



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

800 Exchange St., Suite 410
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-1000 phone / (503) 325-8325 fax
www.co.clatsop.or.us

January 13, 2022

Dear Chair Wahl,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners sent a letter dated May 19, 2021 expressing our concern regarding the 2021 Columbia River Salmon harvest strategies for the summer and fall fisheries (sport and commercial). If the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission timely addressed adaptive harvest strategies with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, tens of thousands of hatchery coho would have been utilized. Instead, they are competing for spawning areas in natural coho spawning Columbia River tributaries. Salmon is a vital component to the economic fabric of our region. This is why we urged the Commission to maximize the benefits of this abundance. To the Clatsop County Commissioner's disappointment, we have not received a response acknowledging or addressing our noted concerns.

Last year the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission developed science-based guidelines for conservation which allowed significantly more harvest for the non-fishing public while assuring robust recreational angling and complying with Treaty Tribe agreements under Federal guidelines. For whatever reason, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission has not placed this issue on any monthly agenda. Please tell us why.

As you know, the State of Oregon last year lost a lawsuit with several western Oregon counties over negligent mismanagement of county forest trust lands. The impacts of last year's salmon management debacle are similar to the lack of oversight shown in the forest management issue. This negligence cost millions of dollars in economic benefit to Oregon's northwest rural region and the State of Oregon.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners will be discussing options to involve ourselves more directly in the management of fisheries within Clatsop County. Regrettably, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's lack of response to our previous correspondence gives us no other option to address our responsibilities to the constituents of Clatsop County.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala

Chair

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners