

HB 2378 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) establish and operate fish incubation box program for rearing of salmonids on suitable waterways in Coos, Curry, or Douglas counties within ___ miles of Pacific Ocean. Requires Department report on establishment and operation of fish incubation box program to interim Legislative committee related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2020. Appropriates \$ ___ to Department to be expended on establishing and operating fish incubation box program beginning July 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds whereas clauses. Specifies fish incubation box program as a pilot program, to be conducted for ten-years. Includes Jackson County as location for pilot program. Requires that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) work with Oregon Hatchery Research Center to produce pilot program. Requires Department to use certain type and number of fish eggs under pilot program.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Incubation devices are generally placed along streams, where newly hatched unfed fry are released from the devices as a means of attempting to augment fish populations. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), production from incubation boxes has decreased since it's peak in the late 1980's. A moratorium on all incubation device production programs was put in place during the mid to late 2000's, which resulted in most districts eliminating or reducing unfed fry releases. Incubation devices are often used for public education.

House Bill 2378 would require the Department to establish and operate a fish incubation box program for rearing of salmonids on suitable waterways in Coos, Curry, or Douglas counties within an unspecified distance of the Pacific Ocean, require the Department to report on the establishment and operation of that program to the Legislature, and appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to the Department to be expended on establishing and operating the fish incubation program.