

Exhibit C

Columbia River Fisheries

Management: 2013 and Beyond

Public Correspondence

Received as of May 22, 2013

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

STATE OF WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 16, 2013

Phil Anderson, Director
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Anderson and Ms. Wecker:

This letter is concerning the Columbia River fisheries reorganization currently underway with Oregon. We have a short comment to make on the negotiations with Oregon, and then have a larger and ongoing issue that is the thrust of this letter.

We feel it is important, and support, removal of gill nets from the main stem of the Columbia River for commercial fishing purposes not just for spring Chinook, but for all species. Gill nets are an antiquated means of fishing. Commercial fishing should continue as a way of life on the lower Columbia River, but the process needs to be updated so that different methods are used.

However, the main concern of this letter is the division of sport catch above/below Bonneville Dam for spring Chinook. We have written to you previously on this issue, and one of the outcomes of that correspondence was a meeting held in Walla Walla on August 10 with Director Anderson. We appreciated your coming to Walla Walla and meeting with representatives from across SE Washington. To recap our concerns, Washington has 37% of salmon/steelhead anglers residing upstream of Bonneville Dam, 63% below. Yet the average sport harvest since 2001, for spring Chinook is as follows:

Eastside=12%

Westside= 86%

We recognize the population base of the state is on the Westside; however we would respectfully point that that it is NOT 86% of the angling community. And for the Snake River, since 2001, only in one year has the full allocation of its ESA impacts ever been met (and that was only because of a high water year of 2012, when turbid water conditions meant difficult sport fishing conditions below Bonneville Dam; not out of any attempt to actually match allocation with actual harvest). So even for the limited allocations the Eastside is given, those objectives are not being met, because the lower Columbia River continually "overfishes its allocation", meaning a commensurate reduction in upriver fisheries is required. We feel it is would be appropriate to look at "catch balancing" for upriver fisheries, as is done with tribal fisheries.

WALLA WALLA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING - 314 WEST MAIN
P.O. BOX 1506 • WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-0316 • wwccommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us
PHONE: (509) 524-2505 • FAX: (509) 524-2512

District No. 1
JAMES K. JOHNSON

District No. 2
PERRY L. DOZIER

District No. 3
GREGORY A. TOMPKINS

It is unacceptable that there should be such a disproportionate ratio in harvest for this fishery. That position was made known at the August 10th meeting. At that time, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber had just announced his counter-initiative to Measure 81, with his own proposal for reform of the commercial fishery in the Columbia. We were pleased that you advised that our concerns would be addressed as part of the larger process of dealing with gill net reform in the Columbia, but unfortunately that has not happened.

In addition, this division also means that the vast majority of the economic benefits of this fishery are also unfairly concentrated below Bonneville Dam. Sports fishing has a large impact on small communities on the Eastside, and that impact can be positively increased if we were given our fair share of this fishery. Providing additional fish for harvest would mean a much larger economic benefit for these small communities than that same number of fish caught below Bonneville Dam (both in a relative and actual dollar amount). And with all commercial fishing taking place below Bonneville, that means all of those economic benefits are concentrated there. From an economic standpoint, an argument can be made that more than 37% of the sport harvest should take place upriver, to balance out the commercial fishing benefits, which are all in the Lower River.

We are also aware that this division has to be negotiated with the State of Oregon. But the Eastside sports anglers in Oregon are also being short-changed by this current allocation as well; this just provides additional weight to our argument that spring Chinook sport harvest should be shifted upriver.

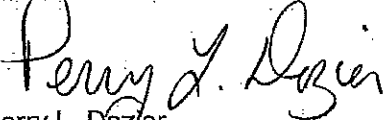
In your response, we would ask that the following questions be answered:

- When will the issue of geographic distribution of sport harvest for Columbia River Spring Chinook be addressed?
- Do you agree that 37% of the anglers should get 37% of the spring Chinook harvest? If not, then what method/criteria would you use to allocate harvest above/below Bonneville Dam?

