

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Senate Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

Senator Fred Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Representative David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Natural Resources Subcommittee

From: Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: February 26, 2024

Subject: HB 4132 – Relating to marine reserves
Work Session Recommendations

House Bill 4132 requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the State Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the State Land Board to support marine reserves through the development of an adaptive management plan and social monitoring program in accordance with the October 25, 2022, recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council.

ODFW is to lead the efforts to develop an adaptive management plan that includes specific and time-oriented objectives for ecological, socioeconomic, and social impact monitoring and research. The Department shall focus on assessing the capacity of marine reserves to enhance ecological resilience to environmental disturbances, including data collection and evaluation over extended periods and the operation of reserves as a network. Additionally, ODFW is required to adopt efficient long-term ecological sampling protocols.

The measure directs ODFW to develop goals for outreach and engagement to ensure the marine reserve science benefits communities. Additionally, the agency shall develop assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of achieving the outreach goals. Engagement activities shall include the federally recognized Indian tribes, communities, and commercial and recreational fishing fleets to integrate community and fishermen knowledge into ongoing research and monitoring efforts.

The fiscal impact of the measure is estimated at \$894,324 for ODFW, which will support the establishment of three positions (1.88 FTE) to implement the measure, a Sea Grant-based fellow position to support new research, and funding for contracts to conduct facilitation services, social research, and marine policy research.

The measure previously had a work session in the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water on February 8, 2024, and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the –A2 amendment, which provides the ODFW with the necessary funding for the 2023-25 biennium to implement the measure.

- \$479,324 for the cost of three permanent positions (1.88 FTE), and related services and supplies, to implement the measure.
- \$100,000 for a Sea Grant-based fellow position to support new research.
- \$315,000 for contracts to conduct facilitation services, social research, and marine policy research.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A2 amendment to HB 4132. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 4132, as amended by the –A2 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 4132, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____