


Fish and Wildlife Commission August 4 2023

The Fish and Wildlife Department presentation on the 2023-25 Budget Note regarding a third-party assessment of state-owned hatcheries leaves room for more illumination in terms of the scope of the assessment and the deliverables required by the Legislature.

<p>End of Session Bill: SB 5506</p> <p>Budget Note: \$1 million General Fund for Third-party assessment of state-owned fish hatcheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assessment to cover operations, sustainability, climate vulnerability. ◦ Builds on Department’s ongoing and active assessment of the hatchery system. ◦ Department will be working with Tribes to ensure that their perspectives and needs are addressed in the assessment. ◦ Budget note identifies timelines for progress reports and final reports to the legislature. 	
<p>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 10</p>	

Here is the actual language of the note, displayed below (underlined for emphasis):

2023-2025 Biennium Budget Note

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is directed to procure a third-party assessment of the operations, sustainability, and climate vulnerability of state-owned fish hatcheries.

The department shall present a detailed and thorough report which must, at a minimum, include the following:

- Funding models and financial sustainability of state-owned hatchery operations, including consideration of facility maintenance costs.
- An economic cost-benefit analysis that includes:
 - The total agency costs associated with producing hatchery fish at each facility.
 - The estimated economic benefits associated with production of hatchery fish.
- A summary of how the ecological impacts and benefits of hatchery programs on wild fish are incorporated into federal and state planning and policy making.
- Climate vulnerability for a sample set of state-owned hatcheries. This assessment should include:
 - The projected impact of climate change on the ability of each hatchery to rear and release fish.
 - The likely impact of climate change on the viability of and need (augmentation and conservation) for hatchery programs.
 - Recommendations to mitigate these impacts through hatchery program changes, such as the species of fish released, and other measures.

During the 2024 legislative session, the Department is directed to provide an update on the status of this report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The Department shall present a completed report during the 2025 session.

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The presentation slide notes that ODFW will work “with Tribes to ensure their perspectives and needs are addressed.” While there are numerous statutory and administrative requirements that ODFW consult and confer with Tribes as a manner of common practice, nothing in the Budget Note itself specifically provides for assessing Tribal hatchery “needs” – rather, this assessment is meant to assess state-owned hatcheries broadly.

The Conservation Angler believes that ODFW should engage with all partners in developing the scope of the request for proposal (RFP) that must be prepared in order to meet state contracting requirements for securing a third-party contract to meet the budget note’s charge.

Finally, we wish to inform the Commission that unlike the 2021 Budget Note that required ODFW to complete an assessment and update on Leaburg and Rock Creek Hatcheries as well as assessing statewide hatchery issues and needs, the Legislature provided \$1,000,000 in the End of Session SB 5006 for ODFW to complete this analysis.

The Conservation Angler urges ODFW to apply itself deeply and completely and in concert with knowledgeable partners so that the assessment required by the budget note results in a blueprint for Oregon to modify the hatchery system investment for the next 100 years.

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