

SB 858 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/8, 4/20, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates free license for organizers of Oregon Tuna Classic tournament to take and sell tuna taken during tournament. Authorizes State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules. Requires Commission to grant tournament license if it complies with rules regarding the protection of native fish species and is conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to sensitive fish or wildlife populations or habitats. Prohibits the competition from occurring more than once a year and for longer than three days. Provides that rules may exempt tournament organizers and participants from holding commercial fishing licenses or albacore tuna landing licenses and waive catch fees and certain recordkeeping requirements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Tuna Classic (OTC) fishing tournament is among the top 20 offshore fishing tournaments in the world and is the largest outdoor charity tournament event in the Pacific Northwest. It is typically held in August and a portion of tuna caught is donated to local food banks. Currently, the OTC pays to process the tuna before it is donated. Senate Bill 858 allows the OTC to sell the tuna and donate the cash received to the Oregon Food Bank.