

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Boquist
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Eliminates current restriction on issuance of sturgeon propagation permits for only educational and scientific purposes. Directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules related to permits. Sets annual fee of \$3,000 for such permit. Allows Commission to give priority to person holding permit on December 31, 2007. Authorizes Commission to issue a special permit through calendar year 2010 for collection of male white sturgeon and eggs from oversize female sturgeon for commercial aquaculture, provided person possessed such a special permit from the Commission in 2006.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Proposed aquaculture facilities
- Fee level to support cost of implementation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Sturgeon are large, long-lived fish that live and feed on the bottom of slow-moving rivers, bays and estuarine areas and the brackish water at the mouths of large rivers. The Lower Columbia River, below Bonneville Dam, is the home to what is considered the only remaining healthy population of white sturgeon on the Columbia River. Commercial and sport fishing of white sturgeon is allowed on the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam but restricted by number and size (between 42 and 60 inches) to protect sexually mature sturgeon. Since 1989, state law prohibited the issuance of propagation permits for white and green sturgeon unless they were solely for educational or scientific purposes.

Senate Bill 569-A directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules specifying the conditions under which sturgeon propagation permits will be issued and allows the commission to collect an annual fee of \$3,000 for each permit. The fee will support quarterly fish health examinations by ODFW staff to avoid any introduction or amplification of fish diseases into Oregon waters. The measure prohibits the use of green or white sturgeon taken from the wild for the use of a commercial fish hatchery.

Proponents of Senate Bill 569-A would like to develop two commercial fish hatcheries located in Newport and Coos Bay using brood stock from farm raised sturgeon. The proposed facilities would be confined and land-based.

5/9/2007 4:56:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*