

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Atkinson
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates the restriction on issuance of sturgeon propagation permits for commercial purposes. Directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules related to permits. Sets an annual fee for such a permit. Allows the commission to give priority to certain permit holders when considering applications for a permit.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Commercial potential of sturgeon propagation in Oregon
- Pathology monitoring by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Authority of State Fish and Wildlife Commission to regulate permit issuance

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue special permits for the collection of male white sturgeon and eggs from oversize female white sturgeon for commercial aquaculture through 2010.

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, propagation permits could not be issued 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.