We look forward to continuing the dialogue on this issue and resolving this matter. Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

WALLA WALLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Perry L. Dozier
Chairman

cc: Senator Mike Hewitt
Senator Linda Parlette
Representative Terry Nealey
Representative Maureen Walsh
Representative Mike Armstrong
Representative Bruce Chandler
Representative Cary Condotta
Representative Judy Warnick
Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Mike Bierley, Tri-State Steelheaders
Bobby Levy, Chair, Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission

Debbi Farrell

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:40 AM
To: Lance Thomson; Debbi Farrell
Subject: FW: WDFW Extends Barbless Hook Rule

From: Bill Bakke [mailto:bmbakke@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2013 4:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: WDFW Extends Barbless Hook Rule

What is ODFW waiting for...?



WASHINGTON EXTENDS BARBED HOOKS BAN ANOTHER 250 MILES UP THE COLUMBIA RIVER, TRIBUTARIES

Posted on Friday, April 26, 2013 (PST)

Starting May 1, anglers fishing for salmon or steelhead on the Columbia River and most of its tributaries downstream from Chief Joseph Dam will be required to use barbless hooks.

The new regulations, adopted this week by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, expand on a similar rule currently in effect on the stretch of the Columbia River that constitutes the border between Washington and Oregon.

The new rules extend the ban on barbed hooks another 250 miles upriver on the Columbia River and to dozens of its tributaries, including the Cowlitz, White Salmon, Klickitat, Snake, Yakima and Okanogan rivers.

Anglers fishing those waters will still be allowed to use single, double-point or treble hooks, so long as the barbs have been filed off or pinched down.

Jim Scott, assistant director of the WDFW Fish Program, said the new rule will contribute to ongoing efforts to minimize impacts on wild stocks while maintaining opportunities for anglers to harvest abundant hatchery fish.

“Anyone who’s ever fished with barbless hooks knows they are easier to remove from a fish’s mouth than a barbed hook,” Scott said. “That’s important in fisheries where anglers are required to release wild fish unharmed.”

Fishing regulations requiring the release of wild salmon and steelhead are common in the Columbia River basin and other Washington waters, especially in areas wild salmon and steelhead are protected by state and federal

Teri Kucera

From: Sanders Steve [steve.sanders@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 9:34 AM
To: BOWLES Ed; MYATT Nick A; ELICKER Roy; WILLIAMS Stephen H; NIGRO Tony; JENKINS William A
Cc: ADAMS Jas
Subject: FW: Letter from Ben Miller re: Columbia River Gill Net Rulemaking
Attachments: Elicker - letter dated 5-14-13 (00497488).pdf; Englund Marine Loss of Sales

From: Ben Miller [mailto:Ben.MILLER@harrang.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 9:04 AM
To: Sanders Steve
Cc: Wells Inge D
Subject: Letter from Ben Miller re: Columbia River Gill Net Rulemaking

Steve,

Attached are: 1) a response to Director Elicker's letter from yesterday and 2) written comments for today's Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee meeting from Jon Englund. Because the Director and Department are represented parties I am sending these documents to you for distribution.

Ben Miller



Ben Miller
360 East 10th Ave., Suite 300
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541.485.0220
Fax: 541.686.6564
E-mail: ben.miller@harrang.com
Website: <http://harrang.com>

The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. This message may be an attorney-client communication and/or work product, and as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.

*****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE*****

This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply e-mail, keep the contents confidential, and

immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system.



HARRANG LONG
GARY RUDNICK P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BEN MILLER
Admitted in Oregon
360 East 10th Avenue, Suite 300
Eugene, OR 97401-3273
ben.miller@harrang.com
541.485.0220
541.686.6564 (FAX)

May 14, 2013

VIA EMAIL AND MAIL TO STEVE SANDERS

Director Roy Elicker
c/o AAG Steve Sanders
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue
Salem, OR 97303

Re: Columbia River Gill Net Rulemaking

Dear Director Elicker:

I am in receipt of your recent correspondence responding to my April 19, 2013 letter to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. I note that your letter is dated May 7, but I did not receive it until May 13, less than 24 hours before the scheduled Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee meeting.

