

SB 65 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines 'aquaculture.' Directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish a program to purchase aquaculture products from private facilities. Requires ODFW to spend at least 20 percent of annual trout hatchery moneys to purchase privately produced trout, and to enter into one- to five-year purchase contracts with in-state private aquaculture facilities. Authorizes ODFW to purchase aquaculture products from out-of-state private aquaculture facilities under certain conditions. Requires ODFW to annually audit and assess the cost of ODFW programs for raising fish and to report results to a wildlife-related legislative committee.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to its 2021 Fish Propagation Annual Report, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) operates 32 hatcheries, five off-site rearing ponds, and eight smolt acclimation and adult trapping facilities. Many of the ODFW hatcheries have been in continuous operation for over a century, and some have been added within the last 40 years.

The agency produced and released approximately 40.1 million fish during the 2021 calendar year; approximately 34.7 million were anadromous fish such as salmon and steelhead, and 5.4 million were resident fish such as trout. A total of 462,162 fish were produced outside of ODFW hatcheries for release in Oregon in 2021; all of the fish were rainbow trout sourced by the Desert Springs Trout Farm for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ODFW did not purchase any trout or any other fish from private fish propagators in 2021 due to budget shortfalls, compared to purchases of 867 trout in 2020, 83,719 trout in 2019, and 85,767 trout in 2018. Back in 1999, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 834, which directed ODFW to create a pilot program to purchase aquaculture products from private aquaculture facilities and to spend at least ten percent of the annual trout hatchery funds on the privately produced fish. The pilot program sunset was extended two years from its original 2004 date, and permanently sunset in 2006. ODFW purchased approximately 127,000 privately propagated trout annually in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

ODFW hatcheries and related facilities' 2021 annual operating costs totaled \$31.9 million, of which \$21.4 million was provided by federal agencies, \$2.6 million by state general funds, and \$7.9 million from other sources including license fees, power producers, and water users.

Senate Bill 65 would direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish a program to purchase aquaculture products from private aquaculture facilities and to annually audit and assess the cost of ODFW fish-raising programs.