

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2345

Maintaining healthy hatchery fish stocks is crucial for Oregon's fishing and tourist industries, as well as for Oregonians who love to fish. Aiding the recovery of wild fish by preventing these farmed fish from adversely affecting the health of native salmon and other species is likewise essential to bring back a state resource vital to fishermen and Oregon's tribes. Splitting existing license fund revenues between hatchery maintenance and monitoring the effects of hatchery fish on conservation and recovery of wild fish will help to maintain a balance between these important goals. I have read that this bill will help replace some of the General Fund reductions for ODFW monitoring. Without sufficient funds for monitoring, ODFW's fish managers cannot make informed decisions about protecting Oregon's wild fish populations, evaluate whether current management strategies are working, or make sound decisions on other budget investments. When you vote on this bill, please keep in mind how vital the survival of our native fish is to many in our state, as well as to those working to preserve wild fish species around the country and even the world!