

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session  
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY  
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEASURE: HB 3012 A

---

<b>Fiscal:</b>	Fiscal impact issued
<b>Revenue:</b>	Revenue impact issued
<b>Action Date:</b>	03/12/15
<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	03/05, 03/12
<b>Vote:</b>	Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Fund. Requires moneys in OHRC Fund to be used for research projects recommended by OHRC. Requires unexpended and unobligated balance in OHRC Fund as of July 1 of each year to be transferred to Hatchery Construction Fund. Establishes Hatchery Construction Fund, designates uses of fund and sunsets fund January 2, 2026. Establishes surcharge on angling licenses and additional commercial ad valorem catch fee on salmon and steelhead beginning January 1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2026. Directs moneys received to be deposited in Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Value of OHRC research to global understanding of hatchery and wild species
- Geomagnetic field testing and implications for increasing return of hatchery fish
- Need for a more constant and reliable source of funding
- Pros and cons of raising fees and surcharge on angling licenses
- Benefit of cooperative work with OHRC, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University
- Challenge of defining the mechanisms that may create differences between hatchery and wild salmonids

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Eliminates requirement that only OHRC Board carry out research projects they recommend. Eliminates requirement that OHRC funds only be used for construction of new fish hatcheries, allowing that funds may be used to improve, upgrade or replace current coastal hatchery facilities in order to incorporate new technologies or to make physical improvement to hatchery facilities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) opened in October 2005 with the express purpose of helping fishery managers understand and manage the interactions between hatchery and wild fish. The current OHRC mission is “to be an internationally recognized leader in fisheries science, specializing in defining the mechanisms that may create differences between hatchery and wild salmonids, recommending management strategies to manage those differences while meeting fishery and conservation objectives, and educating Oregonians on the role and performance of hatcheries in supporting and protecting Oregon's native fish and fisheries.” OHRC is a cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

House Bill 3012A would establish new funding for OHRC research and construction.