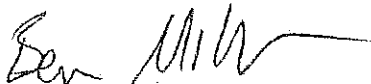
To be clear, our primary objection to the makeup of the Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee is not that economic interests affected by the rules are unrepresented, although that appears to be the case. For example, the Columbia River tribes, lower Columbia River Counties, upriver sport fishers, marina owners, and the fish-purchasing public will likely be affected by the rules. However, it appears those interests were not invited to participate as members of the Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee. Moreover, the "sport fishing representatives" are associated with two industry groups whose interest in selling tackle or memberships may not be aligned with those of individual sport fishers.

Rather, my primary objection to the Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee is that it includes agency personnel as voting members. The purpose of a Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee is to have public insight over a proposed rule. ORS 183.333(1). OAR 137-001-0087(3) requires that if an agency appoints a fiscal impact advisory committee, the agency must make a good faith effort to ensure that the committee's members represent the interests of persons likely to be

Director Roy Elicker
May 14, 2013
Page 3

objections as a basis to argue the Fiscal Impact Statement is not subject to challenge, please let me know so I may petition the Commission for additional time to file objections or prepare a petition for review in other than a contested case in response to your letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Miller

BJM:pam

Cc AAG Inge Wells (via mail and email)

00497421.1

Teri Kucera

From: Jon A. Englund [JEnglund@englundmarine.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 8:57 AM
To: Ben Miller
Subject: Englund Marine Loss of Sales

Dear Mr. Miller,

Due to the uncertainty of the future of the Columbia River commercial fishery our sales dropped here in Astoria approximately \$250,000 in the first six months. Our other stores located along the coast are not showing losses. This drop in sales is driven by the reluctance of our customers here along the river to invest and maintain their equipment, keeping them from purchasing new gear.

Sincerely,

Jon Englund
Chairman of the Board
Englund Marine & Industrial Supply
jenglund@englundmarine.com
503-325-4345



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber MD., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Division

3406 Cherry Avenue NE

Salem, OR 97303

(503) 947-6200

FAX (503) 947-6202

Internet: www.dfw.state.or.us

May 16, 2013



Mr. Buzz Ramsey
Yakima Bait Company
P.O. Box 195
Klickitat, WA 98628

Dear Mr. Ramsey,

I am writing in response to your recent letter expressing your concerns about the barbless hook rule adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) on December 7, 2012.

The rule is part of a more comprehensive Columbia River fisheries management policy developed in cooperation with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. As such, it is subject to periodic review under the adaptive management approach endorsed by both Commissions. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have committed to work together to annually assess key elements of the policy and will regularly report to the Commissions on whether the intent of the policy is being met.

ODFW and WDFW staff anticipate great interest in discussions they will have with their Commissions regarding effects of the barbless hook rule on the anglers ability to land fish, on recreational anglers' ability to harvest hatchery fish, and on law enforcement. Consequently we will provide public notice well in advance of any discussions we would expect to have with the Commissions about this issue at their periodic review. We will be very interested in your input at the annual review, which I anticipate will occur at the end of this year or early next year. We very much appreciate your interest in issues of vital importance to the protection and restoration of Columbia River fish populations and the important fisheries that rely on them.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Williams
Assistant Administrator, Fish Division

Cc: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Mr. Roy Elicker

Mr. Ed Bowles

Mr. Tony Nigro

I am writing you this letter, to notify and put into perspective, the alarming situation, regarding our fisheries.

It has been brought to my attention that anglers of all skill level are reporting alarmingly low- landing rates of hatchery fish. This in part is due to the new barbless hook rule, which went into effect this year.

The concern that I have (and you should as well) is that the spring Chinook run is 80% hatchery fish. This very high rate of hatchery fish drastically reduces angler interaction with native fish. The spring Chinook release mortality rate is around 10% and will not change with the new barbless hook rule. Scientifically it makes no difference whether or not the hook has a barb. However, retention does change with barbs.

