
SENATE BILL 6297

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Chase and Nelson

Read first time 01/17/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to salmon and steelhead spawning beds; adding a new
2 section to chapter 77.95 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.95 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall prohibit activities that harm or disturb
7 spawning beds of salmon and steelhead and other fish on all rivers and
8 streams where spawning activities occur.

9 (2) Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, wading
10 on spawning beds, driving motor vehicles on spawning beds, use of high-
11 powered jet or propeller-driven boats across spawning beds, dragging
12 anchors through spawning beds, digging or removing gravel from spawning
13 beds, or any other physical disturbance capable of disturbing spawning
14 fish or damaging or destroying nests of incubating eggs. The
15 department shall determine the time periods these rules are in effect.

16 (3) Necessary in-river activities are allowed by permit from the
17 department.

18 (4) The department shall adopt rules to carry out this section, and
19 make the rules known in brochures that are disseminated to persons

1 applying for fishing and boating licenses. The department must
2 distribute the brochures widely to retail outlets that cater to outdoor
3 recreation.

4 (5) The department shall work cooperatively with the tribal
5 comanagers for all fish resources in implementing and enforcing the
6 requirements of this section.

7 (6) A violation of this section is a natural resource infraction
8 under chapter 7.84 RCW.

9 (7) The department shall report to the legislature concerning the
10 effectiveness of this section after at least two spawning cycles of
11 salmon and steelhead have occurred.

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