

HB 3191 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the disposition of the carcasses of adult returning hatchery fish including. Requires that rules include, but are not limited to, requirements that: (1) at least 50 percent of the carcasses from all adult hatchery-produced fish returning to hatchery facilities be retained and placed at seasonally appropriate times in natural spawning and rearing areas to enhance nutrient recycling consistent with pathology constraints and (2) the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), when selling eggs and carcasses from hatchery facilities to provide revenue to support hatchery programs and facilities, prioritize sales of eggs and carcasses to Oregon small businesses in communities with high rates of unemployment and other Oregon small businesses.

Directs ODFW to conduct a biennial analysis of the annual return rates of hatchery-produced fish, with an emphasis on the effect of the return rates on the state's ability to meet its obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985. Requires ODFW to prepare report on the results of the analysis, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the environment and natural resources committees of the Legislative Assembly not later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year. Requires ODFW to post the report on its website.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law (ORS 164.785) it is unlawful for a person to discard any dead animal into Oregon waters unless it is a fish carcass and the person returns it to the water from which the fish was caught.

House Bill 3191 would direct Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the disposal of the carcasses of returning hatchery fish. The measure would also direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct analysis of the annual return rates of hatchery fish, report the findings to the Legislative Assembly, and post the report on its website.