

---

SENATE BILL 6584

---

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Hale, Swecker, Owen, Rasmussen, Hargrove, A. Anderson, Oke, Morton, Loveland and Roach

Read first time 01/18/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to a warm-water fish culture public-private  
2 partnership; amending RCW 75.50.080; adding new sections to chapter  
3 75.50 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the increasing  
6 interest in recreational fishing for warm-water fish has created an  
7 opportunity to increase the fisheries of the state through the use of  
8 fish culture techniques. Warm-water fisheries can be enhanced and  
9 created in cooperation and coordination with the management of salmon  
10 and trout fisheries. The fishing public has a high interest in  
11 expanded warm-water fishing opportunities. The myriad of problems  
12 facing the anadromous fish stocks has intensified the need for  
13 development of other recreational fishing opportunities, and warm-water  
14 fisheries are a prime candidate for expansion.

15 The development of modern warm-water fish culture techniques has  
16 occurred in other regions of the United States and in other regions of  
17 the world. Warm-water fish culture has been little used by Washington  
18 state primarily due to warm-water fisheries being overshadowed by  
19 abundant salmonid fisheries. The application of proven warm-water fish

1 culture techniques has a great deal of promise for fisheries  
2 enhancement within suitable state waters.

3 A lack of suitable warm-water fish culture sites is a constraining  
4 factor upon the timely development of an active warm-water fish culture  
5 program. The United States department of energy 100-K area water  
6 purification pools, which are an extensive capital development that is  
7 now not needed by the department of energy, are now available to  
8 complement and be integrated with department warm-water fishery plans  
9 and programs. The K pools have significant potential for early warm-  
10 water fish culture opportunities while providing for cost savings  
11 because little, if any, capital is needed to make this facility  
12 operational. The Yakima Indian nation has cultured salmonids and  
13 sturgeon at the site during the last two years and is interested in  
14 expanding its fish culture operations at the K pools. This will  
15 preclude the need for additional state personnel to staff the facility.  
16 The combination of extensive existing capital facilities and highly  
17 skilled and motivated people create a unique opportunity for  
18 development of a new and worthwhile partnership that will benefit the  
19 fish resources and the people of the state.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The primary objective of the Hanford K pool  
21 warm-water fish culture demonstration program is to establish a  
22 cooperative effort between state and private entities to initiate the  
23 rearing of warm-water fish to begin the enhancement of public  
24 recreational fisheries in a very cost-effective manner. The concept of  
25 using the existing Hanford K pools, which are under the control of the  
26 Yakima Indian nation for fish-rearing purposes, is attractive since  
27 this facility can rapidly be brought into operation and can easily be  
28 made to complement a department warm-water hatchery program, when this  
29 comes into being. The K pool demonstration project must use proven  
30 tank-rearing culture methods, but will include novel technologies for  
31 water heating, clean up, and recirculation. The state will provide  
32 seed funding to get the demonstration program started. Cost-sharing by  
33 other public and private entities is expected to fund the completion of  
34 the program. Warm-water fry or fingerlings from private and public  
35 hatcheries, procured on the basis of fish quality and cost, can be  
36 grown out in the K pool environment to suitable size and condition for  
37 placing in public waters. A K pool demonstration grow-out program will  
38 provide impetus to get: (1) Diverse state and private fishing

1 interests to work together for the common good; (2) the necessary  
2 inland fish management planning well underway so that K pool-reared  
3 fish can be planted in central Washington lakes; and (3) the department  
4 warm-water hatchery constructed and operational. The number and  
5 species of fish to be grown out in the K pool demonstration program and  
6 the planting scenarios for individual bodies of water must be  
7 determined by the department based on its preliminary plans in this  
8 area taking into consideration the advice of the central Washington  
9 warm-water advisory group created in section 3 of this act to guide  
10 this demonstration program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The principals that will jointly  
12 implement and manage the K pool demonstration program are the Yakima  
13 Indian nation, the Westinghouse Hanford company, and the department.  
14 A central Washington warm-water advisory group is created to advise the  
15 principals in the development of the K pool demonstration project and  
16 to report to the fish and wildlife commission and appropriate  
17 legislative committees on the performance of this warm-water fishery  
18 endeavor. The central Washington warm-water advisory group consists of  
19 one representative of each of the following:

