



**Native Fish Society**

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*The Native Fish Society is a forward-thinking organization guided by the best available science to advocate for historically abundant wild, native fish and promote the stewardship of habitats that sustain them*

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**HOUSE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER COMMITTEE**

**TESTIMONY ON HB 4060**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

The Native Fish Society is a native fish conservation organization with several hundred members throughout the region. The mission of the Native Fish Society is to advocate for the protection and restoration of naturally spawning populations of wild native fish and the habitats that sustain them. We appreciate the opportunity to testify before the committee today in support of HB 4060. Our comments will focus on the proposed dash-1 amendments to the bill.

Section 2 of the dash-1 amendments make it very clear that, except for a few exemptions, it would be illegal for any person to bring any live genetically engineered fish into Oregon or to cultivate or release them anywhere in the state. This section contains a list of reasonable exceptions to this prohibition.

Section 4 of the amendments also puts in place a prohibition on the propagation of Atlantic salmon in any areas of the state where these fish may come into contact with native anadromous fish. That would put much of the state off-limits to non-native Atlantic salmon.

The Native Fish Society proposes one small change on page 3, line 2 of the dash-1 amendments. We suggest that the word "anadromous" be deleted from the sentence. That change would make it illegal to raise Atlantic salmon anywhere in the state where they may come into contact with any native fish.

For many years, Atlantic salmon have been listed as one of the "100 Most Dangerous Invaders" by the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Prohibiting them from being propagated within the state is a responsible action to take. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife raises Atlantic salmon at its Wizard Falls Hatchery on the Metolius River for release into lakes in Central Oregon. Now that native anadromous fish have been reintroduced into the Metolius River basin, eliminating the Atlantic salmon program at ODFW's hatchery is a prudent conservation action for Oregon to take to eliminate the potential for harming this expensive fish recovery effort.

Unfortunately, this bill has not been scheduled for a work session, so it cannot move out of this committee. However, the Legislature should look for opportunities to insert this bill language into other legislation currently pending before the body. Failing that, this bill should be reintroduced in the 2013 session of the Oregon Legislature.

Jim Myron, Lobbyist