

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 858**81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: John Terpening
Date: April 20, 2021

Measure Description:

Creates free license for organizers of Oregon Tuna Classic tournament to take and sell tuna taken during tournament.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 858 requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to issue a free license to an organizer of an Oregon Tuna Classic tournament to sell the tuna from the tournament for charitable fundraising to benefit the Oregon Food Bank. The measure also permits ODFW to exempt tournament participants from having any commercial licenses and exempt wholesale fish dealers from reporting the catch and paying the associated landing fees. Tournament participants would still need to have all required recreational licenses.

Although the expenditure impact to issue the license required by the measure is minimal, passage of this measure could result in a projected loss of approximately \$26,000 to \$31,000 in Other Funds revenue per biennium if ODFW exempts tournament participants from obtaining commercial licenses in order to harvest and sell fish. This projection is based on the assumption that each tournament participation number would range between 50-60 boats.

ODFW is responsible for reporting commercial landings of food fish to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. If this measure becomes law, ODFW would need to develop a method for reporting the amount of fish landed to PFMC and NOAA Fisheries for tracking of catch. ODFW anticipates accomplishing this work via existing monitoring of sport landings.

In addition, the wholesale fish dealer that is purchasing these fish may have a market advantage if not required to pay the associated landing fees that other dealers would pay for the same product. ODFW staff would also need to manage and mitigate any conflicts between sport tournament participants and commercial albacore fishermen. Currently, there is concern in the commercial albacore industry that sport fishermen have tools under ODFW regulations to partially act like and compete with commercial fishermen (sale of albacore on a one-time basis), without the financial and logistical burdens of meeting commercial fishing requirements.