



Oregon

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April 24, 2017

**To: The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**



House Bill 2266 A
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Kevin Goodson, Acting Conservation and Recovery Program Manager

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2266A with you today.

House Bill 2266A was introduced on behalf of the Department. The introduced bill was amended and now does several things:

- Allows unexpended and unobligated funds to remain in the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Fund until the law sunsets (rather than rollover into the Hatchery Construction Fund every year after July 1)
- After the sunset date any remaining monies in the OHRC Fund would rollover into the Hatchery Construction Fund
- Provides that gifts, grants, bequests, endowments or donations may now be deposited into the Hatchery Construction Fund
- States the Hatchery Construction Fund does not sunset and that moneys in the fund can be used until all funds are expended
- Modifies existing language of ORS 498.833 to clarify that moneys in the Hatchery Construction Fund can only be expended to improve, upgrade or replace current coastal hatchery facilities in order to incorporate new technologies

These changes allow the Department to optimize the amount of research that can be funded under existing law, as reviewed and approved by the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board. The OHRC Board, created in the 2013 Legislative Session recently approved a Research Plan to prioritize research conducted through the OHRC.

Last, the Department is in the process of finalizing several research grant agreements with Oregon State University. As the July 1 date is quickly approaching there is concern that moneys set aside to cover portions of those agreements will not be available when the grants are finalized. Concern over losing those funds prompted a request for an emergency clause. We

appreciate the attention and review of this bill, and are amendable to an amendment that provides an emergency clause.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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