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SENATE BILL 5332

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators West, Oke, Nelson, Owen, Pelz, Sutherland, Hargrove,  
Winsley, von Reichbauer, Erwin and Sheldon

Read first time 01/22/93. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to underwater parks; and adding new sections to  
2 chapter 43.51 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The state parks and recreation commission  
5 shall establish a system of underwater parks to provide for diverse  
6 recreational diving opportunities and to conserve and protect unique  
7 marine resources of the state of Washington. In establishing and  
8 maintaining the underwater park system, the commission may:

9 (1) Plan, construct, and maintain underwater parks;

10 (2) Acquire property and enter management agreements with other  
11 units of state government for the management of lands, tidelands, and  
12 bedlands as underwater parks;

13 (3) Construct artificial reefs and other underwater features to  
14 enhance marine life and recreational uses of an underwater park;

15 (4) Act as the lead agency in environmental reviews of projects  
16 necessary to establish an underwater park, and to enter interagency  
17 agreements to facilitate timely receipt of necessary permits from other  
18 state agencies and local governments; and

1 (5) Contract with other state agencies or local governments for the  
2 management of an underwater park unit.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The commission may charge a fee for  
4 recreational uses of an underwater park to offset a part or all of the  
5 costs of creating and administering the underwater park system. The  
6 fees shall be deposited to the underwater park account, which is  
7 created in the state treasury. Funds in the underwater park account  
8 shall be expended for the operation and creation of state underwater  
9 parks, and shall be subject to appropriation.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In establishing the underwater park system,  
11 the commission shall seek to create diverse recreational opportunities  
12 in areas throughout Washington state. The commission shall place a  
13 high priority upon creating units that possess unique or diverse marine  
14 life or underwater natural or artificial features such as ship wrecks.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
16 added to chapter 43.51 RCW.

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