

HF4214 - 0 - Water-Quality Monitoring at Fish Hatcheries

Chief Author: **Rick Hansen**
 Committee: **Environment and Natural Resources Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **3/7/2024 1:18:58 PM**
 Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	30	30	30	30
Total	-	-	30	30	30	30
Biennial Total			30			60

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	.31	-	-
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	.08	.08	.08
Total	-	-	.39	.08	.08

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Laura Cecko **Date:** 3/7/2024 1:18:58 PM
Phone: 651-284-6543 **Email:** laura.cecko@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	30	30	30	30
Total	-	-	30	30	30	30
Biennial Total			30		60	
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	30	30	30	30
Total	-	-	30	30	30	30
Biennial Total			30		60	
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish (Operations)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-	

Bill Description

This bill amends a 2023 session law appropriation (ML 2023, Chapter 60, Article 1, Subdivision 10) to carve out funding from the Get Our More (Modernizing Outdoor Recreation Experiences) initiative for installation of continuous water-quality monitoring devices at all state fish hatcheries.

Assumptions

Laws of 2023 appropriated \$35M of \$110M to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Get Outdoor More initiative to support state hatcheries and fishing infrastructure. This bill reprioritizes funds from existing projects to the new water quality monitoring systems.

DNR is already monitoring water quality in hatcheries for several factors to ensure a clean environment for rearing fish. We assume new monitoring requirements would be for contaminants outside current scope of testing, specifically nitrates and pesticides.

The MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) currently monitors the incoming (source) water twice a year for over 185 pesticide compounds and nitrate at three cold-water hatcheries in southeast Minnesota (Crystal Springs, Lanesboro, and Peterson) as part of the MDA’s ambient groundwater monitoring program. We assume the MDA will continue to monitor Crystal Springs, Lanesboro, and Peterson hatcheries as part of the MDA ambient groundwater program using existing equipment. Testing data is available at the MDA website.

The cost to purchase and deploy a continuous nitrate sensor is \$12,000 per location. This is already in place at 3 of the 15 hatchery locations for water intake, so 12 new units would need to be installed for intake, and 15 would be needed for outflow. Upfront costs include purchase of a modem, antenna and cable, nitrate sensor, equipment box, conduit, posts, wire, solar panel, regulator, and a deep cycle battery. Calculation: 27 hatchery locations x \$12,000 = \$324,000 (one-time).

Installation would be done by staff, estimating 24 hours x \$64.42/hr x 27 locations = \$41,744.

Ongoing annual costs are needed for cellular communication and website fees of \$740 per location x 27 locations = \$19,980, plus a half-hour per month, per location for staff to conduct ongoing maintenance. (.5 hr @ \$64.42 x 12 months x 27 locations = \$10,436)

This includes an effective date following final enactment. This bill makes Get Out More funds available for installation costs. We assume ongoing costs of operation need to be paid from another funding source.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Estimated Cost of Installation

Cost	FY25	FY26	FY27
Equipment	\$324,000		
Installation	\$42,000		
Reprioritized Get Out More Funds	-\$366,000		
Net Installation Costs	\$0		

Estimated Ongoing Costs of Water Quality Monitoring

Annual Cost	FY25	FY26	FY27
Connection Costs	\$19,980	\$19,980	\$19,980
Staff Maintenance/Monitoring	\$10,436	\$10,436	\$10,436
Total	\$30,416	\$30,416	\$30,416

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Costs for operation and maintenance of new testing systems will continue.

Local Fiscal Impact

None

References/Sources

Department of Agriculture Real-Time Monitoring Data: <https://mda.onerain.com/dashboard/?dashboard=df418f01-a5ac-41d3-b17d-9483f6b5b840>.

Agency Contact: Linda Kelly / (651) 259-5238

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Tyler Teggatz

Phone: 651-259-5304

Date: 3/7/2024 12:54:15 PM

Email: tyler.teggatz@state.mn.us