HB 3786 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

Action Date: 03/31/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.

(Printed A-Eng.)

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: 3/17, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates a total of \$3 million from the General Fund for deposit in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund to provide competitive grants for specified purposes. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Detailed Summary

Appropriates a **total of \$3 million** General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of State Lands for deposit in the Oregon Ocean Science Fund. Directs funds to be used to provide competitive grants for the following purposes:

- \$1 million for **research on ocean acidification and hypoxia** to address risks and vulnerabilities that threaten Oregon's economy and ecosystems.
- \$1 million for **research on sandy beaches and dune ecosystems** to inform management strategies addressing coastal erosion.
- \$1 million for **nearshore data collection** to understand the changing conditions of Oregon's oceans and their impacts on species and ecosystems.

Declares an emergency, effective on July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original intent to create the Oregon Ocean Science Fund
- Other funding sources for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment makes a technical fix by directing the appropriation to the Oregon Department of State Lands instead of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, <u>House Bill 3106</u> created the Oregon Task Force on Nearshore Research to recommend long-term funding and coordination strategies for implementing the nearshore priorities of the state including research and monitoring; management and policy formation; and education and outreach. The Task Force recommended creating a trust to provide a funding mechanism to support the implementation of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and identified research and monitoring needs. As a result, the Oregon Ocean Science Trust was created by the Legislature in 2013 through the passage of <u>Senate Bill 737</u> to promote ocean and coastal resource research and monitoring.