

HB 3234 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/23, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to conduct study on health of shellfish populations in state. Requires ODFW to submit report on results of study to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2017. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Shellfish Initiative task force, House Bill 2209 (2015)
- Recommendations related to research, algal blooms, ocean acidification, breeding programs and more
- Request for state funding for long-term program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Appropriates amounts listed to following organizations for specified purposes from General Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2017:

- \$570,000 to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU) for Molluscan Broodstock Program at Hatfield Science Center in conjunction with Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery;
- \$25,000 to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to convene summit with coastal regional partners for sharing information about eelgrass and shellfish ecology;
- \$30,000 to ODFW to develop educational process to address displacement of recreational shellfish harvesting for cultivation of shellfish;
- \$280,000 to HECC to distribute to OSU to monitor effects of and to study ocean acidification;
- \$30,000 to Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to assess economic effects of ocean acidification on commercial cultivation of oysters and for research and outreach activities to assist oyster cultivation industry;
- \$80,000 to ODFW to conduct preference survey of recreational shellfish harvesters;
- \$150,000 to ODFW to conduct outreach and education related to recreational shellfish harvesting;
- \$150,000 to Oregon State Police (OSP) for enforcement activities and to collaborate with federally recognized Oregon Indian tribes to coordinate cross-jurisdictional enforcement of laws related to shellfish;
- \$120,000 ODFW to coordinate with partners on maintenance and infrastructure improvements for recreational shellfish harvesting;
- \$50,000 to ODFW to develop outreach and educational signs to inform public about shellfish;
- \$180,000 to ODFW to conduct shellfish stock assessments and subtidal surveys;
- \$300,000 to ODFW to collaborate with academic community to research and improve regulations for harvest of bay clams;
- \$180,000 to ODFW to conduct creel surveys and fishery-dependent monitoring of recreational and commercial harvesting of clams;
- \$160,000 to ODFW to monitor and analyze recreational and commercial fisheries statistics on clam harvesting to adjust harvest regulations;
- \$60,000 to ODFW to review and analyze local and state permits affecting inter-tidal and subtidal habitats;
- \$50,000 to ODFW to collaborate with federally recognized Oregon Indian tribes and nongovernmental entities to protect and conserve Olympia oysters; and,
- \$600,000 to ODFW to collaborate with ODA and stakeholders to restore viable populations of certain species of shellfish.

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Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2209 (2015) created the Oregon Shellfish Task Force, an 11-member group comprised of stakeholders from the Governor's office, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the shellfish industry, Oregon State University, Oregon Indian Tribes, and others. The Task Force was responsible for developing a draft Oregon Shellfish Initiative, a report which included recommendations to help enhance and expand cultivated shellfish production; conserve, protect and restore wild populations of native shellfish; and improve water quality and the health of aquatic and marine habitats.

House Bill 3234 would direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a study on the health of shellfish populations in the state and submit a report on the results of the study to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2017.

The -1 amendments to HB 3234 would provide funding for a variety of activities designed to support the stated goals of the Oregon Shellfish Initiative, to include studies of recreational and commercial shellfish cultivation and harvesting, restoration, economic and ecosystems services benefits of shellfish populations and regulatory processes.