

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bentz, Boone, Dembrow, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Weidner, Whitsett, Bailey
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Adam Crawford, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at Oregon State University (OSU). Lists potential areas of research. Directs Oceangoing Research Vessel Program to solicit research proposals. Creates Research Vessel Council to evaluate research proposals. Provides evaluation guidelines. Directs OSU to provide report regarding Oceangoing Research Vessel Program to Legislative Assembly no later than November 30, 2015. Appropriates funds. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential marine research areas
- Economic impact of coastal research activities
- Age and deployment of current research fleet
- Other coastal states' research commitments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies language around research area.

BACKGROUND: The National Science Foundation owns a fleet of research vessels stationed in multiple coastal states. The operation of these vessels is predominantly funded by federal funding, state funding and research grants. These vessels perform a variety of research, normally in conjunction with state universities, in the immediately surrounding coastal waters.

At this time, Oregon is the only state with a federally-funded research vessel, the R/V Oceanus, which does not designate any state funding for research vessel operations. House Bill 3451 A would appropriate funding for operation of federally-funded research vessel and create a program at Oregon State University to utilize the vessel.