

CHAPTER 237.

[H. B. 217.]

FISHERIES—OYSTER MORTALITY STUDY.

AN ACT relating to a study of the causes of oyster mortality; and making an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. The legislature (and its fisheries interim committee of 1955-56) hereby declares itself to be concerned with the apparent decline of the oyster industry of this state.

Declaration.

SEC. 2. The department of fisheries is hereby directed to conduct a research program, in cooperation with the school of oceanography of the University of Washington and other interested or affected parties, to determine all possible causes of mortality in the commercial oyster beds of the state. On the basis of this research, the department of fisheries shall recommend a program, consistent with the state's general economic welfare, to offset the oyster industry's apparent decline.

Oyster mortality research, program, to be made.

SEC. 3. The director of the department of fisheries shall make quarterly progress reports to the Washington state interim fisheries committee regarding this program, and shall also make a full report to the 1959 legislature.

Progress reports to be made.

SEC. 4. There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of fisheries the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes of this act.

Appropriation to department of fisheries.

Passed the House March 12, 1957.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1957.