

SB 1025 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires person taking clams for commercial purposes to keep all clams, regardless of size or condition and prohibits taking clams by method other than diving, with a mechanical item, on a sand bar, or in the Ghost Hole fishing area in Tillamook Bay. Requires Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to adopt rules to limit, to sustainable levels, the commercial take of clams, the number of persons that take clams for commercial purposes in a single estuary, and ensure that no more than 50 percent of the total take of clams for commercial purposes in Oregon occurs in a single estuary. Directs ODFW to assess the percentage of total take of clams for commercial purposes for every Oregon estuary in which clams were taken, and every six years to produce a survey of the clam population in any estuary in which 45 percent or more of total take of clams in Oregon occurred during three or more of previous six years. Require ODFW to use assessment and surveys to establish the allowable take of clams for commercial purposes in a single estuary. Requires first assessment in 2020 and first survey in 2025, except requires a survey of Tillamook Bay clam population on or before September 15, 2020. Authorizes ODFW director to issue permit for person to take clams for commercial purposes. Establishes annual permit fee for residents of \$375; non-resident fee of \$525. Makes unlawful the take of clams for commercial purposes under permit without first obtaining license under ORS 508.035. Applies permit fees to permits issued on or after January 1, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Molluscan shellfish, including oysters and clams, have played an important role in the history and culture of the Oregon coast. They also represent a critical component of Oregon's marine ecosystem and provide important commercial, recreational, and ecological benefits and services to Oregonians. Commercial clammers generate about \$507,500 annually from the harvest of bay clams and razor clams from Oregon waters.

Senate Bill 1025 would direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish allowable commercial take of clams in certain Oregon estuaries.