
HOUSE BILL 2292

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent, Chapman, Kretz, Barkis, and Barnard

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to hatchery improvement; creating new sections;
2 providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that salmon hold
5 unique and irreplaceable significance in Washington's ecosystem,
6 culture, and economy. The iconic species not only serves as a
7 keystone in maintaining the ecological balance of our waterways but
8 also fishing and the consumption of fish are central to culture of
9 indigenous and nonindigenous peoples. Unfortunately, salmon
10 populations face numerous challenges that require complex,
11 multifaceted, integrated responses. To truly find success in salmon
12 recovery, all parties must work together on each section of the
13 overall solution. Hatcheries represent one piece of this puzzle. When
14 properly aligned with salmon's broader conservation goals, hatcheries
15 are a critical tool that can help mitigate the ecological and
16 economic impacts of low salmon populations. Therefore, the
17 legislature intends to continue in its quest for scientifically
18 supported solutions for salmon by collaboratively studying and
19 improving state and tribal hatchery efforts.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife
2 shall work in collaboration with tribal comanagers and at least two
3 jointly selected independent scientists to identify for analysis two
4 state-managed salmonid hatcheries and three salmonid hatcheries
5 managed by tribal comanagers located near waterways entering the
6 Puget Sound to audit and identify areas of improvement measured in
7 terms of adult survival in topics including:

8 (a) Funding challenges;

9 (b) Staff capacity;

10 (c) Infrastructure capacity; and

11 (d) Identification of ecological factors limiting return of adult
12 hatchery fish.

13 (2) At least one hatchery chosen for an audit must be located
14 near a significantly impacted waterway where wild salmon recovery
15 alone will not meet treaty obligations and limits harvest
16 opportunities for all fishers.

17 (3) The department of fish and wildlife and tribal comanagers in
18 collaboration shall provide annual progress reports to the
19 legislature pursuant to RCW 43.01.036, by December 1, 2025, with a
20 final report due on December 1, 2026.

21 (4) The amount of the funding appropriated for the purposes of
22 this section that is distributed to tribal comanagers must be equal
23 to the amount that is distributed to the department of fish and
24 wildlife.

25 (5) This section expires July 1, 2027.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
28 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
29 effect immediately.

--- END ---