

2-10-22 HB4148

As a native Oregonian, President of the Oregon Anglers Alliance, and the Executive Director for the Oregon South Coast Fishermen, I'd like to inform you that we are the original conservation anglers. We helped to enhance and restore much of the habitat that provides for our salmonids today. We are the original wild fish advocates, and we are champions of native fish propagation through hatchery production.

HB4148 is the result of years of work by a team consisting of multiple State agencies and a qualified team of Stakeholders. This project is an important part of the solution to restoring salmon habitat and re-populating our state with healthy populations of salmonids. The authors of this Bill can stand proud as this bill goes far in bringing the State and the citizenry together for the health of our environment.

Many of us were shocked when we witnessed the onslaught of opposition to this Bill at the 2-9-22 legislative hearing. The testimonies were slanted, twisted, and many statements were largely inaccurate and misleading. They provided no solutions.

HB4148 is a proposed pilot project for the South Coast only, to be reviewed in 2028 and be expanded if deemed successful, or terminated if not.

Compensatory mitigation laws have already been in place since 2009 for Oregon's water resources, wetlands and watershed enhancement projects. HB4148 is about encouraging landowners to enhance and restore salmonid habitat, make it less burdensome to navigate the complex state requirements to satisfy compensatory mitigation obligations, and authorize DSL to administer appropriate salmon credits for qualified habitat improvement projects.

I've heard it said that you're either part of the solution, or part of the problem. We respectfully urge you to be part of the solution and unanimously support HB4148.

Gratefully,
Leonard Krug
President, Oregon Anglers Alliance