

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dingfelder
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Reiley, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/24, 5/6

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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 important component of healthy watershed
- Department of Fish and Wildlife nutrient enhancement program has been operating since 1990’s

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**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.