

HB 2903 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/02/23

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

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens

Exc: 1 - Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/14, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), the State Land Board (Land Board), and relevant state agencies to implement recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council to develop an adaptive management plan for Oregon's marine reserves. Specifies the content of the adaptive management plan including monitoring and research, social impacts, long-term sampling protocols, data collection and evaluation, and outreach and engagement. Directs ODFW, the Commission, the Land Board, and relevant state agencies to develop a collaborative process that incorporates social monitoring data into policy decisions. Eliminates base work plan requirement to provide territorial sea data, and adds requirement for continued community engagement to ensure marine reserve science is useful to communities and that community and fishermen knowledge is incorporated into ongoing research and monitoring efforts. Removes requirement for work plan data and recommendations to be used by ODFW to inform recommendations on potential marine reserve sites. Appropriates \$800,000 General Fund moneys to ODFW for implementation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of scientific and technical advisory committee involved in the decadal assessment of the marine reserves program
- Submission date of recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council
- Importance of Oregon marine reserves

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes the date associated with recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council from March 2023 to October 25, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

A "marine reserve" defines an area within coastal waters dedicated to scientific research and conservation, where ocean development and removal of marine life is prohibited. A "marine protected area" refers to coastal waters directly next to a marine reserve. They have site-specific rules that allow some fishing activities while prohibiting development. Oregon currently has five marine reserves that have been officially designated for ocean areas along the coast. These marine reserves are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who handle planning and oversight of scientific research as well as monitoring within the reserves.

House Bill 2903 A would appropriate \$800,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop an adaptive management plan for Oregon's marine reserves.