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SENATE BILL 5254

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Chase and Shin

Read first time 01/24/13. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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 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 Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, wading on  
10 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 Necessary in-river activities are allowed by permit from the  
17 department.

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

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

9 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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