

HB 2381 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) establish program to control populations of species that prey on salmon in southwest Oregon. Defines southwest Oregon as Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane Counties. Requires that Department operate program in waterways that contain hatchery-raised release locations for Salmonidae other than trout or fish used for salmon enhancement projects. Prohibits Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from restricting operation of Department program, alter salmon release sites or operation of salmon enhancement projects to protect predator species. Requires Department apply to appropriate federal agencies for waiver or permits necessary to carry-out program if predator species is listed as threatened or endangered.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 specifies the actions states can take to manage California sea lions. Predation by a growing sea lion population can jeopardize salmon and steelhead stocks. In 2008, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) received federal authorization under the MMPA, to remove California sea lions preying on salmon and steelhead. According to the Department, the federal government has authorized hazing of Common Cormorant, which also prey on salmon species. The Department manages non-native fish that predate on salmon species through harvest and liberal bag limits in angling regulation.

House Bill 2381 would require the Department to operate a program in southwest Oregon to control populations of species that prey on salmon.