

**House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.  
April 11, 2013 HB 3441 with the -3 amendment.**

Representative Witt and members of the committee.

Thank you for hearing HB 3441 and allowing me to testify.

Senator Roblan, Representative Witt and Representative Krieger with more than 40 cosponsors, introduced HB 3441 in early March. This bill relates to the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (on the Alsea River). The bill will put into statute the makeup and duties of the OHRC board and the center.

The OHRC was established by the legislature in 2003. Since that time, the OHRC operation has been funded by over a million dollars per biennium of Other Funds which are largely commercial and recreational fishing license fees. The OHRC, in cooperation with the OSU Fisheries and Wildlife Department, has carried out scientifically valuable research. However, many fishermen and women would like to see the OHRC redirected to conduct research intended to minimize the risk to naturally produced fish from hatchery produced fish, while also maintaining the harvest of hatchery produced fish.

This bill has gone through three LC drafts and three amendments. Many people who represent a wide spectrum of interest in having the best possible quality hatchery research conducted by ODFW have contributed to House Bill 3441-3.

The -3 amendment fully incorporates the previous amendments.

The -3 amendment dated 4/5/13 changes the printed bill as introduced:

The -3 amendment eliminates all reference to the “Oregon Hatchery Research Fund.” This fund is not necessary for the operation of the OHRC.

Section 1 of the -3 amendment adds an additional member to the OHRC Board, representing the Columbia River gillnet fishery. The gillnetters are an integral part of the industry harvesting hatchery produced salmon and were left out of the original bill in error.

Section 3 of the -3 amendment better defines the duties of the OHRC Board; adds a reporting requirement to the Legislature and to the Fish and Wildlife Commission; directs the OHRC Board to meet at least every three months; and adds the words “consistent with ORS 496.275.”

ORS 496.275 states in part: ***“The Legislative Assembly hereby declares the necessity to review all options and means for the protection and restoration of Oregon’s salmon resources that promote local economic development and enjoyment by all citizens of Oregon.”***

Section 5 of the -3 amendment removes the word “pure” on page three line 26 of the bill as introduced, and broadens the educational opportunities for university students in subsection (2) (d)

Section 7 of the -3 amendment adds the Chair of the OSU Fisheries and Wildlife Department to the appointment process for the OHRC Director.

Section 8 of the -3 amendment directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife to renegotiate the agreement with the State Board of Higher Education (OSU) in order to carry out the activities in Section 5 of this bill. This will insure continuous operation of the OHRC and the ongoing research.

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The commercial and recreation harvest of salmon and steelhead are an important part of the culture and economy of Oregon. A large portion of the salmon and steelhead harvested in Oregon are of hatchery origin. HB 3441 with the dash 3 amendment will insure that the OHRC continues its valuable research and provides recommendations to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding hatchery operations.

Thank you, I hope you will support HB 3441 with the -3 amendment.

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Seafood Oregon, Oregon Salmon Commission, Alsea River Sportsmen’s Association, McKenzie River Guides Association, and the Oregon Outdoor Council.