

SB 42 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/21, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes sunset on certain license and permit surcharges dedicated to fisheries restoration and enhancement program. Modifies requirement that three Restoration and Enhancement Board (R&E Board) members represent the commercial salmon industry. Changes requirement that the R&E Board meet at not more than 120-day intervals to at least four times per biennium. Clarifies requirement that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife use fees collected from salmon ranching permits to monitor the effect and impact of private salmon ranching on Oregon fishery resources. Removes sunset on Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund and extends authority for Fish and Wildlife Commission related to Columbia Basin recreational fishing endorsements to January 2, 2024. Extends sunset on requirement that youth license and pioneer combination license include authorization to engage in angling that requires Columbia Basin endorsement until December 31, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Uses of revenue
- Concern with removal of sunset on Columbia River endorsements
- Past extensions of restoration and enhancement program sunsets

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Removes provisions related to Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon legislature established the Restoration and Enhancement Program (R&E Program) in 1989 to improve recreational fishing opportunities and commercial salmon fisheries by restoring state-owned fish hatcheries, expanding hatchery production, enhancing natural fish production, and providing additional public access to fishing waters. Funding for the program comes from angling license fees for recreational and commercial permits and licenses. Under ORS 496.289, the R&E Board is currently required to meet every 120 days. Funding for the R&E Program is set to sunset on December 31, 2019.

The Oregon legislature established the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund (Fund) in 2013 to enhance and optimize the economic benefits of fisheries and advance native fish conservation related to Columbia River fish management and reform. Funding comes from general revenue funds appropriated by the legislature and angling license fees for permits and licenses for all anglers fishing for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon within the Columbia River Basin. The Fund and related fees are set to sunset on January 2, 2022.

Senate Bill 42-A would remove the sunset on the funding for the R&E Program and change the R&E Board meeting requirement from every 120 days to at least four times each biennium. Senate Bill 42-A would also change the sunset date on the Columbia River fishing endorsement to January 2, 2024.