

SB 1554 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,060,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (Trust) for the biennium ending June 30, 2021. Funds to be expended by the Trust in consultation with the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia in the form of competitive grants. Specifies the amount of funds to be used for various monitoring; ecosystem modeling; development of recommendations through workshops and seminars for maximizing the abundance of wild shellfish, cultured shellfish, and submerged aquatic vegetation in estuaries in Oregon; development of best practices for conducting shellfish cultivation in a manner that protects or promotes estuarine health; study of lifecycle impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia on shellfish important to Oregon; and development of a communication plan and strategy for outreach and education on ocean acidification and hypoxia impacts, science, and solutions.

Appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for the biennium ending June 30, 2021 for shellfish and estuarine assessment of coastal Oregon project (\$420,000), estuary mapping for long-term documentation of ocean acidification and hypoxia impacts (\$50,000), interim monitoring during the report and evaluation of marine reserves (\$90,000), and support for the scientific and technical advisory committee of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council to prepare specified reports.

Appropriates \$370,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for the biennium ending June 30, 2021 to be expended to support the programs and work of several marine science institutions.

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Oregon Coast Aquarium for ocean-related educational programs.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Subsequent referral to Joint Ways and Means Committee

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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

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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. 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 1554 would appropriate funds for grants and other purposes related to ocean acidification and hypoxia.

PRELIMINARY