

SB 260 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/21/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (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. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Projects proposed for funding and relationship to Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia report recommendations
- Effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia on ocean species
- Readiness to apply research results in mitigation and adaptation measures

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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BACKGROUND:

Oceans absorb a portion of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere each year. Ocean acidification is the term given to the chemical changes in the ocean that result from CO₂ absorption. "Hypoxia" refers to oxygen-deficient waters.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislative Assembly 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

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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. The Council's first biennial report to the Legislative Assembly and to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council was submitted in September 2018 and makes recommendations on actions in five areas.

Senate Bill 260-A would appropriate funds for grants and other purposes related to ocean acidification and hypoxia.