
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-0568.1/17

ATTY/TYPIST: ML:amh

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Establishing pilot projects for destination steelhead fisheries on the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat river.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing pilot projects for destination
2 steelhead fisheries on the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat river;
3 amending RCW 77.65.500; adding a new chapter to Title 77 RCW; and
4 providing expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that some areas
7 of Washington state are destination locations for recreational
8 steelhead fishing that are supported wholly or in large part by wild
9 steelhead populations. In these areas, recreational fishing is
10 important to local anglers, guides, local businesses, and people from
11 around the state and country who seek out a unique high quality
12 recreational steelhead fishing experience. The popularity of these
13 fisheries continues to grow, increasing the angling pressure on wild
14 steelhead and diminishing the recreational fishing experience. It is
15 the intent of the legislature to establish two pilot projects for two
16 such areas, the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat river, modeled on
17 successful recreational steelhead management programs in other states
18 and countries. Under the two pilot projects, these areas will be
19 recognized as destination steelhead fisheries and managed to sustain
20 healthy wild steelhead populations and high quality recreational
21 fishing opportunity.

1 (2) This section expires June 30, 2022.

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Destination recreational steelhead
3 fishery pilot projects are established for the Olympic Peninsula and
4 Klickitat river. The objectives of the pilot projects are to protect
5 the health and viability of wild steelhead while providing
6 consistent, high quality fishing opportunity for nonguided and guided
7 recreational anglers by ensuring that the level of guided angling
8 does not adversely impact wild steelhead populations or the
9 recreational fishing experience. The standards for each of these
10 pilot projects may be supplemented by the department based on input
11 from affected stakeholders in each pilot project area, but must at
12 least meet the minimum requirements in this chapter.

13 (2) This section expires June 30, 2022.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Destination steelhead fishery pilot
15 projects are established for the Olympic Peninsula and Klickitat
16 river through June 30, 2022. The geographic area of the Olympic
17 Peninsula pilot project is from the Queets river to the Elwha river,
18 inclusive of all river areas between. The provisions of the Olympic
19 Peninsula destination fishery pilot project apply to steelhead
20 fishing from December 1st to April 30th. The geographic area of the
21 Klickitat river pilot project is the entirety of the river. The
22 provisions of the Klickitat river destination fishery pilot project
23 apply to steelhead fishing from September 15th to November 30th.

24 (2) During the pilot project period, any recreational fishing
25 guide working within the pilot project area and season must either
26 purchase a destination fishery guide tag specific to that area or
27 work for an outfitter holding an outfitter tag specific to that area.
28 Both tags must be made available only during the first year of the
29 pilot project and any guide or outfitter not obtaining such a tag
30 during the first year cannot purchase a tag during the remainder of
31 the pilot project period. The fee for the destination fishery guide
32 tag is five hundred dollars per year. The fee for the destination
33 fishery outfitter tag is two thousand five hundred dollars per year.
34 The department must deposit amounts collected in the recreational
35 steelhead fishery pilot project account created in section 4 of this
36 act.

37 (3) To qualify for the destination fishery guide tag, an
38 applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that

1 he or she has held a Washington state fish guide license for the
2 prior four years and has generated fishing guide income from work
3 within the pilot project area for at least the prior two years. To
4 qualify for the destination fishery outfitter tag, an applicant must
5 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that he or she has
6 been operating as an outfitter for the prior four years and has
7 generated income and employed guides within the pilot project area
8 for at least the prior two years. The number of guides employed by an
9 outfitter in a single fishery season may be lower than, but may not
10 exceed, the number of guides they can demonstrate they have employed
11 or contracted with in the fishery each year during the past two
12 years.

13 (4) During the pilot project period, the destination fishery
14 guide or outfitter tag cannot be sold or transferred. If the
15 destination fishery guide or outfitter tag is not renewed on an
16 annual basis during the pilot project, it cannot be repurchased
17 during the pilot project period.

18 (5) Recreational fishing guides must provide information to the
19 department through guide log books, in a format developed by the
20 department. Log books must include at least: Daily guide information
21 including, but not limited to, specific areas worked; hours fished;
22 number of guided angler clients; and fish caught. Guide log books
23 must be returned to the department with a frequency and in a manner
24 prescribed by the department.

25 (6) After the first two years of the pilot projects, the
26 department must calculate the total number of guided rod days in each
27 pilot project area during the prior two years. A "rod day" means one
28 person who fishes with a guide for one day or a substantial portion
29 thereof. A single trip by a guide with two recreational anglers both
30 fishing would count as two rod days. Within each pilot project area,
31 the department must convene a stakeholder process for the purpose of
32 reviewing rod day, catch records, and other data, assessing the level
33 of fishing pressure, and recommending management provisions that
34 would ensure that recreational fishing pressure does not adversely
35 impact steelhead populations or the recreational fishing experience.
36 The recommended management provisions could be within the
37 department's current legal authority or could require legislative
38 action. The department must provide a report to the legislature prior
39 to the end of the pilot project regarding any permanent statutory
40 changes that would further the purpose of this chapter.

1 (7) The department may establish other administrative provisions
2 for pilot project participants, including vessel decal requirements
3 specific to the pilot project.

4 (8) In developing these destination fishery pilot projects, the
5 department is encouraged to seek stakeholder input on other river
6 systems, species, and seasons that may warrant designation as a
7 destination fishery.

8 (9) This section expires June 30, 2022.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The recreational steelhead fishery
10 pilot project account is created in the custody of the state
11 treasurer. All receipts received from tags sold under section 3 of
12 this act must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the
13 account may be used only to implement the pilot projects established
14 under this chapter with an emphasis on additional enforcement,
15 monitoring, and other functions within the destination fishery areas
16 intended to advance the purposes of the pilot projects. Only the
17 director of the department or the director's designee may authorize
18 expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the
19 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
20 not required for expenditures.

21 (2) This section expires June 30, 2022.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 77.65.500 and 2015 c 97 s 9 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 Licensed taxidermists, fur dealers, anadromous game fish buyers,
25 fishing guides as required under chapter 77.--- RCW (the new chapter
26 created in section 6 of this act), game farmers, and persons stocking
27 game fish or conducting a hunting, fishing, or field trial contest
28 shall make reports as required by rules of the director.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
30 constitute a new chapter in Title 77 RCW.

--- END ---