

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 04/07/15**Action:** Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference**Meeting Dates:** 03/10, 04/07**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to develop and implement pilot program for establishing up to four trophy trout lakes stocked with large numbers of two- to eight-pound trout. Requires \$1 surcharge be applied to certain angling licenses for purpose of funding trophy trout lake pilot program. Requires ODFW to: (1) study fishing-related economic activity before, during, and after program; (2) conduct angler satisfaction surveys related to program; and (3) present results of study to interim committee of Legislative Assembly. Establishes sunset date of December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current ODFW fish stocking practices
- Types of license to which fee would apply
- Potential economic benefits for establishing trophy trout lakes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The Department is charged by statute (ORS 506.036) to protect and propagate fish in the state. This includes direct responsibility for regulating harvest of fish, protection of fish, enhancement of fish populations through habitat improvement, and the rearing and release of fish into public waters. ODFW maintains hatcheries throughout the state to provide fish for program needs. Operation of these facilities is governed by the following:

- The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, a comprehensive plan for the conservation of salmon and the protection of their habitat which coordinates the actions of all state agencies that affect aquatic resources.
- The Native Fish Conservation Policy, which provides a basis for managing hatcheries in balance with sustainable production of naturally produced native fish.
- The Fish Hatchery Management Policy, which provides general fish culture and facility guidelines and measures to maintain genetic resources of native fish populations spawned or reared in captivity.
- The Fish Health Management Policy, which describes measures that minimize the impact of fish diseases on the state's fish resources.

House Bill 2053 would require ODFW to develop and implement a trophy trout lake pilot program funded by a \$1 surcharge on angling licenses.