



INITIATIVE MEASURE 696

PROPOSED TO THE PEOPLE

Note: The ballot title and explanatory statement were written by the Attorney General as required by law. The complete text of Initiative Measure 696 begins on page 13.

Statement For

VOTE YES I-696 FOR A "NET FREE" WASHINGTON

I-696 will stop the killing of endangered and threatened salmon, seabirds and sealife by removing commercial fishing nets from Washington waters. Nets are so deadly efficient that many Washington fishery stocks have been netted to near collapse. This has led to Endangered Species listings of many fish stocks and seabirds. State and federal leadership have failed to protect our marine resources. The burden now falls on the voters of Washington State. ESA listings and salmon recovery efforts have already cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in 1999. The expenses and liabilities will only grow unless we remove destructive nets from Washington waters.

HABITAT DOESN'T STOP AT THE WATER'S EDGE

Our saltwater habitat has been so ravaged by "underwater strip mining" with commercial nets that restoration may take decades. Removing these destructive nets will start the healing process of our underwater habitat.

VOTE YES TO SAVE ENDANGERED SALMON, SEABIRDS AND SEALIFE

Salmon must be allowed to return to our rivers to spawn. Protected or plentiful, all species look alike to a net. Repeated studies in Washington State show that commercial nets kill thousands of protected seabirds and scores of porpoises and other species.

JOBS AND BILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE

Because I-696 will help restore endangered salmon runs, restrictions of ESA could be lifted, thus saving taxpayers billions of dollars. I-696 will minimize the increase

Official Ballot Title:

Shall commercial net, troll, and trawl fishing be prohibited in Washington state fresh and marine waters, except tribal fisheries conducted under a valid treaty right?

The law as it now exists:

Commercial fishing in Washington waters is regulated by a number of laws codified primarily in Title 75 of the Revised Code of Washington. There is no law generally prohibiting commercial fishing with nets or troll lines, but existing laws do specify whether and where certain types of gear can be used. For example, there are laws that prohibit salmon fishing with nets in the Pacific Ocean within three miles of shore; prohibit bottom trawling in much of Puget

in water, utilities, taxes, home and farm products. It will save and create jobs in tourism, trade and other industries, preserving our quality of life in the Northwest.

States that have banned commercial nets, including California, Florida, Louisiana and Texas have seen a dramatic revival of threatened marine life.

For more information, call (425) 235-3810 or visit www.yes696.org

Rebuttal of Statement Against

Clearly, endangered fish dead in a net can't spawn.

Washington families have been forced to change their way of life because of endangered salmon. Commercial fishing, which kills 90% of Washington's fish, should not be exempt.

Responsible fish & wildlife managers, civic leaders, numerous Audubon chapters and scientists agree net removal along with good habitat will restore salmon.

California salmon returns increased 260% since 1990 net ban.

Vote YES-696... Save endangered seabirds, salmon, jobs and taxes.

Voters Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

THOMAS NELSON, YES 696 Committee; RICHARD ANDERSON, Kitsap Audubon Society; RAY FREDERICK, conservationist.

Advisory Committee: BERN SHANKS, Ph.D., Former Director, Washington Fish & Wildlife Department; LARRY RYMON, Ph.D., Conservation Chair, Olympic Audubon Chapter; WES UHLMAN, Former Mayor, City of Seattle; GLENN K. JARSTAD, 4 Term Mayor, Bremerton, Westport Charter Boat Owner; JAMES W. TUGGLE, Retired Sgt. Washington Fish & Wildlife Department.

Sound; and allow salmon gill nets only in Puget Sound, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the lower Columbia River. Commercial net fishing in fresh water is prohibited, except in the Columbia River.

Annual commercial fishing licenses (net or troll) specify what species of fish may be taken, what type of fishing gear may be used, and in what geographic area the fishing may occur. Additional restrictions may be incorporated in specific licenses issued. The number of commercial licenses that are issued may be limited in accordance with a license limitation program.

