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HOUSE BILL 2276

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton and Fitzgibbon

Prefiled 12/24/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the collection of derelict fishing gear; and  
2 amending RCW 77.12.865.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.865 and 2010 c 193 s 7 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section and RCW 77.12.870, "derelict fishing  
7 gear" includes lost or abandoned fishing nets, fishing lines, and  
8 other commercial and recreational fishing equipment. The term does  
9 not include lost or abandoned vessels or shellfish pots.

10 (2) The department, in partnership with the Northwest straits  
11 commission, the department of natural resources, and other interested  
12 parties, must publish guidelines for the safe removal and disposal of  
13 derelict fishing gear. The guidelines may be updated as deemed  
14 necessary by the department. The guidelines must be made available to  
15 any person interested in derelict fishing gear removal.

16 (3) (~~Derelict fishing gear removal conducted~~) A person who  
17 encounters derelict fishing gear may collect it and turn it in to a  
18 fish and wildlife officer. No criminal or civil liability, including  
19 under chapter 77.55 RCW, may be imposed by any court on a person for  
20 actions taken in accordance with the guidelines prepared in  
21 subsection (2) of this section (~~is not subject to permitting under~~

1 ~~RCW 77.55.021~~), except upon proof of gross negligence or willful or  
2 wanton misconduct by the person.

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