

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Roblan
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes that releasing or attempting to release any live fish into a body of water that was not taken from that body of water without a permit is either a Class C felony, if violation is committed intentionally or knowingly, or a Class A misdemeanor, if violation is committed recklessly or with criminal negligence. Requires State Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to revoke convicted person's angling license and tags. Prohibits convicted person from applying for, obtaining, or possessing angling license or tag for five years. Allows Commission to institute suit for recovery of damages. Requires that damages awarded be amount necessary to return body of water to its condition prior to violation as well as attorney fees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Introduction of tui chub to Diamond Lake; subsequent eradication effort and costs
- Public education opportunity

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Illegal transportation and introduction of fish can reduce angling opportunities, cause environmental harm, and have a devastating economic impact. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has a statutory responsibility for managing the release of live fish into waters of the state. Existing administrative rules provide that anyone convicted of transporting live fish without a permit may be charged with a misdemeanor and that "the person or company who import fish illegally shall be held liable for incidental kill of any species due to or during destruction of illegally imported fish."