

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2966**

Ordered by the House March 6  
Including House Amendments dated March 6

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, OSBORNE; Representative LEVY B (Pre-session filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Authorizes State Department of Fish and Wildlife to waive certain requirements for black bass and walleye angling competitions if department determines that limiting black bass or walleye populations would benefit native fish species or ecological health of body of water.

**Permits department to authorize any person to remove nonindigenous aquatic species from specified area if nonindigenous aquatic species is adversely affecting native fish species.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to angling; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 498.279.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 498.279 is amended to read:

498.279. (1) A person, or group of persons, may conduct, sponsor and participate in any competition or contest in which prizes are offered for the amount, quality, size, weight or other physical characteristics of black bass or walleye, provided that the rules of a competition or contest are prepared and distributed by the sponsors to the contestants and are administered and enforced by the sponsors. **Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section**, such rules shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) A requirement that the contestants use aerated live wells or other equipment so that all reasonable efforts are made to maintain the fish taken in a live and healthy condition.

(b) A requirement that all fish caught that are in a healthy condition are immediately returned to the water where they were caught, after weighing. Black bass may be turned over to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife for restocking.

(c) A requirement that bass tournament contestants use only artificial or other such prepared baits.

**(2) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife may waive any of the requirements described in subsection (1) of this section if the department determines that limiting a population of black bass or walleye in a body of water would benefit native fish species or the ecological health of the body of water.**

[(2)] (3) As used in this section, "black bass" means largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, redeye bass, spotted bass and all other basses of the genus *Micropterus*.

[(3)] (4) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may adopt rules to limit the number of contests and participants, determine the location of contests and prescribe other terms and conditions regarding the conduct of contests under this section.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1        **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding ORS 498.042 and 509.112 and any other provision of the  
2 wildlife laws or commercial fishing laws, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife may au-  
3 thorize any person to remove from a specified area and dispose of a nonindigenous aquatic  
4 species if the department determines that the nonindigenous aquatic species is adversely  
5 affecting any population of native fish species within that area.

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