitoring, permitting, enforcement, and other actions necessary to provide these fishing opportunities.

Program Funding and Expenditures. Program funding comes from an endorsement required for persons fishing recreationally for salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River and its tributaries. A person must obtain an endorsement in addition to a fishing license. The statutory base fee for an endorsement is generally \$7.50, but is discounted to \$6.00 for seniors and youth. Endorsement revenues are deposited in a non-appropriated account, and amount to approximately \$1.5 million per year.

DFW administers the Program in consultation with an advisory board, which represents the geographic areas and established recreational fishing organizations of the Columbia River. The advisory board must make annual recommendations to DFW regarding Program expenditures.

Scheduled Program Expiration. The Legislature originally set the statutory authority for the Program to expire on June 30, 2016. In 2016, the Legislature extended this authorization by one year to June 30, 2017.

Summary: The Program is authorized for an additional two years, with the Program scheduled to expire on June 30, 2019. Program funds may not be used to acquire land.

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.

Votes on Final Passage:

Third Special Session

Senate	48	1
House	87	6

Effective: June 30, 2017