- 20 (a) The department;
- 21 (b) Washington State University;
- 22 (c) The tri-city industrial development council;
- 23 (d) Westinghouse Hanford company, the United States department of  
24 energy Hanford maintenance and operations contractor;
- 25 (e) The inland fish advisory group;
- 26 (f) The northwest sport fishing industry association;
- 27 (g) The Washington state bass angler sportsmen's society  
28 federation;
- 29 (h) A northwest marine trade association;
- 30 (i) The Washington fish growers association; and
- 31 (j) The central Washington fish advisory committee.

32 (2) The central Washington warm-water advisory group must invite  
33 other interested parties to participate in its activities.

34 (3) The central Washington warm-water advisory group must  
35 contribute to and review plans for potential locations for planting of  
36 the warm-water fish reared by the Hanford K pool warm-water fish  
37 culture demonstration program. This review must consider such things  
38 as warm-water fish species for culture, planting times, size of

1 outplanted fish, disease history, genetic considerations, and  
2 procedures for preventing interaction with anadromous fish. The  
3 central Washington warm-water advisory group must make recommendations  
4 to the department related to maximizing the recreational fishing  
5 benefits of the program.

6 (4) The central Washington warm-water advisory group must provide  
7 advice on: (a) Potential private and public hatchery resources for  
8 providing juvenile fish for the program; (b) warm-water fish-rearing  
9 techniques; and (c) methods of maximizing recreational fishing  
10 opportunities from outplanted warm-water fish. The central Washington  
11 warm-water advisory group must also evaluate options for establishing  
12 future funding mechanisms for sustained warm-water fish grow-out and  
13 over-wintering program at the Hanford K pools.

14 (5) The central Washington warm-water advisory group must report  
15 its findings to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1,  
16 1996.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The state must provide initial funds for a  
18 contract with the Yakima Indian nation to conduct a warm-water fish  
19 culture demonstration project at the Hanford K pool facilities.  
20 Information from this demonstration project will identify opportunities  
21 for development of a Hanford K pool program into sustained production  
22 status, and will show areas needed for further study. The eventual  
23 goal is for the K pool portion of a warm-water fish culture program to  
24 be productive, cost-effective, and self-sustaining from a funding  
25 perspective.

26 The demonstration project ends June 30, 1999.

27 **Sec. 5.** RCW 75.50.080 and 1993 sp.s. c 2 s 47 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 Regional fisheries enhancement groups, consistent with the long-  
30 term regional policy statements developed under RCW 75.50.020, shall  
31 seek to:

32 (1) Enhance the salmon resource of the state;

33 (2) Maximize volunteer efforts and private donations to improve the  
34 salmon resource for all citizens;

35 (3) Assist the department in achieving the goal to double the  
36 state-wide salmon catch by the year 2000 under chapter 214, Laws of  
37 1988; ((and))

1 (4) Develop projects designed to supplement the fishery enhancement  
2 capability of the department; and

3 (5) Enhance the warm-water fisheries resource in areas of central  
4 and eastern Washington that are not accessible to anadromous fish.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
7 ending June 30, 1997, from the state wildlife fund to the fish and  
8 wildlife commission for the central Washington warm-water advisory  
9 group created under section 3 of this act to provide advice for the  
10 Hanford K pool demonstration program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or  
12 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
13 ending June 30, 1997, from the state wildlife fund to the department of  
14 fish and wildlife to contract with the Yakima Indian nation to conduct  
15 the demonstration warm-water fish culture project at the Hanford K pool  
16 site created under section 4 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
18 added to chapter 75.50 RCW.

--- END ---