

SB 1554 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 02/11/20

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,060,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Ocean Science Fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, to be expended by the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (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 Oregon estuaries; 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 for the biennium ending June 30, 2021: \$420,000 for shellfish and estuarine assessment of coastal Oregon project, \$50,000 for estuary mapping for long-term documentation of ocean acidification and hypoxia impacts, \$90,000 for interim monitoring during the report and evaluation of marine reserves, and \$250,000 to support 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 support the 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on Oregon Ocean Science Trust
- Research into ocean acidification and hypoxia
- Report of the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia

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). 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

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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 recommends actions in five areas.

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