SB 59 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals sunset on Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund (Fund). Authorizes the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to by rule establish annual and daily Columbia Basin salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon recreational fishing endorsements with a fee not to exceed \$9.75 per annual license and \$1 per day daily license. Requires deposit of fee revenue into Fund. Removes sunset on statutory provision requiring youth license and pioneer combination license to include authorization for purchaser to engage in angling activities for which an endorsement to fish for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia Basin is required. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

Subsequent referral to JWMs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Oregon legislature established the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund to enhance fisheries, optimize the economic benefits of fisheries, and advance native fish conservation related to Columbia River fish management and reform. The legislation also authorized the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to set a fee for a recreational fishing endorsement not to exceed \$9.75 per annual license or \$1 for a daily license to fish for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia Basin; an endorsement is required in addition to other required angling and license tags. The Fund and related fees are set to sunset on January 2, 2022.

Senate Bill 59 would repeal the sunset on the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund and continue the authorization for the Commission to establish a recreational fishing endorsement fee to fish for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia Basin.