

## **Exhibit (C)**

# **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Overview, STEP Advisory Committee Membership Reduction and Territory Realignment**

**Supplemental  
Public Correspondence received  
as of November 12, 2020**

**Lisa Kingsley**

---

**From:** Oregon Anglers Alliance <OregonAnglersAlliance@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Show-casing the Oregon South Coast Fishermen/ STEP  
**Attachments:** Newsletter 1 July 2019.pdf

I sent this document earlier, but received an email reply about Michelle not being available. I am hopeful that you could distribute this document to all Commissioners and any other pertinent parties before Fridays Commission meeting. This illustrates what the South Coast STEP program is all about.

Thank you,  
Leonard Krug  
President, Oregon Anglers Alliance



July 2019

Since 1975, the **Oregon South Coast Fishermen** have been working to protect, enhance, and monitor our local fisheries. We work in partnership with the ODFW to promote Education through Habitat, Hatcheries, and Harvest.

Working under the direction of South Coast Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) biologist John Weber, this collaborative effort between the State and the volunteer public, has resulted in not only improved fisheries through ongoing monitoring and enhancement programs, but at the same time, has accomplished a very special “pride of ownership” through community education and participation. The following are just a few of the ongoing projects that help to make this South Coast STEP chapter the exemplary model for the State of Oregon.



**“Reel Fishing Daze”**- every third-grade student in Curry Co. enjoys a habitat, riparian and fishing education class at Arizona pond. (In cooperation with The Curry Watershed Council and the Curry Anadromous Fishermen.)

**Eggs to Fry Program**- the Brookings Kalmiopsis school celebrates the science of hatching, rearing, and finally releasing salmon into the Chetco river.





**Chetco River Steelhead Project-** the Chetco river hatchery program is one of only two steelhead hatchery programs in this beautiful area. 100% of the broodstock are caught and donated by the angling public. The result is a community with a genuine “Pride of Ownership.”

**Chetco River Fall Chinook Project-** This Chetco River population of Salmon has long been a favorite with the angling public, due to their robust numbers, as well as their much larger than average size. The OSCF conduct carcass counts, scale samples, acclimate smolt in Ferry Creek before releasing them, and collect broodstock from the river with their locally famous annual “Salmon Rodeo.” Hundreds from the community gather together to assist in collection, or to just watch the fun.



**Winchuck River Study-** for the last 25 years, this ongoing monitoring provides valuable data that is manned almost exclusively by volunteers. By calculating species abundance year to year, this project gives us insight to not only just the Winchuck population dynamics, but also acts as a barometer for other area streams as well.

**Chetco river salmon smolt survey-** this entails seining the estuary several times each June to count and measure the number of out-migrant juvenile salmon in order to better understand survival rates, and continues to provide a history of our salmon runs.





**Azalea Festival kids fishing ponds-** Memorial Day weekend is the annual Azalea parade where kids are excited to get in line at the Oregon South Coast Fishermen's big top, and await their turn to enter the trout ponds, and catch rainbow trout. This event is free to the public, and has been a favorite for several generations.



**More than just a club-** the Oregon South Coast Fishermen help in many more ways. We assist in creating fishing seasons and harvest allocations, provide and improve public access for fishing, and work on habitat improvement projects with a diverse number of both private and public organizations. We provide monthly general meetings that are free to the public, many of which result in standing room only, with featured presentations from a host of professional and entertaining speakers.

**Our Fisheries management strategies are being challenged as never before!**

John Weber and the South Coast volunteers are diligent in going about the important work of protecting and improving our precious natural resources. The Salmon Trout Enhancement Program is key when it comes to ensuring that the core values of education, Habitat, Hatcheries, and Harvest remain a part of our management strategies for future generations to enjoy.

## Lisa Kingsley

---

**From:** Michelle Dennehy <Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Cc:** Kevin Herkamp  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW Meeting for Friday, November 13  
**Attachments:** ODFW for STAC.docx

---

**From:** Adrienne &/or Cliff <adrienne.cliff@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:44 PM  
**To:** Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW Meeting for Friday, November 13

Dear Michelle.

