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SENATE BILL 5026

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/11/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to fisheries; and creating a new section.

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

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) It is the purpose of the individual  
4 fishery quota system to award to individual fishers shares for salmon  
5 harvest numbers based on the previous record of fishing in the fishery.  
6 If an individual fisher does not receive an initial quota or share  
7 allocation or does not receive shares by transfer in the future, that  
8 fisher will not be able to participate in the salmon fishery. The  
9 quota share is a permit that awards a fisher the privilege to fish in  
10 the common property of the state. The quota shares will determine each  
11 fisher's individual quota, which is the amount of salmon that the  
12 fisher is entitled to catch each year. The fisher may catch the quota  
13 at any time during the appropriate season but may not exceed imposed  
14 limits in any given area. With this act, the legislature intends to  
15 decrease pressure to fish in rough weather and to improve safety in the  
16 fisheries.

17 (2) The fish and wildlife commission shall design an individual  
18 fisheries quota program based upon a federal program outlined in the  
19 federal register, volume 50, page 59375, published on November 9, 1993.

1 The commission shall ensure that the program includes ownership  
2 restrictions to prevent quota shares for the fishery being held by too  
3 few fishers, and vessel restrictions to prevent too few fishers from  
4 catching all the fish.

5 (3) The commission shall ensure that the quota share system is  
6 based upon qualified filings that would represent a percentage of the  
7 harvest for certain seasons and regulatory areas. The commission  
8 shall, after a public hearing, set poundage or individual fish quotas  
9 for each year. The commission shall ensure that the quotas are based  
10 upon each management area, allowing variance from year to year in  
11 accord with the harvest guidelines established by the federal  
12 department of fish and wildlife.

13 (4) The commission shall ensure that qualifying areas are grouped  
14 as follows: (a) San Juan/Point Roberts areas 7 and 7a; (b) areas 10,  
15 11, and 12 (Hood Canal); (c) areas 8 (Everett) and 9.

16 (5) The commission shall issue quotas to permit owners each year  
17 beginning in the year 2000.

18 (6) The commission shall ensure that share requirements apply to  
19 Washington state gill net and purse seine permits and are upon  
20 individuals not vessels.

21 (7) The commission, in conjunction with the department, shall set  
22 historical harvest levels for gill net and purse seine uses based on  
23 the last five years for each grouped area. The commission shall  
24 develop methods to make the program functional after conducting public  
25 hearings with interested parties prior to the adoption of formal rules.

26 (8) The commission shall ensure that permits are issued not to  
27 vessels but to individuals and shall require that the individual permit  
28 holder be aboard the vessel when the vessel is fishing.

29 (9) Following the initial issue of shares by the department, the  
30 commission shall provide that gill net and purse seine shares are  
31 interchangeable between vessel owners in the same fishery. The  
32 commission shall consider vessel restrictions and limitations on  
33 individual control of shares.

34 (10) The commission shall report back to the legislature on the  
35 proposed program and rules by December 1, 1999.

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