Violations of the commercial fishing laws are Class C felonies, gross misdemeanors, or misdemeanors, depending on the nature of each violation.

As a matter of federal law, state licensing requirements and gear restrictions ordinarily do not apply to the exercise of treaty fishing rights.

The effect of Initiative Measure 696, if approved into law:

This measure would prohibit commercial net fishing in fresh or marine waters within Washington state, except tribal fishing conducted under valid treaty rights. The measure would also prohibit nontribal commercial troll fishing in Washington state waters.

The following types of gear and licenses would be specifically prohibited: purse seine, gill net, baitfish purse seine, dogfish set net, food fish drag seine, food fish trawl (Puget Sound and non-Puget Sound), herring drag seine, herring gill net, baitfish lampara, herring purse seine, Columbia River smelt, smelt dip bag net, whiting (Puget Sound), shrimp trawl (Puget Sound and non-Puget Sound), emerging commercial fishery licenses and spawn on kelp. The following types of gear and licenses would still be permitted: reef net, crab pots, shrimp pots, herring lampara, and herring dip bag net.

Engaging in fishing in violation of this measure would be a class C felony.

The measure would not apply to treaty fishing.

Statement Against

I-696: BAD FOR SALMON—BAD FOR FAMILIES

I-696 does nothing for long-term salmon recovery. Instead, it would destroy Washington state's fishing families and cost thousands of jobs. It unfairly targets one group and would seriously harm rural coastal communities.

I-696: OPPOSED BY SCIENTISTS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Just look at some of those who oppose I-696:

- The Sierra Club – Cascade Chapter
- Washington Conservation Voters
- The League of Women Voters of Washington
- Dr. Lee Alverson, University of Washington, Institute of Marine Studies
- Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation
- The Westport Charter Boat Association.

I-696: MISLEADING AND INCONSISTENT

Scientists and citizens across Washington state agree that science and *not* political rhetoric should guide important natural resource management decisions. I-696 misleads the public into believing that it will help salmon but ignores the real challenges like restoring critical fish habitat.

I-696: TRIES TO DIVIDE US

Washington citizens are working together to solve our salmon crisis, not single-out one group and pit neighbor against neighbor. Our state's fishing families have long played a critical role in the fight to restore Washington salmon.

I-696: DISRUPTS ONGOING EFFORT TO SAVE SALMON

I-696 disrupts and undermines years of important progress in salmon recovery efforts by local governments, environmental groups, scientists, commercial and sport fishers and others.

I-696: HERE THEY GO AGAIN!

I-696 is sponsored by a small group of individuals who tried to pass a similar initiative in 1995. Washington voters wisely said "no" then and should do so again.

For more information, call 1-888-554-4111 or visit <http://www.noon696.com>

Rebuttal of Statement For

I-696 will not save salmon plus it unfairly targets Washington's fishing families.

Why do Governor Locke, the Sierra Club and Washington Conservation Voters oppose I-696? They know real salmon recovery requires a comprehensive approach that addresses water quality, habitat restoration and resource management.

I-696 will undermine ongoing salmon recovery work that has united scientists, environmentalists, government and both commercial and sport fishers.

It didn't make sense in 1995, it doesn't now.

Vote No on I-696.

Voters Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

KEN JACOBSEN, State Senator, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee; JIM BUCK, State Representative, Co-chair, House Natural Resources Committee; ED OWENS, Chair, Salmon For Washington No-On-696.

Advisory Committee: DR. LEE ALVERSON, University professor and internationally renowned fisheries biologist; DEBBIE CRAIG, Vice President, North Cascades Audubon Society; ELIZABETH PIERINI, President, League of Women Voters of Washington; MARK COLES, President, Alaska Fishermen's Union (Seattle) AFL-CIO; MARK CEDERGREEN, Executive Director, Westport Charter Boat Association.



