

House Bill 3539

Sponsored by Representatives GOMBERG, MCKEOWN, Senators ROBLAN, JOHNSON; Representatives BOONE, KRIEGER, Senators KRUSE, WHITSETT (at the request of the Oregon Legislative Assembly Coastal Caucus)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates fourth week in April each year as Oregon Oyster Week.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to a week to celebrate oysters.

3 Whereas oyster farming has been part of Oregon's history since the mid-1800s; and

4 Whereas demand for Oregon oysters is increasing well beyond current production capacity; and

5 Whereas oysters are a sustainably grown food source; and

6 Whereas the oyster industry supports the economic vitality of Oregon's coastal communities,
7 directly employing over 1,000 people involved in producing, harvesting, distributing and selling
8 Oregon oysters; and

9 Whereas in the United States, sales of cultivated marine seafood grew 13 percent per year on
10 average from 2007 to 2011, largely led by increases in oyster production; and

11 Whereas the United States imports nearly 90 percent of its seafood to meet growing demand, a
12 significant portion of which is shellfish imports; and

13 Whereas Oregon oyster farms ship their products all over the United States as well as to
14 international markets in Asia and Canada; and

15 Whereas the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery and Oregon State University have been at the
16 forefront of cutting edge ocean acidification monitoring and response efforts; and

17 Whereas Oregon oysters have a national and international reputation for gourmet quality; now,
18 therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1. The fourth week in April of each year is designated as Oregon Oyster Week,**
21 **beginning on Sunday and ending the following Saturday, and all Oregonians are encouraged**
22 **to join in observing the week by enjoying fine Oregon oysters.**
23

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.