

HB 3232 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from establishing a cap on the percentage of chinook or coho salmon that may be taken by off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries using alternative gear that differs from a cap on the percentage of salmon taken by non-alternative fishing gear. Directs the commission to adjust current administrative rules accordingly.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies prohibition language. Prohibits the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from establishing a cap out of a total assignment of commercial federal Endangered Species Act impacts for off-channel and mainstem nontribal commercial salmon fisheries using solely alternative gears.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Commercial fishing gear aims to be capable of catching large numbers of target fish species, while reducing its impact on bycatch. Chinook Salmon are predominately caught via trolling, or, in the case of the Lower Columbia via gillnet fishing. Alternative fishing gear, aimed to reduce the number of caught wild salmon, include the use of purse seine, beach seine and trap nets which have been tested by the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife in the Lower Columbia since 2010. Commercial fisheries in Oregon are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

House Bill 3232 would prohibit the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from placing limits on chinook or coho salmon commercial fisheries using alternative gears.