

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage, but with Amendments and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
Vote:	3 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	Olsen, Thomsen
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/24, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits gillnet fishing in lower Columbia River from March 1 through May 31 of each year, except in off-channel fishery enhancement areas specified by rule of Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), effective January 1, 2015. Prohibits issuance of new vessel permits for Columbia River gillnet fishery on or after effective date of Act. Repeals lottery system for issuance of vessel permits for Columbia River gillnet fishery. Prohibits permit renewal to individual who did not engage in activities authorized under permit in prior 12 month period. Direct Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to evaluate off-channel fishery enhancement areas specified by Commission rule in lower Columbia River. After conducting evaluation, directs ODFW to propose expanding size of existing areas or creating additional areas. Requires proposals to allow sufficient upriver fishery impacts. Directs ODFW to evaluate possibility of creating off-channel area in North Portland Harbor. Directs ODFW to report results of evaluation and any proposals to Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2012. Specifies applicability of vessel permit renewal provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Columbia River salmon and steelhead species currently listed under federal Endangered Species Act
- Select area fisheries enhancement (SAFE) sites
- Commercial and recreational sports fishing
- Use of alternative gear

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: A gillnet is a net constructed and used in a manner where a fish swimming into it is usually caught by its gill covers. Some fish become entangled when their teeth and fins become snagged. The size of the mesh varies according to the size and physical characteristics of the type of fish intended to be caught. The gill net is hung vertically in the water and is supported by a line at the surface and a weighted line at the bottom of the net.

The SAFE project is intended to provide harvest of hatchery-produced salmon released in and returning to select areas with minimal interception of non-local salmon stocks. The project is an extension of the existing hatchery system that utilizes existing hatchery facilities to spawn, hatch, and conduct initial rearing for subsequent out-planting to net-pen facilities.

Senate Bill 736 A would prohibit gillnet fishing in the lower Columbia River from March 1 – May 31 of each year, except in off-channel SAFE sites. The measure would also prohibit the issuance of new gillnet fishery vessel permits and direct ODFW to evaluate the expansion of existing SAFE sites and the creation of new sites.

4/27/2011 9:38:00 AM

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