

HB 2345 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hartman

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 02/17/25

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure renames the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund), modifies the Fund’s authorized expenditures, removes certain reporting requirements, and sunsets the Fund on January 2, 2039.

Detailed Summary

- Renames the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund).
- Repeals the statute establishing the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board, along with its responsibilities and membership.
- Repeals the statute establishing the Oregon Hatchery Research Center and removes its director.
- Changes the Fund’s authorized expenditures on research projects recommended by the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board to be evenly split between
 - programs to monitor and address impacts of hatcheries on native fish species, and
 - work related to maintenance needs at hatcheries.
- Removes the requirement for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide quarterly financial reports to the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board.
- Extends the time period during which existing fees are deposited into the Fund from January 2, 2027, to January 2, 2037, and adjusts the applicability of existing surcharges on angling licenses and additional commercial ad valorem catch fees on salmon and steelhead accordingly.
- Extends the sunset of the Fund and all reporting requirements from January 2, 2027, to January 2, 2039.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of a 2023 landslide on the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC)
- Potential uses of the maintenance and monitoring fund
- Research centers and research groups that focus on fish hatcheries
- Future of the property where the OHRC is currently located
- History of salmon hatcheries and their purpose today
- Potential of including educational opportunities in the future of the OHRC

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center was established in 2005 and is located in the Coastal Range on Highway 34. It is a cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University (OSU) with the goal of increasing angler opportunities and wild fish conservation. Its mission is to “be

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an internationally recognized leader in fisheries science, conducting 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.” The original facility has been closed due to impacts of a landslide in 2023 and currently research is conducted at the Aquatic Animal Health Lab at OSU.