

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: Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to provide a full-time equivalent employee to work on ballast water reporting and regulation matters.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Volume of ballast water discharged in the Columbia River
- Increase and population trends of non-native fish and invertebrates in the Lower Columbia River
- Impacts on native species and infrastructure
- Inconsistent regulations and treatment standards between jurisdictions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendments.

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 in the Columbia River.

Since the establishment of the Oregon Ballast Water Program in 2002, there has been no direct funding for the program. All monitoring and compliance of ballast water has been conducted by Portland State University funded through grants and contracts and from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. In its 2005 Report on Ballast Water Management in Oregon, the Ballast Water Task Force recommends funding for a full-time position at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in order to enforce ballast water management regulations. Senate Bill 644 directs the Department of Environmental Quality to provide the necessary funding for the position.