To put this into perspective; the angler has a 20% chance of hooking a native fish that will be released with a 90% survival rate; then why the need for barbless hooks?

There have been multiple hook studies, some supported by the DFW, all of which prove *it is not the barb on the hook* but rather *the placement of the hook* that determines survival rates.

The DFW supported the Toman Study, which is well recognized and backs up these statements.

Please realize these are scientific facts that are simply being ignored. They are ignored by those making decisions based on personal emotion and not by what is best for OUR fisheries.

Again, the main reason for this letter is to create awareness concerning the alarming number of hatchery fish being lost; lost largely due to the new barbless hook rule. This extremely urgent situation is allowing a significant increase in the survival rate of hatchery fish; which is causing hatchery fish to have increased interaction with native fish and the native fish habitat. This significant increase in the survival rate of hatchery fish could translate into hatchery fish spawning with the native fish. This increased interaction could pose a serious threat to the already suffering genetics of our native fish population.

I am requesting to have the new barbless hook rule reviewed and removed. Please acknowledge the native fish concern as well as sports angler participation. This ruling has caused considerable harm for both the fish and sports anglers.

(I feel that it is important to know, that I am not affiliated with any group or organization, other than volunteering my time and money to being on the Columbia River Advisory Group, endorsed and supported by ODFW, WDFW & IDFW.)

Thanks for your support with this dire concern.

Regards,
Robert Moxley
Columbia River Advisory (Representative)
northriverscout139@gmail.com

Debbi Farrell

From: Ben Morrison <potterpdx@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:45 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: SIWA

ODFW Commissioners,

We recently became aware that the ODFW has made rabbit hunting illegal on Sauvie's Island. As long time anglers and a new hunters of Oregon, we find the measures the ODFW has taken to limit, reduce and revoke fishing and hunting privileges to the owners and tax payers of the State of Oregon astounding. Especially considering that gill netting is still allowed in the State of Oregon. Hunts like rabbit and water fowl in close proximity to the city like the SIWA units are vital to the new and avid hunter alike. Fishing holes and boundaries are enforced As a part owner of the wealth of wildlife of our region, we implore you the ODFW commissioners to reexamine the needs of the residents of the State of Oregon, who are the true owners of the wildlife you are charged to manage.

We bring up the gill netting issue in this email because our family trip was ruined last year when we tried to fish the sloughs towards Astoria. A gill netter began fishing early and pulled his net right passed the boundary poaching the sport angling hole. When we called the State Police Department, not only did they fail to respond to our complaint, but they did not even know the law. They also acted as if we did not know the law, so we quoted the law, and gave the officer the web address where he could find the regulations regarding commercial salmon fishing in the slough. They still failed to respond to our call or ticket the out of State gill netter from Alaska who poached our hole. If we had been out of State anglers, paying the extremely high cost the ODFW charges to fish in our State, we would never have come back to fish in Oregon again. In fact the whole situation made our family ashamed to call ourselves Oregonians. There were probably a dozen families fishing that section of the slough that day who had their trip ruined by one greedy poacher from Alaska.

Sincerely,
Life long residents of the State of Oregon
The Morrison Family

Debbi Farrell

From: David Fogle <david102705@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 10:56 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Governor's directive

Dear ODFW Commission,

Thank you so much for undertaking rulemaking to change management of lower Columbia River fisheries.

Now that Gov. Kitzhaber has announced his vision for the Columbia, and ODFW has undertaken rulemaking to move it forward, I whole-heartedly support you and the agency in this effort. I believe the Governor's directive as presented to you is an outstanding solution that protects wild fish, increases sportfishing seasons and catch, while at the same time protecting commercial fishing interests. If you implement the Governor's directive in full, it will be a huge win for wild salmon conservation, sportfishing and the Oregon economy.

