

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Atkinson, Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/01

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. Revises the definition of “cargo vessel.” Sets sunset to be the convening date of the next regular biennial legislative session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Volume of ballast water discharged into the Columbia River
- Increase and population trends of non-native fish and invertebrates in the Lower Columbia River
- Impacts on native species and infrastructure
- Need for consistent regulatory approach and treatment standards between jurisdictions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Ballast water discharged from shipping vessels is a primary pathway for the introduction of aquatic invasive species into waters of the state. There is a concern that if left unchecked, non-indigenous aquatic species could negatively impact natural systems and damage water-dependent infrastructure, as has occurred in the Great Lakes region with the proliferation of zebra mussels.

The 2001 Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 895, which prohibited the discharge of ballast water into waters of the state and directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to establish a task force on ballast water. The Ballast Water Task Force was reauthorized in 2003 and 2005.

Senate Bill 643 creates the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to study and make recommendations for combating the introduction of aquatic non-indigenous species associated with shipping-related transport into waters of the state. The measure also broadens the definition of “cargo vessel” to include non-self-propelled vessels that are equipped with ballast water.