

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB777
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. West, R.
Date:	5/1/2025
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The engrossed version of SB 777 prohibits wild fish or other aquatic species from being commercially harvested and being sold as a wild-born commodity, which means they were born in public waters and not produced through aquaculture. A licensed producer is allowed to collect both game and non-game fish broodstock from public waters using legal means to use in propagation only in a recirculation aquaculture system up to, but not to exceed the normal possession limit for a person who holds a recreational fishing license as long as the producer complies with terms set by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Individual broodstock cannot be sold or released back into the wild. Production of fish species considered to be of special concern and those prohibited under agency rules and federal threatened and endangered species is prohibited.

Meat and other products for human consumption that result from fish spawned in a captive system may be sold in or out of state as long as the seller gets the necessary export permits. Live fish may also be sold subject to restrictions set by the Department. The Department may establish a process to facilitate broodstock transaction between the state and licensed in-state aquatic propagators, assess a fee, and promulgate rules for implementation as necessary. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry may also assess import fees for any entity selling live fish in the state that does not possess a valid license for commercial production of aquatic species. The measure also adds hybrid striped bass to the list of game fish in statute.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach, House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

Engrossed SB 777 allows the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) to develop a process regarding broodstock transactions between the state and licensed in-state aquatic propagators. Upon review by ODAFF, the agency does not anticipate the need to hire additional staff at this present time, but may potentially require funding for 0.5 FTE in the future depending on the volume of broodstock transactions. Therefore, this measure has no direct fiscal impact to FY-26 state budgetary resources.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

