

HB 2170 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Prepared By: Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Marine Board, or the Department of Agriculture to form agreements with Tribal governments, local governments, or local service districts to allow those partners assist in operating aquatic invasive species check stations, inspection of recreational or commercial watercraft, and decontamination of any watercraft found with aquatic invasive species. It requires agreements formed to specify functions and activities of the partner and include provisions for monitoring and performance review. Finds that check stations operated under these agreements must comply with current check station laws.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 51; Nays, 0; Excused, 9.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Aquatic Invasive Species, quagga and zebra mussels
- Costly removal processes and alternative treatment options
- Ballast water
- No cost for check stations
- Migratory birds

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are non-native plants, animals, or organisms that primarily live in water and can harm ecosystems and infrastructure. An AIS of particular concern on the West Coast and Oregon are zebra and quagga mussels, which can disrupt freshwater food chains by filtering out plankton and can damage hydraulic equipment like intake pipes by adhering to their surfaces in large groups and blocking or clogging them. Recent detections of quagga mussel larvae in the Snake River (in 2023 and 2024) and golden mussels in California's Sacramento River Delta contribute to Oregon's monitoring and prevention efforts.

In 2009, House Bill 2220 established the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program, jointly managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the State Marine Board. The program established:

- Watercraft Inspection Stations to detect and decontaminate boats carrying invasive species.
- AIS Prevention Permits required for various types of watercraft:
 - Oregon-registered motorboats: AIS permit included in boat registration.
 - Out-of-state motorboats: \$22 annual permit required.
 - Non-motorized crafts: Must purchase a Waterway Access Permit online.
- Clean, Drain, Dry Campaign to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of AIS
- Species monitoring and reporting, encouraging the public to report sightings.
- Funding and grant programs to support prevention and control efforts.

Watercraft inspection and staff activities are currently managed by ODFW.