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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2557

## PROTECT OUR COASTAL WATERS: NO OCTOPUS FARMING IN OREGON

### Major Concerns:

- Threat to Biodiversity, Fisheries, Shellfish
- Negative Effect on Sustainability Goals
- Increased Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Non-Indigenous Species
- Pathogens Transmissible to Humans
- Unsustainable Protein
- Dungeness Crabs Already Under Threat

Researchers internationally are currently exploring the development of open-ocean net cages and tanks on land to farm octopuses.

Plans for the world's first commercial farm include

o 1 million octopuses per year

- Estimated 30 million crabs and fish as feed
- Estimated 6,600 tons of waste per year
- 24 Hour Prolonged Light
- Prohibited in Washington, California. Pending legislation in USA, Hawaii.

Connecticut

- *O. vulgaris*, *O. maya*, the species used in this research, are not indigenous to the Pacific Northwest and have the potential to harm commercial fisheries, biodiversity, and humans
- Octopuses are carnivorous, known to escape and likely to spread disease, parasites, and genetic mutations on farms and in wild populations
- Concerning pathogens
- Bacterial skin lesions particles released in water
- Coccidial Parasites - crabs become infected when they consume parasite spores. Crabs become carriers, allowing spread to wild populations

Octopuses need 3 pounds of feed to gain 1 pound of body weight

- Require a diet composed largely of crustaceans
- Cannot be fed using low-value trawled fish, bycatch, corn or soy

- Dungeness Crab populations in decline
- Total landing decreased approx. 21.8% from '23 to '24 season
- Marine heatwaves
- Harmful algal blooms
- Hypoxia
- Negative impact on consumers

Excessive waste runoff contains high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus

o Fuels growth of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Produces toxins that cause harm to humans and animals.

Creates dead zones for those unable to escape the area.

Oregon Health Authority advises against contact with contaminated water. These toxins can accumulate in fish tissues.

- 2018 Salem Water Crisis
- 2015 West Coast Bloom
- Serious financial consequences on the seafood industry due to fishing advisories
- Major threat to natural biodiversity
- Current Cyanobacteria Advisories in 6 areas:
  - Eckman Lake
  - Powder Arm of Brownlee Reservoir
  - Willow Creek Reservoir
  - Wapato Marsh at Oaks Bottom Refuge
  - Brownlee Reservoir
  - South and Mainstream Umpqua River
- Increased instances of aquaculture fish kills
- Salmon Kill at Cooke fishery. July 24

10-15 octopuses confined to same tank

- Behavioral abnormalities: cannibalism, self injury
- o 150,000 premature deaths per year

Thank you.