

Submitter: Karen Sjogren
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

As a former aquatic biologist and participant in commercial fisheries for many years, I urge the committee to support this bill. Eelgrass meadows are nurseries for many species of commercially valuable fish and shellfish. They also create and help support biodiversity, sequester carbon faster than many terrestrial habitats, and improve water quality. Eelgrass beds in Oregon are declining, for unknown reasons. This bill would address the decline by creating a task force to set conservation targets, assess monitoring programs, and evaluate policy barriers. It is a good, inexpensive, proactive bill. Please vote it out of committee for general consideration and hopefully passage by the entire House,