

Please help pass this Bill! Steelhead and salmon runs across Oregon have slowly been depressed, due to the damming of rivers, deforestation, climate change, and cut backs of hatchery programs.

The cutback of hatchery programs have been made, because of certain studies that show said hatchery programs are a detriment to native fish populations.

Hatch box programs are the perfect way to get hatchery produced eggs into the stream bed, and the progeny produced by said program will exhibit all the traits of native fish, and help strengthen the runs, as well as getting more fish to spawn in river.

It will also help with stream nutrients, as the unharvested hatch box produced fish will spawn and then die, adding to the carcasses that provide said nutrients to the river. This helps the riparian habitat, the fixing of marine nutrients essential to bug hatches, which in turn help feed the young fry, Parr, and smolt of salmon and steelhead, both hatchery produced and natively produced. This will increase survival of these fish, which will help with feeding marine life, help with angler harvest, help with commercial harvest, and help provide more spawning stock for these depressed runs.

The winter of 2020/2021 has shown that these runs, especially winter steelhead, are not faring well. Humans have degraded the conditions which these fish are dependent upon for survival, do it only seems fair and moral that us humans do what we can to ensure their continued survival.

Recreational angling contributes a good deal of money to the Oregon economy, and provides the sustenance to hundreds of professional guides and charter captains, and therefore their families. It also stimulates the economy in different sectors such as: Lodging, gas stations, boat builders, tackle builders, tackle shops, grocery stores, restaurants, seafood processing, and directly stimulates the general fund through license purchases, both through ODFW and, in the case of guides and charter captains, operating licenses and marine boars payments. Make no mistake, salmon and steelhead are of great economic importance to Oregon and Oregonians, in a way that stocker trout and warm water fisheries cannot be.

Please, I implore my government to consider the importance of the passing HB 3150 is to Oregonians at large. It's not just about making fisherman happy, it helps the riverine and oceanic habitats and its inhabitants, it helps the economy, it helps small communities and their inhabitants, and it helps ensure the continuance of the salmonid species. It also relieves the stress of already over worked and under funded hatcheries by taking away the burden of juvenile fish husbandry, as the river does what it does best: Raises and transport said juveniles.

Please, help make this bill a reality, Oregon and her inhabitants, both human, animal, plant, and waterways need this to happen! Make hatch box programs a thing of the future, not the past!

Sincerely, thank you for the time you've given to read this,

Trevor Moore, prospective Charter captain and river guide, 3rd generation Oregonian fisherman, lifelong inhabitant of the great State of Oregon.