



January 27, 2025

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair  
Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair  
Representative Sarah Finger McDonald, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

**Re: NFS Endorses HB 2345**

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

Native Fish Society<sup>1</sup> supports the proposal to rename and reconfigure the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund as the Oregon Hatchery Monitoring and Maintenance Fund.

This restructured fund is essential for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to maintain its critical monitoring programs. These programs provide the scientific foundation for management decisions that advance both the conservation of wild fish populations and the sustainability of our harvest and non-harvest fisheries.

The 2025-2027 ODFW Governor's Recommended Budget includes significant revenue shortfalls, requiring difficult decisions about program priorities and funding allocations. While we understand the challenge of balancing competing needs during budget constraints, maintaining monitoring programs must remain a top priority. Without these programs, ODFW lacks the data needed to effectively steward both wild and hatchery fish populations.

Historically, ODFW's monitoring programs have operated with insufficient funding. Any further reduction in these programs will severely compromise our ability to implement existing management plans and make informed decisions about conserving iconic species and managing sustainable harvest fisheries. We strongly urge the committee to support HB 2345 and maximize the funding allocation for these essential monitoring activities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairbrother  
Legislative & Policy Director

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<sup>1</sup> The Native Fish Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to restore abundant wild fish, free-flowing rivers, and thriving local communities across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.