Please see that the necessary steps and people involved in the STAC proposal get this piece of my mind.

Thank you very much,

Cliff Lance

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

93963 Bridge View Lane  
North Bend, OR 97459-9303

[Adrienne.cliff@charter.net](mailto:Adrienne.cliff@charter.net)

10 November, 2020

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission:

I respectfully **OPPOSE the proposal to reduce** our Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) from 13 to 7 total members.

By reducing the number of positions, you are reducing the effectiveness of this STAC group as a whole. You are thus undermining an invaluable resource for our fisheries management. Also vital, this action would undermine the groundwork for fisheries' restoration and education, which imparts real and precious resource ownership and advocacy into the future – an incalculable investment.

Our STEP Program takes thousands of dollars, adds countless volunteer hours, and produces MILLIONS of dollars of fish. Clearly, this is the best bang for anyone's buck!

The STAC organization has been in place and operating for 40 years now, investigating, learning, advising, directing our wonderful fisheries - these fisheries that it helped to create and sustain! Let us keep this good thing going with our support. Do not vote to reduce the members of this valued committee!

Respectfully,

Cliff Lance

\*Coos County STEP Commission, Board Member

\*South Coast Anglers & STEP Association, Board Member

\*Oregon Anglers Alliance, Director

## Lisa Kingsley

---

**From:** Michelle Dennehy <Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:30 PM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Cc:** Kevin Herkamp; Michelle Tate  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery  
**Attachments:** Dear ODFW Commissioners.doc.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Forwarded to Fish

Passing this on

**From:** Jesse Nolan <nolanjesse707@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Letter from Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

Good afternoon,

I'm submitting a letter from the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery Board of Directors that explains our opposition to the proposed change to STAC representation.

Thank you for your time,  
Jesse Nolan



**Board of Directors:**

**Mike Coopman**

**Jaytuk Steinruck**

**Robert Westbrook**

**Debbie Boardman**

**Jesse Nolan**

**Erika Partee**

**Cari Nelson**

**In Partnership with:**



**Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation**  
140 Rowdy Creek Rd.  
Smith River, CA 95567-9525  
Phone: 707.487.9255  
Fax: 707.487.0930

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

We, the Board of Directors of the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery, urge you to deny the proposal to reduce the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) from 13 members to 7 members. We understand that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted state agency budgets, but feel that the value provided at the current staffing level of STAC far outweighs the costs incurred. Travel costs incurred by STAC members in 2019, which are the crux of this proposal presented to you, have likely been reduced due to the current trend of meeting via teleconference or other media.

Since its inception in 1981 the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), and its governor appointed advisory body STAC, have produced tremendous benefits for salmon and steelhead populations throughout Oregon. The volunteer efforts that form the backbone of the STEP program encompass a wide range of activities – from outreach and education to habitat improvement and fish culture. The value of volunteer work conducted during the 39 years of the program is estimated at \$139,000,000 dollars, a truly impressive total. Volunteers, working with regional ODFW STEP biologists who provide guidance and technical expertise, form a partnership that has a proven track record of success. In its latest annual report, covering 2018-2019, the STEP program generated the equivalent of 36 full time employee (FTE) positions, representing an estimated value of \$2,650,000 dollars. This level of volunteering shows that the program is performing as intended, and is certainly working towards the STEP/STAC stated goal of 'achieving the recovery and sustainability of the state's native salmon and trout through the education of Oregon citizens and their involvement with fish management efforts.'

