

# SB 59 Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund

# Background



- 2013 OR Senate Bill 830 appropriated monies to help implement Columbia River Fish Management and Reform rules adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- These were distributed into two separate funds managed by ODFW:
  - 1) Enhancement Fund (sunsets Jan. 2, 2022).
  - 2) Transition Fund (sunsetted Jan. 2, 2019).

#### **Transition Fund**



- Provide financial assistance to individual commercial fishermen affected by the Commission's new policies.
- SB 830 appropriated \$0.5M General Fund to the Transition Fund. The Department provided a grant to Clatsop County who implemented a program in 2018.
- Per statute, the fund expired January 2, 2019.





- SB 830 provided the Commission the authority to establish a Columbia River Basin recreational fishing endorsement (CRBE).
- Required since 2014; total of \$9.6 m in revenues.
- Uses remain as described in 2013-15 and 2015-17 legislatively approved ODFW budgets.

 Consistent with statute \$0.00 of CRBE were ever used for the Transition Fund

## **Endorsement Uses**



- 1) Recreational Fisheries Improvements
  - Enhance monitoring of recreational fisheries (L. Col., Willamette, Bonneville to McNary)
    - 100% of funding for angler creel survey program upstream of Bonneville Dam
  - Enhance white sturgeon population assessments in the lower Col. River.
  - \$150K to support Leaburg Hatchery prior to 2019 Leg. Session
  - \$69K to initiate marine mammal efforts at Willamette Falls prior to 2019 Leg. Session
- 2) Enhancing law enforcement
  - Funded 2 additional full-time OSP F&W Troopers for enforcement in Col. River fisheries

## **Endorsement Uses**



- 3) To offset reductions in mainstem commercial fishing, increase harvests in off-channel commercial fishing areas
  - Produce Chinook and coho for release in off-channel sites;
     sample commercial fisheries
    - In 19-21, CRBE is funding 1.18 m coho (26% of OR SAFE) and 250K spring Chinook (7% of OR SAFE) per year
  - Evaluate feasibility of: providing more fishing time at existing off-channel sites, expanding the fishable area of existing off-channel sites, new off-channel sites