I respectfully ask that you implement the Governor's plan fully and act quickly to implement it. I also encourage you to work with the state of Washington to enact similar rule-making across the river.

Sincerely,
David Fogle

david102705@gmail.com
molalla, OR

Debbi Farrell

From: Linda Jones <catslady3@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support Governor Kitzhaber's Gillnets Compromise

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the Columbia River.

Gillnets are an inherently non-selective fishing practice. Mesh sizes small enough to capture hatchery salmon are also small enough to capture salmon from endangered wild runs. As you're no doubt aware, the Columbia River is home to dozens of different runs of wild salmon and steelhead, including 13 runs listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The indiscriminate nature of gillnets means other native fish, including the Columbia River's declining population of white sturgeon, are needlessly captured, injured and often killed. In addition, gillnets can entangle diving birds, otters, beavers and other wildlife, causing them to drown after prolonged suffering.

This is especially true of gillnets abandoned by their users after being snagged or lost in the river. The plastic filament which nets are made of can take decades to decompose, meaning these "ghost nets" indiscriminately capture and kill Columbia River fish and wildlife for years after they are lost.

Governor Kitzhaber has offered a compromise plan for addressing the problems caused by commercial gill-netting on the Columbia River, including several principles which I support:

- The phasing out of non-tribal commercial gillnets in the mainstem of the Columbia River. Commercial gillnets would be moved to select, off channel "safe" zones where harm to non-target species would be significantly reduced.
- Development of more selective fishing gear for mainstem commercial fisheries, which would allow for a vibrant and sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia while minimizing harm to threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead, and reducing harm to non-target fish and wildlife.
- Requirements for commercial fishing operations on the Columbia and off-channel areas to report lost nets to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a timely fashion, and clearly tag and label their nets as a means of enforcing the reporting requirement.

Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal is a step forward in resolving decades of conflict over gillnets on the Columbia River. It offers Oregon the chance to advance the protection and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs, conserve other native fish and wildlife and maintain a sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia River.

Please adopt a rule which would enact Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the lower Columbia River.

Thank you,

Linda Jones
1349 Hollowell St
Ontario, CA 91762

Debbi Farrell

From: Andrea Fleming <FlemingTA@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:52 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support Governor Kitzhaber's Gillnets Compromise

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the Columbia River.

Gillnets are an inherently non-selective fishing practice. Mesh sizes small enough to capture hatchery salmon are also small enough to capture salmon from endangered wild runs. As you're no doubt aware, the Columbia River is home to dozens of different runs of wild salmon and steelhead, including 13 runs listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The indiscriminate nature of gillnets means other native fish, including the Columbia River's declining population of white sturgeon, are needlessly captured, injured and often killed. In addition, gillnets can entangle diving birds, otters, beavers and other wildlife, causing them to drown after prolonged suffering.

This is especially true of gillnets abandoned by their users after being snagged or lost in the river. The plastic filament which nets are made of can take decades to decompose, meaning these "ghost nets" indiscriminately capture and kill Columbia River fish and wildlife for years after they are lost.

Governor Kitzhaber has offered a compromise plan for addressing the problems caused by commercial gill-netting on the Columbia River, including several principles which I support:

- The phasing out of non-tribal commercial gillnets in the mainstem of the Columbia River. Commercial gillnets would be moved to select, off channel "safe" zones where harm to non-target species would be significantly reduced.
- Development of more selective fishing gear for mainstem commercial fisheries, which would allow for a vibrant and sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia while minimizing harm to threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead, and reducing harm to non-target fish and wildlife.
- Requirements for commercial fishing operations on the Columbia and off-channel areas to report lost nets to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a timely fashion, and clearly tag and label their nets as a means of enforcing the reporting requirement.

Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal is a step forward in resolving decades of conflict over gillnets on the Columbia River. It offers Oregon the chance to advance the protection and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs, conserve other native fish and wildlife and maintain a sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia River.

Please adopt a rule which would enact Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the lower Columbia River.

