

## Memorandum

To: Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, members of the Committee

Fr: David Moskowitz, Wild Fish and Rivers Advocate based in Portland.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you today remotely. I previously testified in support of HB 2345 in the House Ag & Nat Resources Committee on January 29 and that eventually passed the House with bi-partisan support.

As an active participant in Oregon's public hatchery review process since 2023, I can confirm that this bill will become an important part of the state's investment in the hatchery system.

As written, it creates an important source of funds to address deferred hatchery maintenance as well as supporting ongoing monitoring of the impacts of hatchery fish in wild populations.

The three amendments presented on OLIS are all problematic.

Dash 3 - \$150,000 to OSU research RECOMMENDATION - DO NOT ADOPT

OSU will always be involved in salmonid research on multiple fronts. Shifting these funds will dilute the impact of HB 2345.

Dash 2 - adding "research" in front of "Monitoring" RECOMMENDATION - DO NOT ADOPT

Research on hatchery - wild issues has been ongoing since the 1970s<sup>1</sup>. Research and monitoring are often used interchangeably. Research is typically fueled by monitoring data, and at times, monitoring is directed as part of pursuing a research question. Monitoring gathers data necessary to inform management decisions. Oregon is often at the forefront of research and monitoring for salmonids - one of Oregon's major accomplishments was using research and monitoring as part of the Oregon Plan efforts to restore coastal coho - and both research and monitoring were critical to the work ODFW did to reduce harvest and reduce hatchery production of coastal coho salmon - work that has brought these wild fish back from the brink.

Dash 1 - establish a chum hatchery in the Coos-Coquille RECOMMENDATION - DO NOT ADOPT

This amendment would be a colossal waste of time and money as the Oregon coast chum range is well north of Coos-Coquille. There are specific and well-drafted recovery plans for these basins to restore and recover chinook and coho salmon which deserve full attention - without an ill-advised effort to use a hatchery to try to establish a species that has never been well-established in this region. When one considers climate change impacts, the future range of chum salmon may be shrinking further as water temperatures continue to rise.

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<sup>1</sup> A 2023 global study of hatchery-wild scientific research results found that 86% of the studies show adverse impacts to wild fish (McMillan et al 2023)

The only amendment offered for HB 2345 that merits minor consideration is the dash - 2 version, but it is not necessary to ensure the success of HB 2345 and it is burdened by the directive linking work to OSU.

Each of the other amendments would subvert and dilute the intent of this critical shift in purpose for these funds - generated by license-buyers (sport and commercial).

Oregon's nearly 150-year experiment with hatcheries remains a work in process. The facilities will require substantial investment going forward - and the analysis ODFW has recently completed to assess this infrastructure highlights an unsustainable investment in hatchery fish - HB 2345 offers a sound solution to shift from the Hatchery Research Center to more pressing needs for maintenance and more consistent monitoring effort across critical watersheds.

Considering the identified staffing and program shortfalls in ODFW's budget, and the high likelihood that the estimated costs for construction, supplies, energy and other climate resilience challenges will be higher - even before this session ends - HB 2345 is a thoughtful re-purposing of funds from the expiring 20-year experiment of the OR Hatchery Research Center.

Urge passage of HB 2345 without amendment.