

SB 260 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, to establish and implement an ocean acidification and hypoxia strategic investment program. Appropriates \$1,900,000 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 from General Fund for purposes of program to be expended in the form of grants or allocations. Declares emergency; Act takes effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Appropriates \$1,060,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (Trust) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to be expended by the Trust in consultation with the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia. Specifies the amount of funds to be used for various monitoring services, plans, and strategies to assess the impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia.

Appropriates funds from the General Fund to ODFW for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 for shellfish and estuarine monitoring (\$420,000) and estuary mapping (\$50,000).

Appropriates \$270,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 to be expended to support the programs and work of several marine science institutions.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature established the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (Council) (Chapter 744, 2017 Oregon Laws). The Council consists of 13 members including the Governor or Governor's designee; directors or their designees from various state agencies; and representatives of ocean industries, conservation organizations, and the scientific, academic, and tribal communities. The Council reviews and utilizes relevant, scientifically supported information to identify research activities, strategies and initiatives to address Oregon's vulnerabilities to ocean acidification and hypoxia while increasing public awareness of the science and impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia. Additionally, the Council is required to submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly and to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council by September 15 of each even-numbered year on the Council's activities and recommendations.

Senate Bill 260 would require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), in consultation with the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, to establish and implement an ocean acidification and hypoxia strategic investment program. The measure would appropriate funds to ODFW for this purpose.