Thank you,

Andrea Fleming
50 Bryan Dr
Richboro, PA 18954

Debbi Farrell

From: Ricardo Moreira <rasm16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 3:32 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support the Governor's Gillnets Compromise

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the Columbia River.

Gillnets are an inherently non-selective fishing practice. Mesh sizes small enough to capture hatchery salmon are also small enough to also capture salmon from endangered wild runs. The Columbia River is home to dozens of different runs of wild salmon and steelhead, including 13 runs listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The indiscriminate nature of gillnets means other native fish, like the Columbia's declining population of white sturgeon, are needlessly captured, injured and often killed. In addition, gillnets can entangle diving birds, otters, beavers and other wildlife, causing them to drown after prolonged suffering. This is especially true of gillnets abandoned by their users after being snagged or lost in the river. The plastic filament which nets are made of can take decades to decompose, meaning these "ghost nets" indiscriminately capture and kill Columbia River fish and wildlife for years after they are lost.

Governor Kitzhaber has offered a compromise plan for addressing the problems caused by commercial gill-netting on the Columbia River, including several principles I support:

- The phase out of non-tribal commercial gillnets in the mainstem of the Columbia River. Commercial gillnets would be moved to select, off channel 'safe' zones where harm to non-target species would be greatly reduced.
- Development of more selective fishing gear for mainstem commercial fisheries, which would allow for a vibrant and sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia while minimizing harm to threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead and reducing harm to non-target fish and wildlife.
- Requirements for commercial fishing operations on the Columbia and off-channel areas to report lost nets to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a timely fashion and clearly tag and label their nets as a means of enforcing the reporting requirement.

Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal is a step forward in resolving decades of conflict over gillnets on the Columbia River. It offers Oregon the chance to advance the protection and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs, conserve other native fish and wildlife and maintain a sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia River.

Please adopt a rule which would enact Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the lower Columbia River.

Thank you,

Ricardo Moreira
Rua Alminhas
Porto, ot 4410-247

Debbi Farrell

From: isabel smirnoff <isabel1729@orange.fr>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 5:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support the Governor's Gillnets Compromise

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the Columbia River.

Gillnets are an inherently non-selective fishing practice. Mesh sizes small enough to capture hatchery salmon are also small enough to also capture salmon from endangered wild runs. The Columbia River is home to dozens of different runs of wild salmon and steelhead, including 13 runs listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The indiscriminate nature of gillnets means other native fish, like the Columbia's declining population of white sturgeon, are needlessly captured, injured and often killed. In addition, gillnets can entangle diving birds, otters, beavers and other wildlife, causing them to drown after prolonged suffering. This is especially true of gillnets abandoned by their users after being snagged or lost in the river. The plastic filament which nets are made of can take decades to decompose, meaning these "ghost nets" indiscriminately capture and kill Columbia River fish and wildlife for years after they are lost.

Governor Kitzhaber has offered a compromise plan for addressing the problems caused by commercial gill-netting on the Columbia River, including several principles I support:

- The phase out of non-tribal commercial gillnets in the mainstem of the Columbia River. Commercial gillnets would be moved to select, off channel 'safe' zones where harm to non-target species would be greatly reduced.
- Development of more selective fishing gear for mainstem commercial fisheries, which would allow for a vibrant and sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia while minimizing harm to threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead and reducing harm to non-target fish and wildlife.
- Requirements for commercial fishing operations on the Columbia and off-channel areas to report lost nets to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a timely fashion and clearly tag and label their nets as a means of enforcing the reporting requirement.

Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal is a step forward in resolving decades of conflict over gillnets on the Columbia River. It offers Oregon the chance to advance the protection and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs, conserve other native fish and wildlife and maintain a sustainable commercial fishing industry on the Columbia River.

Please adopt a rule which would enact Governor Kitzhaber's compromise proposal to reform the use of gillnets for non-tribal commercial fishing on the lower Columbia River.

Thank you,

isabel smirnoff
19 rue barnold
pierrefitte sur seine, WI 93380