



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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**To: The Honorable Ken Helm, Co-Chair
The Honorable Mark Owens, Co-Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water**



**House Bill 2163
Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appreciates this opportunity to provide information relevant to House Bill 2163 and has no position on the bill. House Bill 2163 adds intellectual or developmental disabilities that prevent a person from holding or operating angling and shellfish harvesting equipment as a new provision for a person to be considered disabled under the wildlife laws. Persons considered disabled as defined in ORS 496.018 are eligible to apply for and receive an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit (Disabilities Permit).

The Disabilities Permit is free. Persons in possession of a Disabilities Permit are allowed additional accommodations and assistance from others when participating in hunting and angling activities. All Disabilities Permit holders are required to have in their possession the applicable licenses, permits, tags, and endorsements necessary to participate in those activities.

Currently, to be considered disabled under the wildlife laws and to be eligible for a Disabilities Permit, a person must provide certification from a medical professional that states the person has specific physical conditions that would impact the person's ability to participate in hunting and angling activities. House bill 2163, adds an additional provision specific to angling and harvesting shellfish, that will allow persons with certified intellectual or developmental disabilities to be eligible for a Disabilities Permit and receive accommodations and assistance from others when participating in angling and shellfishing activities.

House Bill 2163 will require the Department to update the current Disability Permit application, and create a new Disability Permit specific to angling and shellfishing. These administrative updates can be incorporated with existing staff and resources, with minimal impacts to the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2163.

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