

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows State Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue order allowing angling of fish or taking of shellfish without licenses or tags for two days up to four times per year. Establishes Oregon Fishing Experience Enhancement Subaccount in Fish and Wildlife Account. Directs use of funds in Subaccount. Establishes nine member Oregon Outdoor Activities Investment Planning Task Force. Directs Task Force to develop plan for increasing angling activities for Oregon residents under 17 and establish a 50-year strategic plan for increasing availability of high-quality outdoor recreational activities. Requires Task Force to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources no later than September 15, 2016. Disbands Task Force on December 31, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Part of a package of bills related to Department of Fish and Wildlife budget and fee increases
- Effect of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes all sections of the bill except the section increasing the number of free fishing days the State Fish and Wildlife Commission can allow to 8 days.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife publicizes a free fishing weekend the first full weekend in June. While all existing regulations apply during this weekend, the Department offers Oregon residents and visitors a full weekend to fish, crab, and clam without a license or tags.

House Bill 3459 would allow the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to offer 4 weekends or 8 days of license- and tag-free fishing per year.