

HB 2553 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to adopt rules related to carcasses of returning hatchery fish. Requires that rules include requirements regarding retaining at least 50 percent of all adult hatchery produced fish returning to hatchery and placement of hatchery carcasses at seasonally appropriate times in natural spawning and rearing areas to enhance nutrient recycling; and requirement that Department prioritize sales of eggs and carcasses from hatchery facilities first to Oregon small businesses in communities with high rates of unemployment, and second to small businesses. Requires Department biennially conduct analysis of annual return rates of hatchery fish, with particular emphasis on the effect of the return rates on the state's ability to meet its obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985. Requires Department to prepare report of analysis and recommendation for Legislative Assembly provided no later than February 1 of odd-numbered years. Requires Department post report on Department website.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nutrient enhancement is recognized as a benefit to fish stocks and a lack of nutrients can be a limiting factor in the recovery of salmon populations. In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2697 allowing the return of fish carcasses to the stream from which a fish was caught. Prior to the passing of House Bill 2697, it was unlawful for a person to discard any dead animal carcass into a water body, irrigation ditch, or cistern.

House Bill 2553 would require the Department to adopt certain requirements related to carcasses of returning hatchery fish, require the Department to conduct an analysis of return rates of hatchery fish, and require the Department to report analysis results to the Legislative Assembly.