

HB 3153 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines dual-frequency identification sonar device. Directs Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to use dual-frequency identification sonar devices to count fish. Allocates unspecified amount of money for biennium beginning July 1, 2017 from Natural Resources Subaccount of Parks and Natural Resources Fund to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to purchase devices for purpose of counting fish.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Explanation and examples of dual-frequency identification sonar (DIDSON) technology
- Current fish counting methods
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife research into fish genetics, fin clip method, satellite and drone-based technologies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Defines dual-frequency identification sonar (DIDSON) device. Authorizes Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to use DIDSON devices to count fish. Directs Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to allocate unspecified amount to ODFW for purchase of DIDSON devices for watershed and habitat protection. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife partners with organizations including the Army Corps of Engineers and The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to count samples of fish around the state in order to monitor populations of fish species. Partners use a variety of methods to count fish, including trapping or impounding fish at counting stations and other visual surveys, in order to estimate total numbers of fish passing through the waters of Oregon.

Dual-frequency identification sonar (DIDSON) is a technology that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce near video-quality images of underwater objects. It can be used to determine directional movement and estimate size in rivers, including in turbid and low light conditions. DIDSON devices are typically installed underwater near one bank of a channel, with the sound beam aimed toward the opposite bank to detect fish passing through the channel.

House Bill 3153 would direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to use DIDSON technology to count fish and would allocate an unspecified amount of funding toward the purchase of DIDSON devices for this purpose.