

Barbara Trout  
Rockaway Beach

THANK YOU FOR HEARING SENATE BILL 1025. IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THE SHELLFISH HARVEST SITUATION IN TILLAMOOK BAY. THE DASH THREE AMENDMENTS WERE DEVELOPED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TESTIMONY OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL CLAMMERS.

SECTION 2 NOW EXCLUDES CLAMMING IN THE GHOST HOLE FISHING AREA ONLY DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, THIS IS TO AVOID CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIVE BOATS AND THE HUNDREDS OF BOATS THAT FISH IN THAT AREA DURING THE PEAK OF THE FALL CHINOOK SALMON SEASON.

SECTION 3: ASKS THE DEPARTMENT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF INTERTIDAL ZONE PERMITS THAT ARE ISSUED. THIS CONCERN WAS RAISED NUMEROUS TIMES BY THE COMMERCIAL CLAMMERS. THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY LIMITS THE SUB-TIDAL OR DIVE PERMITS, BUT DOES NOT LIMIT THE INTERTIDAL PERMITS. THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY RULE MAKING

AN ADDITION TO SECTION 3 IS THE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY AND CLOSE TO COMMERCIAL HARVEST 10-20 PERCENT OF SAND BARS IN TILLMAOOK

BAY TO ALLOW OPPORTUNITY FOR RECREATIONAL CLAMMERS. ACCORDING TO ODFW COMMERCIAL PERMITS, LICENSES AND LANDING FEES ACCOUNTED FOR 800 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE LAST BIENNIUM. DURING THE SAME PERIOD RECREATIONAL SHELLFISH HARVEST LICENSE SALES TOTALED MORE THAN 3.7 MILLION DOLLARS.

SECTION 4 HAS BEEN AMENDED TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SURVEYS WHEN COMMERCIAL HARVEST LEVELS EXCEED 70 PERCENT---INSTEAD OF 45 PERCENT--- OF THE STATE TOTAL IN ONE ESTUARY FOR 3 OUT OF 6 YEARS. EVERY INTEREST TESTIFIED THAT MORE SURVEYS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MANAGING THIS RESOURCE FOR ITS SUSTAINABILITY. AS MENTIONED, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED OVER 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS LAST BIENNIUM FROM SHELLFISH LICENSING AND PERMITS WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL SURVEYS IN THE MOST HEAVILY USED AREAS.

SECTION 6 UNDERSTANDING THE TIME AND EFFORT A SURVEY TAKES, THE TILLAMOOK BAY SURVEY COMPLETION DATE WAS MOVED FROM 2020 TO 2021.

SECTION 7: NOW REQUESTS THAT ODFW ESTABLISH AND OREGON BAY CLAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS A SUGGESTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT, AND BOTH COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL CLAMMERS AGREE IT IS A GOOD ONE. THIS COMMITTEE WOULD CREATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG STAKEHOLDERS AND REDUCE CONFLICTS GOING FORWARD. I WOULD HOPE THE COMMITTEE COULD BEGIN MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AND INPUT FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 9 : THE PRICE OF THE NON-RESIDENT COMMERCIAL CLAMMING PERMIT IS REDUCED IN KEEPING WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO AVOID LITIGATION BY CHARGING MORE THAN THE ADDITIONAL 50 DOLLARS PER NON-RESIDENT LICENSE.

I HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT THIS BILL AND INCREASING SURVEYS OF THE SHELLFISH RESOURCE. IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASED COMMERCIAL HARVEST PRESSURE, CLIMATE CHANGE, OCEAN ACIDIFICATION, POLLUTION AND OTHER IMPACTS SEEM TO INDICATE MORE DATA WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THIS NATURAL RESOURCE.