

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/04/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 06/04

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 1 - Beyer

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates fourth week in April of each year as Oregon Oyster Week.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of oysters farmed in Oregon
- Economic impact on coastal communities
- Largest producers of commercial oysters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oyster farming has been part of Oregon's history since the mid-1800s. A 2010 report by Oregon State University Extension stated that the Oregon oyster industry produces about 6.29 million pounds of oyster meat each year and oyster sales amount to about \$4.7 million annually. Approximately 30 percent of Oregon oyster sales are within Oregon and 70 percent are outside the state.

There are two species of oysters in Oregon estuaries: the commercially grown Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and the native or Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*). Pacific oysters, native to Japan, are grown in many of Oregon's estuaries. Coos, Yaquina, Tillamook and Netarts Bays are the largest producers of these commercial oysters.

House Bill 3539 would designate the fourth week in April of each year as Oregon Oyster Week.