
SENATE BILL 5131

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/11/2007. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to inspections and sampling of fish, wildlife, and
2 shellfish by department of fish and wildlife employees; amending RCW
3 77.15.360; adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; creating a new
4 section; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends that inspections of
7 facilities and vessels and sampling of fish, wildlife, and shellfish by
8 department of fish and wildlife employees will ensure the conservation
9 and management of fish, shellfish, and wildlife. Because the harvest
10 of fish and wildlife is regulated by the department of fish and
11 wildlife, the legislature finds that inspections and sampling by
12 departmental employees will benefit the resource. The legislature
13 further finds that inspection and sampling will further the department
14 of fish and wildlife's research related to fish, wildlife, and
15 shellfish.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 Department employees, in carrying out their duties under this
2 title, may:

3 (1) Inspect all fish, wildlife, and shellfish taken or possessed in
4 the field or state waters;

5 (2) Inspect at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner fish,
6 wildlife, and shellfish stored at a processing plant or locker plant or
7 other facility open for commercial purposes;

8 (3) Collect samples of tissue, fluids, or other bodily parts of
9 fish, wildlife, or shellfish;

10 (4) Board vessels in state waters engaged in commercial harvest
11 activities to inspect fish or shellfish, harvesting gear or devices, or
12 harvest record data; or

13 (5) Board and remain for a reasonable time as observers on board
14 vessels that are engaged in commercial harvest operations of fish or
15 shellfish.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.15.360 and 2000 c 107 s 243 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) A person is guilty of unlawful interfering in department
19 operations if the person prevents department employees from carrying
20 out duties authorized by this title, including but not limited to
21 interfering:

22 (a) In the operation of department vehicles, vessels, or aircraft;

23 (b) With the inspection of fish, wildlife, and shellfish taken or
24 possessed in the field or stored at a facility open for commercial
25 purposes;

26 (c) With the collection of samples of tissue, fluids, or other
27 bodily parts of fish, wildlife, and shellfish;

28 (d) In the boarding of vessels engaged in recreational or
29 commercial harvest of fish or shellfish.

30 (2) Unlawful interfering in department operations is a gross
31 misdemeanor.

--- END ---