



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The passage of House Bill 3191-B Engrossed (HB3191) during the 2021 legislative session requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules requiring at least 45 percent of the carcasses from adult fish returning to hatcheries (averaged over 10 years) be placed in natural spawning and rearing areas for nutrient enhancement.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sells surplus salmon carcasses that are above the number required to meet hatchery release objectives. These sales provide funds that are used to support hatchery programs. HB3191 also requires the Department to prioritize the sale of these eggs and carcasses to Oregon small businesses in communities with high rates of unemployment and then other Oregon small businesses.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public was provided opportunities for input during discussions of this concept in the 2017, 2019, and 2021 Legislative Sessions. Additionally, the public is able to review and comment on draft rules prior to and during the October Commission meeting.

ISSUE

Salmon Carcass Disposition

ANALYSIS

The Department conducts annual releases of hatchery Chinook, coho, chum, steelhead and trout into Oregon's waters. These releases support supplementation efforts in areas where stocks are depressed and augment commercial, tribal and recreational harvest opportunities. A percentage of adult fish from these releases return to the hatchery and are used for a variety of purposes. These include use as broodstock to produce eggs for subsequent generations, distribution to tribes for subsistence and ceremonial purposes, release for natural spawning in reintroduction or supplementation efforts, and to support Oregon's food banks. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of pounds of salmon carcasses are placed annually in streams to provide important nutrient and organic matter enrichment in these systems.

Under the direction from HB3191, at least 45 percent of surplus carcasses (averaged over 10 years) will be placed seasonally at appropriate times in natural spawning and rearing areas. ODFW already meets this requirement so changes to Department operations are not expected to be significant.

When more adults are collected or expected to be collected than are necessary to meet hatchery other priority uses, the Department sells whole carcasses through a competitive bid process. The process provides sales in both large and small quantities providing purchasing opportunities to both large and small businesses. Funds raised through the sale of excess carcasses are used to address hatchery maintenance needs.

The requirement to prioritize sale of eggs and carcasses to businesses in communities of high unemployment and then to other Oregon small businesses could shift these sales away from the businesses that currently make these purchases.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Accept the proposed rule changes as recommended by staff.

Option 2. Modify the proposed rule changes.

Option 3. Reject the proposed rule changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Accept the proposed rule changes as recommended by staff.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR 635-007-0530 and OAR 635-007-1000 as proposed by staff in attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon filing