FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION   **Measure: SB 1554**

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:
Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Ocean Science Fund, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon Department of Administrative Services for certain ocean program purposes.

Government Unit(s) Affected:
Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of State Lands (DSL), Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Public Universities

Summary of Fiscal Impact:
Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium
General Fund	$2,490,000	
Total Funds	**$2,490,000**	**$0**
Positions	3	
FTE	1.25	

Analysis:
SB 1554 appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of State Lands (DSL), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for certain ocean programs. General Fund appropriations are listed below.

Department of State Lands
DSL is directed to expend the following funds as competitive grants:
- $100,000 for intertidal ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring at Oregon marine reserves;
- $300,000 for subtidal ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring at Oregon marine reserves;
- $100,000 for ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring at Yaquina Bay;
- $140,000 for ecosystem modeling of submerged aquatic vegetation;
- $25,000 to develop recommendations, through workshops or seminars, for maximizing the abundance of wild shellfish, cultured shellfish and submerged aquatic vegetation in estuaries in Oregon;
- $150,000 to develop best management practices for conducting shellfish cultivation in a manner that protects or promotes estuarine health;
- $180,000 to fund a study on the life cycle impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia on shellfish species that are of importance to Oregon; and,
- $65,000 to develop a communications plan and strategy for outreach and education on ocean acidification and hypoxia impacts, science and solutions.

This measure currently appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Ocean Science Fund for expenditure by the Oregon Ocean Science Trust. Typically, General Fund is appropriated to a state agency and,

therefore, it would appear that the intent of the measure is that the General Fund be appropriated to DSL for deposit in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund. Appropriated funds could then be spent over multiple biennia subject to authorization by the Legislature. Additionally, since the Ocean Science Trust is not a state agency, they do not have the authority to authorize warrants upon money held in the State Treasury and as such DSL will require additional expenditure limitation in order to disburse these appropriated funds as grants. Further analysis is needed to determine the correct level of additional Other Funds expenditure limitation in the 2019-21 and 2021-23 biennia related to these funds. It is unclear how quickly these funds will be disbursed as grants, and how much funding will be used from this account in each biennium.

Statutorily, up to 5% of funds in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund can be allocated to DSL for administrative support of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust. Further analysis is also needed to determine staffing needs related to grant administration.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODFW is appropriated $810,000:
- $420,000 for the Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR) project;
- $50,000 to conduct estuary mapping for long-term documentation of ocean acidification and hypoxia impacts;
- $90,000 to support interim monitoring during the report and evaluation of marine reserves as described in ORS 196.540 and 196.545; and,
- $250,000 to support the scientific and technical advisory committee of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, to contract with a university to research and prepare certain reports.

ODFW anticipates that they will establish a limited duration, full-time Natural Resources Specialist 2 (0.63 FTE), and two limited duration, part-time Experimental Biology Aides (both 0.31 FTE, for a total of 1.25 FTE) in 2019-21. These positions will be part of the SEACOR program, which relates to the $420,000 appropriation listed above. ODFW estimates that $271,464 will be required from this appropriation to fund these positions and associated Services and Supplies.

ODFW would also purchase supplies and equipment for estuary mapping, which is related to the $50,000 appropriation listed above.

The Legislative Fiscal Office will continue working with ODFW to understand resource needs in order to utilize the remaining appropriations.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
HECC is appropriated $370,000, which will be transferred to Oregon State University:
- $170,000 to support the Molluscan Broodstock Program at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in conjunction with the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery;
- $100,000 to support the work of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies in sampling along the Newport Hydrographic Line in order to support research on ocean acidification and hypoxia; and,
- $100,000 to support the work of the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences in monitoring for ocean acidification using Burke-O-Lator systems.

HECC does not anticipate any additional expenses related to administration or transfer of these funds.

Department of Administrative Services
DAS is appropriated $250,000 for distribution to the Oregon Coast Aquarium for ocean-related educational programs. DAS does not anticipate any additional expenses related to administration or transfer of these funds.

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