A large part of the successes attributed to the STEP/STAC program can be credited to the relationships formed between regional ODFW biologists, local STAC representatives and the community based volunteer groups. Our neighboring region to the north, the Lower Rogue, provides an excellent example of this type of cooperative – ODFW STEP biologist John Weber has teamed up with both the Oregon South Coast Fishermen and the Curry Anadromous Fishermen to provide meaningful benefits to the salmonid populations throughout Oregon's south coast. John's relationship with these local volunteer groups is what makes this program a success. We feel that reducing the number of STAC appointees will negatively impact the formation of these regionally based partnerships, which will lead to decreases in the productivity of the program.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has led many people to find new ways to recreate, and fishing has surged in popularity in many areas across the country. The opportunities available to anglers, both those new to the sport as well as those who participate regularly, would benefit by having the STEP/STAC program continue to operate in its current form.

Thank you for your time,

**Mike Coopman**

## Lisa Kingsley

---

**From:** Michelle Dennehy <Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Ron Morro; odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** RE: Proposal

Passing this on to the commission

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ron Morro <ronm39@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Proposal

Please deny the effort to reduce Step, Stac. We need our Step biologist for maintaining and enhancing our rivers and hatchery. Both the Rogue and Chetco rivers are necessary for our communities. Thank you, Ronald P. Morro

Sent from my iPad

ODFW Commissioners and Staff:

I am a former member of the STAC Advisory Committee for 2 terms from 2003 to 2011 representing the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille basins. I am very familiar with the areas in question, including the Umpqua River and Siuslaw Rivers, and also with the STEP groups from Port Orford to Brookings. Based on my experience, I recommend rejecting the proposal to change the STEP Advisory Committee from 13 members to 7 members.

The STEP Advisory Committee should remain at 13 for the following reasons:

STAC representatives are the source of information for the STEP program and its groups to the Governor. To provide this information requires the STAC representative to be present for STEP meetings and work activities at various times and places within their area of responsibility. The area encompassed between Tenmile, Coos, and Coquille is a very large with 2 rivers and 1 lake system served by 3 to 4 STEP groups. The area south of Bandon to Brookings also includes multiple rivers and a distance of at least 100 miles or more from the Tenmile basin. With such a wide area to serve and so many groups within it, it would be an impossible task for only 1 STAC member to fulfill their obligation to the Governor. Furthermore, a STAC representative is a volunteer and is not paid for his time, given a *per diem*, or compensated for mileage when meeting with those they represent. These areas are some of our most productive STEP groups who put many hours of volunteer labor into the Governor's ODFW resources, and they would not be served or properly represented if a single STAC member were available.

This holds true for the other areas of STAC representatives but this is especially true of the Coastal areas. For years the Upper and Lower Umpqua River STAC representative lived near Roseburg, a distance of well over 60 miles from the Gardener, Reedsport, and Winchester Bay STEP groups on the Coast. This is too much territory for a single representative to be effective, and it is unacceptable to ignore the needs of these groups.

I would like to also point out that during my term as a STAC member we were able get an eastern Oregon STAC representative and a STEP Biologist. It took many years and hard work to achieve this . If we lose any STAC representatives it will take far too many years to reclaim, if we could be able to to regain them at all.

If travel expenses are the reason for this proposed change, I would submit that by having 2 meetings a year and 2 or more Zoom sessions or other virtual meeting methods, we could defray those costs. We would be far more accountable to our state citizens and our STEP Volunteers by these methods than by eliminating our communications between these volunteers, ODFW, and the Governor's office.

Please REJECT the motion to reduce the STEP Advisory Committee from 13 members to 7 members.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Armand Pena

## Lisa Kingsley

---

**From:** Reese Bender <striperfisher1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 8:11 AM  
**To:** Valerie Pena  
**Cc:** ODFW Commission; Curt Bennett; Curt Bennett; Adrienne & Cliff Lance  
**Subject:** Re: Comment on Exhibit C STAC

Thanks Armand and Valerie. Great letter. Hopefully, all of our letters will make a difference.

Reese

On Nov 10, 2020, at 4:47 PM, Valerie Pena <[vgpena77@gmail.com](mailto:vgpena77@gmail.com)> wrote:

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

<ODFW STAC Letter 11-10-20.pdf>