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Oregon Anglers is an all-volunteer organization that works with independent fishing clubs and individuals from the Cascades to the Coast, and Astoria to Gold Beach. OARS is a 501 C-3 that helps fund fishery education and research.

I'm here representing all those interested fishermen and fisherwomen who felt they had no voice in fishery decisions. Also I'm here for my executive board members: our president Tony Meeker, who chaired this very committee before moving into the Senate, and then served as our State Treasurer; Fred VanNatta, who most recently chaired the Oregon State Capitol Foundation; and John Holloway who is the founder of RFA Oregon, Oregon Anglers marine division.

Our main goal is to use a blend of good science and common sense to find ways to meet the needs of our ever expanding population, and the wildlife with which we co-exist. We believe in win-win compromises, that can actually gets things done. We are very sensitive to the economic intertie between fishing and many of our small communities.

I have personally participated in the development of the Native Fish Conservation Policy, the Coastal Coho Recovery Plan, Oregon's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, and the Upper Willamette Basin Plan. I currently serve on the Oregon Hatchery Research Center's Stakeholder Advisory Board, where I've served two years as chair. I also am the sports fishing representative on the Feds' Pinniped / Fishery Interaction Task Force.

Those of us on the task force, and sports fishermen in general, are eagerly awaiting the de-listing of Stellar Sea Lions by the feds so we can do something about the crash of the sturgeon population in the Columbia due to heavy predation. ODFW is also are conducting the third year of hazing at Willamette Falls, a prelude to moving onto measures that can be more effective at saving endangered runs of wild steelhead and spring Chinook salmon.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center has contracted with the Army Corps of Engineers to produce surrogate wild spring Chinook for the needed testing of downstream migration mortality at dams in the Willamette Valley. The mission of the OHRC is to understand the mechanisms that may create differences between hatchery and wild salmon and steelhead. Those differences are actually quite minor now that ODFW has started using wild broodstock in their hatchery spawning. Dr. David Noakes, our lead scientist, has told me he would be glad to come and speak to this, or any interested committee. If you haven't been down to the OHRC, it is amazing.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Dennis Richey'.

