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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 57 (as reported with amendment)**Sponsor: Senator Joseph S. Mack****Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs****Date Completed: 2-16-88*****RATIONALE***

Reportedly, some of Michigan's rivers and streams that are popular among sports fishers are being depleted of their stock. Some people feel that restrictions on trout fishing in certain waterways should be more stringent than those under current law so that the waterways can continue to be a recreational resource to the fishing population.

CONTENT

Senate Bill 57 would amend the Michigan Sportsmen Fishing Law to specify restrictions on the taking of trout during the open season for trout in the portion of Duck Creek that is within Watersmeet Township in Gogebic County. Under the bill, the following restrictions would apply:

- Only artificial lures could be used to take trout.
- Trout would have to be at least 10 inches in length.
- A maximum of five trout could be taken per day.

The bill would take effect on April 30, 1988.

Proposed MCL 303.1b

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

People who fish in Gogebic County are interested in ensuring that trout will be plentiful in Duck Creek. The bill's tougher restrictions on the taking of trout in the section of that stream that flows through Watersmeet Township would keep the population at a high enough level to sustain fishing activity.

Opposing Argument

The Natural Resources Commission can implement the proposed limitation by rule. Such specific measures should not be pursued through legislation.

Response: The administrative rules process would unnecessarily delay the implementation. Legislation would assure that the restrictions were implemented before the beginning of trout season.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.