

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/09, 04/14, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

**Prepared By:** Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator**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 (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:**

- Fish and Wildlife budget shortfall and need to generate new revenue
- Strategies for increasing the popularity of fishing in Oregon
- Cost-benefit of offering increased number of “free” fishing opportunities
- Potential to incorporate bill’s task force and study goals into other task force legislation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Reduces number of free events from twelve to four.

**BACKGROUND:**

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

House Bill 3459 A would allow the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to offer 4 weekends or 8 days of license- and tag-free fishing per year. It also creates a subaccount of the Fish and Wildlife account for the development, administration and operation of fish hatchery and recreational fish harvest programs as well as covering costs associated with the free fishing days.