

Weekly Legislative Update: Rivers

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Bills Needing Action This Week

HB 1172 Repeals Initiative 456 passed in 1984 during Washington state and tribes fishing wars in which Billy Frank Jr. went to jail 50 times for treaty protected fishing in the Nisqually River. Recognizes judicially affirmed and treaty-reserved fishing rights and promoting state-tribal cooperative agreements in the management of salmon, trout, and steelhead resources.

⚠ This bill almost past last year, and now is in the House Rules 3rd reading. The League strongly supports the passage of this bill. **If any of you have a Representative on the House Rules Committee, please email them requesting they PULL this bill. That will bring it to the floor for a vote. Thanks!**

HB 1838 Governor's Salmon Strategy, protecting, restoring and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery. Focuses on riparian area enlargement, restoration and maintaining.

⚠ Public hearing in the House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Committee Wednesday, January 19th at 10am. This is a very important bill to save our dwindling salmon. Please sign in PRO at: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mid=29498&aid=144004&cald=18840&tld=3>

You may express support for bills in hearings with the [online process](#). Select House or Senate then the committee and the date and time of the meeting, then follow the menus. Detailed instructions are in this week's Legislative Newsletter. Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

Bills We Support

HB 1172 Repeals Initiative 456 passed in 1984 during Washington state and tribes fishing wars in which Billy Frank Jr. went to jail 50 times for treaty protected fishing in the Nisqually River. Recognizes judicially affirmed and treaty-reserved fishing rights and promoting state-tribal co-

operative agreements in the management of salmon, trout, and steelhead resources. Sponsored by Rep. Lekanoff at request of Attorney General Ferguson. The League was a strong opponent of Initiative 456 in 1984.

[HB 1640](#) Creates a joint legislative Tribal-State Committee.

[HB 1653](#) Improving state-wide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery

[HB 1691](#) Financial responsibility requirement related to oil spills

[HB 1838/SB 5724](#) **State Salmon Strategy** sponsored by Governor Inslee with Tribes to protect our remaining EPA listed salmon focusing on riparian and river habitat restoration.

TBD Saving Salmon, Saving Orcas focuses on the Puget Sound's chinook salmon, prey forage fish and southern resident orca whale survival, by emphasizing the protection and recovery of near shore habitat.

[SB 5504](#) Discover Pass free days extended to other state recreation lands.

[SB 5567](#) Concerning Commercial fishing. Use of Fish Traps, an innovative device to separate by-catch wild salmon and steelhead from hatchery fish to return them to the ocean.

Bills We Oppose

[SB 5608](#) Related to free public access to state parks and lands. Would repeal the Discovery Pass which State Parks needs for sustained revenue to maintain our parks.

How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have environmental teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Raelene Gold, Rivers Issue Chair, rgold@lwvwa.org.