

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0055

Fishing task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural
Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; creating the fishing task
2 force; authorizing consulting services; authorizing
3 agreements with other agencies; requiring a report;
4 providing appropriations; and providing for an effective
5 date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) There is created the fishing task force
12 consisting of:

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14 (i) Five (5) members with professional fishing
15 guide experience from river basins across Wyoming, none of

1 whom shall be from the same county, appointed by the
2 governor;

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4 (ii) One (1) member who shall be the director of
5 the Wyoming game and fish department or the director's
6 designee;

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8 (iii) One (1) member of the senate appointed by
9 the president of the senate;

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11 (iv) One (1) member of the house of
12 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives;

14

15 (v) One (1) member from the Wyoming state board
16 of outfitters and professional guides appointed by the
17 governor;

18

19 (vi) Two (2) members of the licensed fishing
20 public appointed by the governor.

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22 (b) The governor shall appoint co-chairs for the task
23 force.

1

2 (c) The task force shall study the impact of
3 commercial and public fishing on the quality of the
4 fisheries in Wyoming's major river basins, including
5 analysis of social and biological impacts of fishing. To
6 accomplishing its duties under this section, the task force
7 shall consult with federal land management agencies that
8 regulate or permit fishing in Wyoming. The task force
9 shall:

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11 (i) Examine historic usage in each river basin
12 and identify which stretches of rivers are experiencing the
13 largest increases in traffic;

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15 (ii) Examine each river basin and identify
16 perceived overcrowding issues on stretches of rivers. For
17 each stretch of river identified as having perceived
18 overcrowding, the task force shall:

19

20 (A) Identify potential solutions to the
21 overcrowding of the stretch of river;

22

1 (B) Study current, historic and increases
2 in usage of the stretch of the river.

3

4 (iii) Identify which stretches of rivers are
5 currently regulated or permitted with regard to commercial
6 fishing, including:

7

8 (A) The nature of the regulations or
9 permits;

10

11 (B) Which federal, state or local agency
12 enacts and enforces the regulations or issues and enforces
13 the permits;

14

15 (C) Any enforcement issues related to the
16 regulations or permits.

17

18 (iv) Identify which stretches of rivers are
19 currently not regulated or permitted with regard to
20 commercial fishing;

21

22 (v) Identify whether access to the stretches of
23 rivers at Wyoming office of state lands and investments or

1 Wyoming game and fish department access points may be
2 regulated or permitted with regard to the number of
3 commercial fishing parties allowed within a specified time
4 frame;

5

6 (vi) Identify other uses extrinsic to fishing
7 and habitat conditions that may result in future regulation
8 of fishing or stretches of rivers;

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10 (vii) Recommend solutions to areas of concern
11 identified in paragraphs (i) through (vi) of this
12 subsection and identify the costs to incorporate those
13 solutions.

14

15 (d) To facilitate the task force in accomplishing its
16 duties under this section, the Wyoming game and fish
17 department may enter into agreements:

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19 (i) With any federal land management agency that
20 regulates or permits commercial fishing in Wyoming to allow
21 for consultation on regulation and permitting of commercial
22 fishing trips and on enforcement of commercial fishing
23 regulation and permits;

1

2 (ii) With the Wyoming office of state lands and
3 investments to:

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5 (A) Inventory state land access points to
6 stretches of river used for commercial and public fishing;

7

8 (B) Inventory all usage of access points to
9 stretches of river as compared to permitted use; and

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11 (C) Collaborate on a plan to create a
12 permitting process that controls the number of commercial
13 fishing trips on stretches of rivers that the task force
14 identifies as warranting regulation or restriction.

15

16 (e) The task force shall report its findings and any
17 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to
18 the joint travel, recreation, wildlife and cultural
19 resources interim committee and the governor on or before
20 October 10, 2021. The joint travel, recreation, wildlife
21 and cultural resources interim committee shall review the
22 report and any recommended legislation for potential

1 sponsorship during the 2022 session of the legislature. The
2 task force shall cease to exist on December 31, 2021.

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4 (f) Subject to available funding, the task force may
5 recommend to the governor retention of consultants as
6 necessary to fulfill its duties under this section. State
7 agencies shall provide information and assistance to the
8 task force as requested by the task force.

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10 (g) The task force shall be staffed by the Wyoming
11 game and fish department. The legislative members of the
12 task force shall be paid salary, per diem and mileage
13 expenses in the manner and amount prescribed by W.S.
14 28-5-101 and 28-5-102. Members of the task force who are
15 state employees shall be considered on official business of
16 their agency or office and shall receive mileage and per
17 diem in the manner provided by their agency or office. Any
18 other member of the task force shall not receive salary but
19 shall receive mileage and per diem at the same rate as
20 members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S. 28-5-101 and
21 28-5-102 for each day of actual task force meetings and
22 travel to those meetings.

23

1 **Section 2.**

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3 (a) There is appropriated one hundred twenty thousand
4 dollars (\$120,000.00) from the general fund to the Wyoming
5 game and fish department. This appropriation shall only be
6 expended to pay mileage and per diem for nonlegislative
7 members of the task force, to pay for any consultant as
8 approved by the governor and to pay any other costs related
9 to the implementation of this act.

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11 (b) There is appropriated ten thousand dollars
12 (\$10,000.00) from the general fund to the legislative
13 service office. This appropriation shall only be expended
14 for salary, mileage and per diem of legislative members
15 appointed to the task force.

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17 (c) Funds appropriated under this section shall be
18 for the period beginning with the effective date of this
19 act and ending December 31, 2021. Notwithstanding any other
20 provision of law, the appropriations in this section shall
21 not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and
22 any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from these

1 appropriations shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
2 2022.

3

4 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

8

9

(END)