

HB 3191 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Golden

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 05/19/21

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 5/5, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the disposition of the carcasses of adult returning hatchery fish. Requires that rules include, but are not limited to, requirements that: (1) at least 45 percent of the carcasses averaged over 10 years 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, 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current agency use of hatchery fish carcasses
- Role of nutrients in ecosystem health

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces requirement for at least 50 percent of 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 at least 45 percent of the carcasses, averaged over 10 years, beginning in a year after the rules are adopted.

BACKGROUND:

Nutrient enhancement is recognized as a benefit to fish stocks, as a lack of nutrients can be a limiting factor in the recovery of salmon populations. Under current law, 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 (ORS 164.785).

House Bill 3191 B would direct the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the disposal of the carcasses of returning hatchery fish and would specify requirements for such rules.