**COMPLETE TEXT OF
Initiative Measure 695**
(continued)

- 2601;
- (27) RCW 82.44.900 and 1961 c 15 s 82.44.900;
 - (28) RCW 82.50.010 and 1989 c 337 s 20, 1979 c 107 s 11, 1977 ex.s. c 22 s 6, 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 35, 1967 ex.s. c 149 s 44, & 1961 c 15 s 82.50.010;
 - (29) RCW 82.50.060 and 1961 c 15 s 82.50.060;
 - (30) RCW 82.50.090 and 1961 c 15 s 82.50.090;
 - (31) RCW 82.50.170 and 1992 c 154 s 6;
 - (32) RCW 82.50.250 and 1967 ex.s. c 149 s 59;
 - (33) RCW 82.50.400 and 1993 c 238 s 7, 1992 c 154 s 5, 1990 c 42 s 320, 1979 c 123 s 1, 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 s 15, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 55;
 - (34) RCW 82.50.405 and 1991 c 199 s 226;
 - (35) RCW 82.50.410 and 1998 c 321 s 23, 1991 c 199 s 225, 1990 c 42 s 321, 1979 c 123 s 2, 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 s 16, 1972 ex.s. c 144 s 2, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 56;
 - (36) RCW 82.50.425 and 1990 c 42 s 323;
 - (37) RCW 82.50.435 and 1990 c 42 s 324;
 - (38) RCW 82.50.440 and 1979 c 158 s 242, 1975 1st ex.s. c 9 s 2, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 59;
 - (39) RCW 82.50.460 and 1979 c 123 s 3, 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 s 17, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 61;
 - (40) RCW 82.50.510 and 1998 c 321 s 24, 1991 c 199 s 227, 1990 c 42 s 322, 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 75 s 1, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 66;
 - (41) RCW 82.50.520 and 1983 c 26 s 4, 1979 c 123 s 4, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 67;
 - (42) RCW 82.50.530 and 1993 c 32 s 1, 1981 c 304 s 32, & 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 68;
 - (43) RCW 82.50.540 and 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 69; and
 - (44) RCW 82.50.901 and 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 53.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act takes effect January 1, 2000.



**COMPLETE TEXT OF
Initiative Measure 696**

AN ACT Relating to the protection of living marine resources from wasteful and harmful fishing practices; adding a new section to chapter 75.12 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. Nontribal commercial net fishing is by all standards and with few exceptions known to be a wasteful and harmful fishing practice. Wild salmon, seabirds, marine mammals, and other endangered resources are without protection from this indiscriminate killing and destruction. Those fishing practices that are harmful and that do not constitute selective and discriminating fishing must be eliminated from Washington fresh and marine waters.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 75.12 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Commercial net fishing in Washington state fresh or marine waters is prohibited. This ban does not extend to those tribal fisheries conducted under a valid treaty right.

(2) The types of nontribal commercial gear and licenses prohibited by this section include, but are not limited to, purse seine, gill net, baitfish purse seine, dogfish set net, food fish drag seine, food fish trawl (Puget Sound and non-Puget Sound), herring drag seine, herring gill net, baitfish lampara, herring purse seine, Columbia river smelt, smelt dip bag net, whiting (Puget Sound), shrimp trawl (Puget Sound and non-Puget Sound), emerging commercial fishery, and spawn on kelp. The types of nontribal commercial gear and licenses prohibited by this section do not include reef net, crab pots, shrimp pots, herring lampara, and herring dip bag net.

(3) Nontribal commercial troll fishing is prohibited within Washington state waters.

(4) Engaging in nontribal commercial fishing in violation of this section is a class C felony.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

PLEASE NOTE

In the preceding and following measures all words in double parentheses with a line through them are in state law and will be taken out if the measure is adopted. Underlined words do not appear in state law but will be put in if the measure is adopted.

To obtain a copy of the text of the proposed measures in larger print, call the Secretary of State's toll-free hotline — 1-800-448-4881.