

**Exhibit E**  
**2014 Coastal Salmon Fisheries**  
**Regulations**

**Supplemental Public Correspondence**

**Public correspondence received**  
**as of August 1, 2014**

## **Amanda Mckenzie**

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**From:** Todd Confer  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2014 2:10 PM  
**To:** Chris Kern  
**Cc:** Amanda Mckenzie  
**Subject:** August Commission Mtg Re: Comments on Proposed 2014 Temporary Rules

Hi Chris:

I have received one comment regarding proposed 2014 temporary regulations.

The one comment received was verbal and is summarized below:

Constituent is opposed to proposed Winchuck closure. Rationale – believes our 2013 escapement estimate undercounted escapement, as a result our 2014 forecast is too low, and escapement is likely to be well above conservation status.

Todd

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## Editorial: Reality foils Kitzhaber's gillnet assumption

Posted: Monday, July 21, 2014 3:58 pm

Reality often disappoints politics. That is the case with Gov. John Kitzhaber's plan to substitute seine nets for gillnet fishing at the mouth of the Columbia River. An ongoing experiment that is seeking to test whether seine nets would be safer for wild-spawning salmon is so far failing to live up to political hopes.

Gov. John Kitzhaber and others pushing for an end to gillnetting in the main stem of the Columbia River were hoping seines would be markedly better, by essentially corralling fish and allowing fishermen to sort through them and release non-hatchery salmon. If this worked, it might mean longer and more generous sports fishing seasons, since fewer federally protected fish would be inadvertently killed during commercial harvests.

Results to date show that tangle nets deployed by gillnetters so far appear to be the best option, while even old-fashioned gillnets are basically little worse than modern seines. Complete data comparing three net options are contained in Katie Wilson's article in today's edition.

In August, a new round of experimental seining will begin between Buoy 10 and Beacon Rock — most of the river between its mouth and Bonneville Dam. This will go a long way toward determining whether seining is a false hope for gillnetting opponents.

Even if seining were to result in fewer impacts to naturally spawning salmon, a switch to a radically different form of fishing would have severe human impacts.

This latest struggle harkens back to debates — and to literally bloody fights — that raged on the Columbia in the late-19th and early-20th centuries between practitioners of different fishing methods. Seines, fish traps and fish wheels were some of the menu of options available for harvesting salmon runs. Dominated by different communities, ethnic groups and other divisions, these types of fishing were gradually outlawed or sharply curtailed. River-based seining was banned by citizen initiative in 1948.

Gillnetting survived and still is a key source of income for some area families, as well as the main way in which most residents of the Lower Columbia are able to put locally caught salmon on our dinner tables. Fishing families have decades of effort invested in gillnetting boats and gear, which will be made obsolete if the states continue with their flip-flop back to seining.

Carefully tailored to preserve both coastal jobs and native salmon, gillnetting certainly isn't the huge economic contributor it was from the 1870s to the 1970s. But in our area where any good-paying work can't be taken for granted, the residual salmon-fishing industry makes a real difference in the

lives of hundreds of people.

In addition to seining, the states hope to make this authoritarian decision more palatable by creating additional net-pen fisheries such as the one in Young's Bay. These rely on salmon that are raised in off-channel sites and which return from ocean migrations specifically intended for commercial harvest. One such additional net-pen area, in the narrow Cathlamet Channel that separates Puget Island from the Washington mainland, is reportedly showing some promise. But there simply are nowhere near enough such sites to replace the main waters of the Columbia from which the fleet is being evicted.

There is still time for Oregon and Washington to acknowledge their mistake, and work with gillnetters to perfect tangle net and other technologies — such as on-board tanks that allow native salmon to recover before being released. Politicians were foolish to interject themselves into this surviving element of Pacific Northwest heritage. We should all be cooperating to help commercial fishing survive, not throwing additional obstacles in its path.