



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 5, 2013

Good morning. For the record, my name is Jim Myron and I represent the Native Fish Society. I have been a registered lobbyist in Oregon since the 1989 session of the Oregon Legislature, working primarily on fish and water-related issues in a variety of roles both in and out of state government.

The Native Fish Society was founded in 1995 with the mission of protecting and restoring wild native fish and their habitats, with a particular focus on the reform of the hatchery production system and harvest management regimes. We implement our wild fish advocacy at the local level through our River Steward program, a group of sixty volunteers throughout the Pacific Northwest who have adopted and advocate for the native fish in their local rivers. Our small staff located in Oregon City works to challenge the status quo through judicial, administrative and legislative avenues.

During the 2013 session of the Oregon Legislature, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee will have the opportunity to discuss and act on a number of bills that directly relate to the future status of Oregon's wild native fish populations. As you deliberate over these important issues, we would encourage you to adopt the long-term sustainability of our valuable native fish populations as your primary goal. This approach to the bills you deliberate on will help to carry out the legislatively mandated State Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012), which directs the state "to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species."

Implementing the following objectives will help to bring us toward the goal of the long-term sustainability of our native fish resources:

- * Hatchery Management

Manage hatchery salmon and steelhead to prevent them from spawning in the wild with native fish.

- * Harvest Levels

Assure that harvest levels allow an adequate number of wild fish to return to their home streams to spawn.

- * Fish Habitat

Manage land and water resources to provide optimum conditions for the recovery of wild native fish.

During this session of the legislature, the Native Fish Society's priorities will be to support proposed legislation that assists in reaching the above goal and objectives and to oppose legislation that does not.

A few examples of bills that have been introduced that we will support include:

HB 2396 Management of large wood in streams

HB 2401 Protecting salmon and steelhead spawning beds

` HB 2530 Prohibiting the import of genetically engineered fish

Thank you for the opportunity to come before the committee today and we look forward to an interesting and productive session.