

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Action:</b>        | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed                       |
| <b>Vote:</b>          | 8 - 0 - 1   |
| <b>Yeas:</b>          | Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt |
| <b>Nays:</b>          | 0   |
| <b>Exc.:</b>          | McKeown   |
| <b>Prepared By:</b>   | Beth Patrino, Administrator                                       |
| <b>Meeting Dates:</b> | 3/7   |

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows person to return fish carcass to water from which person caught fish provided person retained proof of compliance with fishing regulations. Defines “fish carcass” as entrails, gills, head, skin, fins, and backbone. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Marine-derived nutrients are important to fish habitat health
- Angler questions about why returning fish carcass to stream is not currently allowed
- Other states have programs allowing the return of fish carcasses to streams

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes requirements to place fish carcass 100 feet from beach or public access and more than 10 feet from shore and requirement that person clean fish at end of angling period.

**BACKGROUND:** Nutrient enhancement is recognized as a benefit to fish stocks and a lack of nutrients can be a limiting factor in the recovery of salmon populations. Since the 1990’s, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), with the approval of the Department of Environmental Quality, has conducted a comprehensive nutrient enhancement program where excess hatchery fish carcasses are placed in streams by volunteers. Carcasses are primarily placed from October through January, but placements may occur each month. During the 2011-2012 nutrient enhancement season, ODFW, with the help of partners and volunteers, placed more than 36,000 hatchery surplus fish in 107 waterways across the state.

Under current law, (ORS 164.785) it is unlawful for a person to discard any dead animal carcass into a water body, irrigation ditch or cistern; this statute is a part of the state’s littering laws. House Bill 2697 A would allow the return of fish carcasses to the stream from which the fish was caught.