

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/02/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.**Meeting Dates:** 03/24, 04/02**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Frederick, Gorsek, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Exc: 2 - Esquivel, Krieger

**Prepared By:** Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes 11 member Task Force on Shellfish to study efforts required to restore and expand shellfish resources. Requires Task Force to produce draft Oregon Shellfish Initiative outlining priorities and implementation strategies to enhance shellfish production. Requires Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to conduct a pilot project regarding increased water quality monitoring in Tillamook Bay. Appropriates funding and requires studies by Oregon State University (OSU). Provides that Legislative Administration Committee shall provide staff support to Task Force. Directs all state government agencies to assist Task Force. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current and potential value of shellfish production
- Need for collaboration between commercial and recreational shellfish industries
- Changing water quality and the need for monitoring
- Impacts of ocean acidification on shellfish

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies policy underpinnings of the bill. Details components of Oregon Shellfish Initiative. Outlines requirements of OSU research activities and details funding for ODA pilot project and OSU research.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon has a rich tradition of looking to its coastal waters and shellfish fisheries for recreation, livelihood, and nourishment. HB 2209A creates an 11 member Task Force to work in concert with ODA and OSU to conduct research and generate strategies that will promote and expand Oregon's shellfish resources.