

ANALYSIS

Item 30: Oregon State Marine Board Waterway Access Program

Analyst: Twais Broadus

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Oregon State Marine Board by \$1,048,182 for the Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program and Waterway Access program.

Analysis: The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) administers the Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program and the Waterway Access program, which are funded by permit fee revenues. The Waterway Access Fund is used to support grants for nonmotorized boating access, boating facility development, boating safety education, and waterway access for underserved communities. Revenues are generated primarily through waterway access permit fees for nonmotorized boats and sailboats, with statute directing a portion of permit fees to be deposited into the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund to support prevention, monitoring, and outreach activities related to aquatic invasive species.

During the 2025 legislative session, HB 2982 was enacted to modify statutory boating and waterway access fees and revise the scope of the waterway access permit requirement. The measure increased aquatic invasive species prevention permit and boat registration fees, increased waterway access permit fees, and amended statutory deposit amounts to direct a larger portion of each fee to the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund. The bill also removed the minimum length threshold for nonmotorized boats required to carry a waterway access permit, established exemptions for whitewater recreation, and revised fee structures applicable to boat livery operators.

Based on projections, OSMB estimates permit sales will increase by approximately 30% during the 2025-27 biennium under the revised fee structure. Fee increases effective January 2026 are estimated to result in \$1,048,182 Other Funds in additional fee revenue during the biennium, of which \$832,182 will be deposited into the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund and \$216,000 into the Waterway Access Fund, consistent with statutory fee allocation requirements.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$1,048,182 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Oregon State Marine Board in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session for the Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program and Waterway Access program.

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,048,182 for the Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program and Waterway Access program.

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2026 Legislative Session.

Discussion: The Oregon State Marine Board (Marine Board) is requesting to increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$832,182 for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention program and by \$216,000 for the Waterway Access Fund. The revenue was approved in House Bill 2982 (2025), but the Marine Board did not receive the Other Funds expenditure limitation associated with the increased revenue.

The Marine Board's AIS program partners with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that boats entering Oregon's waterways are screened for invasive species to keep Oregon's water ecosystems healthy.

The Marine Board's Waterway Access Fund provides grants for local communities and governments to improve the public's access to non-motorized boating.

Both programs are funded by the Waterway Access Permit, which boaters are required to buy to use Oregon's waterways. In 2025, House Bill 2982 amended statutorily defined fees to increase the costs of Waterway Access Permits and required non-motorized boats under 10 feet in length, which were previously exempt, to now acquire permits. The fee changes took effect January 1, 2026, and will create increased revenue for the Marine Board's AIS prevention program and Waterway Access Fund. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) indicated in its fiscal analysis that the Marine Board would need to request Other Funds expenditure limitation associated with this increase once the revenues became available.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 363, section 1(3), Oregon Laws 2025 for the Oregon State Marine Board, Facilities Construction and Maintenance, by \$216,000 for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 363, section 1(4), Oregon Laws 2025, for the Oregon State Marine Board, Aquatic Invasive Species, by \$832,182 for the 2025-2027 biennium.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

December 8, 2025

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The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) requests an adjustment to the 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) to increase Other Fund expenditure limitation for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program and the Waterway Access Fund. We are requesting Other Funds expenditure limitations of \$1,048,182 for 2025-2027 biennium.

Agency Action

During the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, HB 2982 was enacted, providing additional revenue authority for these programs. While fee-based revenue increases were granted, the corresponding expenditure limitation was not included in the LAB. The projected revenue increases were estimated using prior biennium actuals incorporating the new fee structure.

HB 2982 (2025 Regular Session) increased the statutory fee-based revenue increases for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund and the Waterway Access Fund to enhance Oregon's efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and improve public access to waterways.

- **\$832,182** of new revenue will be deposited into the AIS Prevention Fund, supporting prevention, monitoring, and outreach activities.
- **\$216,000** of new revenue will be deposited into the Waterway Access Fund, supporting small-scale boating access improvements and related safety initiatives.

These funds will support cooperative efforts with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for check station operations and AIS prevention.

Action Requested

The Oregon State Marine Board requests approval of an Other Funds expenditure limitation increase of \$1,048,182 for the 2025-27 biennium to align expenditure authority with the increase fee revenues authorized under HB 2982 (2025). For the new revenue \$216,000 would be deposited into the Waterway Access Fund and \$832,182 into the AIS Prevention Fund.

Legislation Affected

Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$832,182 for the AIS program established under Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 363, section 1(4).

Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$216,000 for the Waterway Access Fund established under Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 363, section 1(3).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LW".

Larry Warren
Director
Oregon State Marine Board