

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin
Nays: -
Exc.: Atkinson, Burdick
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop plan to reform operation of department-operated fish hatcheries on Oregon coast. Specifies plan requirement. Requires that department submit report to interim legislative committee related to environment and natural resources no later than October 1, 2010. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Deterioration of fish hatcheries in Oregon
- Funding dedicated to the maintenance and operations of fish hatcheries
- Coordinating Oregon fish hatchery management plans with federal and tribal management plans
- Understanding genetics of hatchery fish
- Creating a road map for reconstruction of Oregon hatchery program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) operates 33 hatcheries, four rearing ponds at locations separate from hatcheries, eight acclimation facilities, and nine adult trapping facilities. Many of these hatcheries have been in continuous operation from the early 1900's and have been upgraded to varying degrees as funding allowed, while others began operation within the last 20 years. These facilities range in production levels from large facilities like Cole M. Rivers, which produced 576,875 pounds of fish, to small facilities like Trask, which reared 27,246 pounds.

Funding for the operation of these facilities comes from a variety of sources: 12 are federally funded, nine are state funded, and 12 are funded by a combination of State and Federal funds. Annual operating costs for these facilities amounted to approximately \$22.9 million in 2003, of which \$16.2 million was provided by Federal agencies, \$3.1 million came from State General Funds, and \$3.6 million came from other sources, including license fees, power producers and water users such as the City of Portland and Portland General Electric.

ODFW adopted the Fish Hatchery Management Policy in 2003 to ensure the conservation of both naturally produced native fish and hatchery produced fish in Oregon through the responsible use of hatcheries. The conservation of hatchery produced fish is important to maintain opportunities for fisheries and aid conservation of naturally produced native fish, maintain genetic resources of native fish populations spawned or reared in captivity and minimize harmful ecological impacts to watersheds caused by hatchery facilities and operations.

House Bill 3489 directs ODFW to develop a plan to reform the operations of the 33 hatcheries in order to meet fish management goals.

6/4/2009 10:42:00 AM

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