

SB 59 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends sunset on Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund (Fund) to January 2, 2026. Extends sunset on authority of Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to establish an annual and daily Columbia Basin salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon recreational fishing endorsement to January 2, 2026. Adds the following allowed uses of the Fund: to implement measures to advance selective harvest practices and improve monitoring and data regarding fishery-related mortality. Specifies that the use of moneys to advance native fish conservation must be directly related to Columbia River fish management and reform adopted by rule of the Commission. Requires Commission to annually make available on a website a summary of uses of the Fund. Directs that if the Commission adopts rules that decrease fishery impacts or the share of salmon allocated to Columbia River recreational fisheries or expand the areas and seasons where nontribal gill nets are permitted in the Lower Columbia River nontribal fisheries as compared to regulatory restrictions in place from 2017 to 2020, the Commission may not require or collect the endorsement, beginning in the following calendar year. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Senate Vote: Passed. Ayes, 22; Nays, 7-Anderson, Boquist, Findley, Hansell, Heard, Johnson, Linthicum; Excused, 1-Thatcher.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 830 establishing the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund to enhance fisheries, optimize the economic benefits of fisheries, and advance native fish conservation related to Columbia River fish management and reform. The legislation also authorized the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to set a fee for a recreational fishing endorsement not to exceed \$9.75 per annual license or \$1 for a daily license to fish for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia Basin; an endorsement is required in addition to other required angling and license tags. The Fund and related fees are set to sunset on January 2, 2022.

Senate Bill 59 A would extend the sunset on the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund and continue the authorization for the Commission to require and collect a recreational fishing endorsement fee to fish for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia Basin until January 2, 2026. The measure would also remove the Commission's authority to require and collect the endorsement fee if it takes specified actions.