

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Vote:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule, standards and procedures for implementing alternative ballast water management strategies for vessels with empty ballast tanks that enter waters of state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-A4 amendment removes the requirement that civil penalties collected under state laws regulating discharge of ballast water into waters of state be deposited in Invasive Species Control Account instead of the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Ocean going vessels pick up and discharge ballast water for the purpose of providing for better ship stability. Because water from foreign ports may be used to fill ballast tanks, the discharge of a ship's ballast water in Oregon ports and harbors has the potential to introduce aquatic non-indigenous species into state waterways, potentially resulting in ecological damage, economic costs and/or human health concerns. Since 2007, the Department of Environmental Quality has had the dedicated resources to implement and enforce ballast water management regulations in an effort to reduce the risk of introducing new aquatic invasive species.

House Bill 2207 A would authorize the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt standards and procedures for implementing alternative ballast water management including appropriate use of treatment technology and strategies to mitigate risks from vessels with empty ballast tanks that enter waters of the state.