

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass And Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 04/08, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Edwards, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes nine member task force (Task Force) to study essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat and its relationship to ditches and other man-made water conveyance channels. Directs Task Force to submit report that may include recommendations for legislation to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources no later than September 15, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Differences between natural, converted, and constructed waterways
- Balancing environmental benefits and water needs of agricultural interests
- Essential salmonid habitat designations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Essential salmonid habitat (ESH) is defined as the habitat necessary to prevent the depletion of native salmon species (chum, sockeye, Chinook and Coho salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout) during their life history stages of spawning and rearing. The designation applies only to those species that have been listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered by a state or federal authority. The Department of State Lands, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, designates ESH areas based on field surveys and/or concurrence of professional opinion, consistent with the Oregon Fish Habitat Distribution Data Standard.

Senate Bill 846 would establish a task force to study essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat and its relationship to ditches and other man-made water conveyance channels.