

HB 3150 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/13/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-2-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, McLain, Post, Reardon, Smith DB, Williams, Witt

Nays: 2 - Hudson, Marsh

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish and operate a fish incubation box program (program) for rearing of salmonids on salmon-bearing or potentially salmon-bearing waterways located in Coos, Curry, or Douglas counties and within 100 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Requires ODFW to report on the establishment and operation of the program, including but not limited to findings and recommendations of ODFW related to the program, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022. Appropriates \$470,000 General Fund moneys to ODFW for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and requires the fund to be expended to establish and operate the fish incubation box program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ongoing salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in Oregon
- Importance of fish runs in maintaining opportunities for the recreational angler and guides
- Rate of return for fish released from the hatchery as smolts versus those from the incubation boxes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires that the \$470,000 appropriated from the General Fund to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife be expended to establish and operate the fish incubation box program.

BACKGROUND:

Incubation devices are generally placed along streams, where newly hatched unfed fry are released from the devices to augment fish populations. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), production from incubation boxes has decreased since its peak in the late 1980's. A moratorium on all incubation device production programs was put in place during the mid to late 2000's, which resulted in most districts eliminating or reducing unfed fry releases. Incubation devices are often used for public education.

House Bill 3150 A would require ODFW to establish and operate a fish incubation box program for rearing of salmonids on salmon-bearing or potentially salmon-bearing waterways located in Coos, Curry, or Douglas counties and within 100 miles of the Pacific Ocean.