



Oregon

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To: **The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair**
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources



House Bill 2661

Mike Gauvin, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2661. The department has no position on the bill but would like to provide information on existing programs to control Pikeminnow.

In Oregon, we have three indigenous species of Pikeminnow, Northern, Umpqua and Siuslaw. Northern Pikeminnow are an indigenous species that are present in many of Oregon waterways whereas the native range of Umpqua and Siuslaw Pikeminnow is restricted to those basins.

In some locations, anthropogenic changes to rivers and streams have led to ecological changes that have negatively affected salmon and steelhead and benefited the Northern Pikeminnow. This in turn led to disproportionate population growth and subsequent predation impacts to salmon and steelhead in the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers; these predation related impacts have contributed to the decline of, and continue to negatively impact salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act within these river systems.

In order to reduce the abundance of Northern Pikeminnow in the area impacted by the federal Columbia River hydrosystem, a sport reward fishery program was developed in partnership between the department, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The program goal is to reduce the abundance of large Pikeminnow to reduce predation on salmonids; it is not an eradication program. This program was fully implemented beginning in 1991 and the annual budget for this BPA funded program has varied from \$ 2.0-\$6.4 million dollars. The program includes staff to manage 19 registration stations, a pay voucher system, biological sampling and monitoring, and disposal program. Top anglers in this program often exceed \$50,000 per year in bounty rewards, and in some years the top angler has exceeded \$100,000.

The department has also recently undertaken limited efforts to control Umpqua Pikeminnow using angler harvest in the Lower Rogue river following their illegal introduction to that system. In contrast to their native range in the Umpqua basin, ODFW has determined that predation and/or competition by Umpqua Pikeminnow represents a potential limiting factor to native Rogue stocks of salmon and steelhead. In 2019/20 the department partnered with local non-profits to encourage harvest on this species in the Rogue basin.

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