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SENATE BILL 5422

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

1 AN ACT Relating to salmon and steelhead spawning beds; adding a  
2 new 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  
5 RCW 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  
8 and 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  
13 spawning beds, or any other physical disturbance capable of  
14 disturbing spawning fish or damaging or destroying nests of  
15 incubating eggs. The department shall determine the time periods  
16 these rules are in effect.

17 Necessary in-river activities are allowed by permit from the  
18 department.

19 The department shall adopt rules to carry out this section, and  
20 make the rules known in brochures that are disseminated to persons  
21 applying for fishing and boating licenses. The department must

1 distribute the brochures widely to retail outlets that cater to  
2 outdoor recreation.

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

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

8 The department shall report to the legislature concerning the  
9 effectiveness of this section after at least two spawning cycles of  
10 salmon and steelhead have occurred.

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