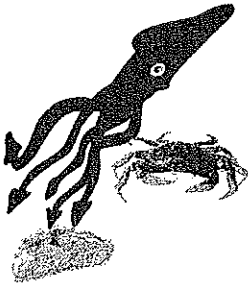


Public Forum
March 8, 2013

Al Gann



Coalition of Coastal Fisheries

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.....Serving the needs of the coastal fishing industry and coastal fishing communities.....

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Fishermen Association

Bandon Submarine Cable
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Columbia River Crab
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Grays Harbor Gillnetter's
Association

Ilwaco Charter Association

Puget Sound Crab
Association

Purse Seine Vessels Owners
Association

Salmon For All

Washington Dungeness Crab
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Washington Trollers
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Western Fishboat Owners
Association

Westport Charterboat
Association

Willapa Bay Gillnetter's
Association

Willapa-Grays Harbor
Oyster Growers Association

Executive Director
Ed Owens, CEO
REACT Consulting Group

Olympia Contact
Tom Echols

March 8, 2013

Chair Levy, Commissioners Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

RE: Kitzhaber Salmon Plan to eliminate Columbia River Gillnetting

The organizations listed at the side and bottom of this letter represent charter and commercial fishing interests, thousands of family wage jobs, and other community organizations along the coast of Oregon and Washington. We stand united in support of the Columbia River commercial gillnet fishery in its legal challenge of the current rule-making process regarding the "Kitzhaber Plan." Further, we would like to express our concerns about how this "plan" was put forward and actions of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding its adoption.

The plan has raised considerable concerns among coastal communities about what the future holds for other fisheries and the communities dependent on them, given the precedent of an entire fishery basically being eliminated from the Columbia River mainstem and limited to very small back-channel areas, with no compensation for losses, before economic studies had been done and before thorough scientific study of impacts on ESA-listed species had been completed.

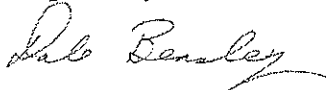
We further note that Commission members are recommended by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The Commission's role is to guide Oregon fish and wildlife policy with the best available information to protect, sustain and maintain the best uses for all Oregon citizens. This does not mean "rubber stamping" the wishes of Governor Kitzhaber— which happened on December 7, 2012. Chairwoman Bobby Levy, during the public comment period clearly, in several instances, asked Governor Kitzhaber's natural resources policy advisor, Brett Brownscombe, how the governor wanted commission members to vote prior to final voting on rule changes.

This resource allocation grab directly affects Columbia River communities and all the people of Oregon who are not able to catch Columbia River salmon, particularly spring Chinook. But this decision is even more significant. Arbitrary decisions by the Governor and the Commission strike a blow at sound natural resources decisions throughout the state. What fishery or seafood industry will fall next?

This resource coup is not how a democracy works. Previously, the Oregon Legislature spoke on this issue and in 2012, the people defeated Measure 81 by more than a 2 to 1 margin, yet the resource re-allocation continued. We see the same cavalier approach to wave energy on the Oregon coast—with the Governor's office and the state agencies ignoring the proper protocols in order to promote the Governor's personal environmental agenda at the expense of the fishing industry of Oregon. We would have expected the OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife would have been a strong protector of the fishing industry against this effort to take fishing grounds from an industry that is providing real jobs and awarding the grounds to immature industries with no track record and little chance of success. We are still waiting.

All the members of the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries listed above voice our strong concerns regarding the actions of both Oregon and Washington's commissioners. Your mission is not to bow to the wishes of a few self-serving interests but for all the citizens and resources they own. We can only hope your future decisions can reinstall our confidence in the commission process.

Respectfully,



Dale Beasley, President Coalition of Coastal Fisheries

/Rex Leach/, President
Coos Umpqua Crab Association

/James L Moore/, President
Oregon Alliance for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries
Charleston, Oregon

/Mike Retherford/, President
Newport Crab Marketing Association

/John Corbin/, President
Pacific Northwest Dungeness Crab Marketing Association

/Loren Goddard/ Partner
Dockside Charters - M/V Affair, M/V Samson