HB 2345 -1, -2, -3   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Meeting Dates:	4/17, 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure renames the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund). It modifies authorized expenditures of the Fund and removes certain reporting requirements. It extends the sunset of the Fund from January 2, 2027 to January 2, 2039.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 40; Nays, 17; Excused, 3.

Detailed Summary:

Renames the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund). Modifies the conditions under which moneys in the fund can be expended include, programs to monitor and address impacts of hatcheries on native fish, and work related to maintenance needs at hatcheries. Requires overall expenditures from the fund to be evenly split between these purposes on a biennial basis.

Repeals the following:
- ORS 498.825: Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board
- ORS 498.827: Duties of Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board
- ORS 498.829: Officers; quorum; meetings
- ORS 498.831: Oregon Hatchery Research Center; activities
- ORS 498.833: Oregon Hatchery Research Center; director

Removes requirement for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to provide quarterly financial reports to the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board and sunsets all remaining ODFW reporting requirements January 2, 2039. Extends the period during which existing fees are deposited into the Fund from January 2, 2027, to January 2, 2037, and adjusts the application of surcharges on angling licenses and commercial catch fees for salmon and steelhead. Extends the sunset of the Fund from January 2, 2027, to January 2, 2039.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- -1 amendment chum hatchery program
- Fund generates 1.1 million per biennium

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 amendment modifies conditions under which moneys in the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund) can be expended, focusing on the deferred maintenance and expansion of hatcheries. It directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program to establish a chum salmon hatchery program in the Coos and Coquille River drainages, and use the hatchery program as an educational opportunity.

-2 amendment renames the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Research, Monitoring, and Maintenance Fund. It adds a provision to conditions under which moneys in the Oregon Hatchery

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Research, Monitoring, and Maintenance Fund (Fund) can be expended to include research led by a fisheries scientist at Oregon State University.

-3 amendment adds provision requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife to distribute $150,000, if available, from the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund to Oregon State University for the purpose of conducting research on hatchery fish.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) is a collaborative research project between the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State University's (OSU) Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. Established in 2005, the OHRC aims to enhance hatchery management for both increasing angler opportunities and conserving wild fish. ODFW states that OHRC "conducts research to define the mechanisms that may create differences between hatchery and wild salmonids, recommending strategies to manage those differences, and educating Oregonians about the benefits, risks, roles and performance of hatcheries in fisheries augmentation and conservation."

Originally located in a custom-built ODFW facility near Fall Creek in the Alsea River, the OHRC facility was closed in 2023 due to a landslide. Currently, the OHRC conducts its research at the Aquatic Animal Health Lab at OSU.