

HB 2553 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Barreto, Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Witt

Nays: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to adopt rules related to carcasses of returning hatchery fish. Requires rules to address retention of at least 50 percent of all returning adult hatchery-produced fish; placement of hatchery carcasses at seasonally appropriate times in natural spawning and rearing areas to enhance nutrient recycling; and prioritizing sales of eggs and carcasses from hatchery facilities first to small businesses in communities with high rates of unemployment, and second to small businesses. Requires ODFW to analyze annual return rates of hatchery fish biennially, in particular the effect of return rates on the state's ability to meet its obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985. Requires ODFW to report to Legislative Assembly by February 1 of odd-numbered years and upload report on ODFW website.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Distribution of fish carcasses into waterways
- Sale of fish carcasses
- Fish carcasses and ecosystems
- Freezer space to store fish carcasses

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nutrient enhancement is a recognized benefit to fish stocks and a lack of nutrients can be a limiting factor in the recovery of salmon populations. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2697, allowing the return of fish carcasses to the stream from which a fish was caught. Prior to House Bill 2697, it was unlawful for a person to discard any dead animal carcass into a body of water, irrigation ditch, or cistern.

House Bill 2553 requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to adopt rules concerning the carcasses of returning hatchery fish, and to analyze return rates and report results to the Legislative Assembly.