



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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**March 24, 2021**

**To: The Honorable Pam Marsh, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment**



**House Bill 3278**

**Cedric Cooney, acting Fish Division Administrator  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 3278; the department has no position on the bill. The Department of Fish and Wildlife's mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The bill directs the department, in consultation with the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production to produce feed for livestock as a means to reduce methane emissions.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is concerned about climate change impacts on Oregonians and our environment and supports innovative solutions to help reduce greenhouse gases. HB 3278 seeks to reduce greenhouse gas production in the livestock industry.

Under ORS 506.036 the Fish & Wildlife Commission has jurisdiction over all fish, shellfish, and other animals living intertidally. The Commission and the department do not have jurisdiction over plants growing intertidally. DSL has authority over commercial harvest of kelp and OPRD has authority over commercial harvest of intertidal seaweeds.

While the department has existing staff with expertise in the role of seaweed in the marine environment, we do not have expertise in seaweed harvest, culture or production, nor in the use of seaweed or other products as animal feed. Due to this lack of expertise in aquaculture and jurisdiction over marine plants, the Department of Fish and Wildlife may not be the appropriate agency to lead the study described in the bill. The department regularly cooperates with counties, DSL, OPRD and Department of Agriculture on mariculture activities, including leasing estuary habitat for commercial use. Additionally, OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center has assisted the department on many investigations into marine ecosystems and commercial development.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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