

SB 222 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 03/19/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Golden, Pham, Robinson, Smith DB, Sollman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/19, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish a program to monitor the introduction of smallmouth bass within rivers other than the Columbia River that drain into the Pacific Ocean and support programs to eradicate them. The Act appropriates \$1 million to ODFW, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund to carry out provisions of the Act. Senate Bill 222A declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Introduction of smallmouth bass in Oregon waterways
- Declining population of fall Chinook salmon in the Coquille River

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Smallmouth bass are native to eastern and central United States but have been introduced across the west and are present in many Oregon waterways. Their distribution among coastal Oregon rivers is currently limited to the Umpqua and Coquille River basins according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Smallmouth bass can directly affect salmon and steelhead by preying on juveniles during stream rearing and outmigration. According to ODFW the rapid decline of fall Chinook salmon to near-extirpation in Oregon's Coquille River has been attributed primarily to the introduction of smallmouth bass.