

Submitter: Liz Hamilton
On Behalf Of: NSIA
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2345

Re: HB 2345

Co Chairs Rep Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Honorable members of the House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
On behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA) I am testifying in strong support of HB 2345, renaming the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund to the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund (Fund).

The angling surcharge is needed and better directed for other mission critical services provided by ODFW, both in monitoring and hatchery funding. It is important to note that our region is currently well served by two world class hatchery research centers.

The University of Idaho houses the Hagerman Genetics Laboratory, in partnership with the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and USDA Agricultural Service. Their consequential programs in the fields of conservation, population, and ecological genetics/genomics have three focus areas: Genetic tagging and monitoring of fisheries, genetic effects of hatchery practices, and genetic adaptation to local environments.

In Vancouver, Washington, the US Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Abernathy Fish Technology Center, focusing on Conservation Genetics, Nutrition & Physiology, and Quantitative Ecology & Technology. In addition, NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center conducts research on hatcheries and other aspects of fisheries to support sustainable fisheries and protect wild fish.

Given the ample abundance of existing programs and research, ODFW's support of two positions at Oregon State University, and other more critical budget constraints, it's easy to draw the conclusion that these funds are better applied to important hatchery budgetary shortfalls for our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important change.