

HB 3425 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes as one of fish food management goals of Oregon to ensure that fisheries management decisions, allocation of fishery resources and establishment of fishing seasons are made in consideration of and proportionate with revenues generated for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Clarifies language regarding food fish management goal to optimize economic utilization of food fish in equitable manner. Replaces goal established in measure as introduced with goal to ensure salmon fishery management decisions for Columbia River are made in consideration of and proportionate with revenues generated by recreational and commercial salmon fisheries to pay fishery management costs of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon is home to chinook, coho, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon, as well as steelhead. Salmon are anadromous, meaning that adults migrate from the ocean to freshwater streams to spawn. Commercial and recreational fisheries are based on the timing of the migratory return of adult salmon, which in the Columbia River peaks in August and September, and varies based on species and location. All salmon fisheries are subject to review by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA) for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Columbia River salmon fisheries are managed jointly by the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and four treaty tribal entities. Each year, these partners work with state and federal fisheries managers to create population estimates for returning salmon. These estimates are used to establish an escapement total, meaning a total number of fish that must be allowed to go unharvested to maintain healthy population stocks. This escapement total is then used to establish the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of the fishery and to determine the annual catch limit (ACL) for each stock of salmon. As prescribed by the courts in *United States v. Oregon* (1969), 50% of the ACL is allotted to tribal entities. The remainder of the ACL is allocated between commercial and sport fishing.

House Bill 3425 would require that fisheries management decisions, and specifically the allocation of fishery resources and establishment of fishing seasons, are made in consideration of and proportionate with revenues generated for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries.