

Submitter: Joel Stateler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB512

To shut this hatchery down would be an irreversible mistake. The fish that come up the Umpqua are bigger and stronger than any of the rivers north of here. These genetics should be spread by using the brood stock program into other systems. I moved to Scottsburgh in the fall of 2023, after living and fishing in the rivers surrounding Portland, my whole life. The fish that I see in the Umpqua are comparable to the fish that would come up the Willamette river in the eighties. Those fish are all gone now. There are very few rivers in Oregon that have strains to compare to what is in the Umpqua. To close this hatchery down and lose this strain forever would be a travesty. Please give our future generations the chance to witness these fish, as they don't exist in other systems.

Joel Stateler