

Testimony in Support of ODFW Fee Increase via HB2342

Sports anglers have differing opinions at various times about demonstrating or withholding support for agency requests for additional sports' dollars to fund operations. As a Portland-area resident my fishing experiences, and hence my interface with ODFW operations is localized in the Columbia River Basin and North Coast streams.

Based on those fisheries and fishery management, ***I support the agency's request*** for additional funding. As a state, we do not employ a general sales tax and the various channels for funding it would provide. Nor do we avail the general populous via the General Fund to the level our neighboring states do. Therefore, alternative sources for operational funding are restricted.

The sports angling community has traditionally measured the cost/benefit of fisheries management in terms of the license fees, equipment excise taxes, and surcharges imposed in pursuit of our passion, versus the harvest opportunities augmented through hatchery production. Costs have increased. Benefits have declined. However, our support is still a value to us and critical to sustained operations.

We are aware of constraining pressures as a result of actual or threatened litigation from anti-hatchery stakeholders; and Federal sideboards to production created by ESA mandates. But, the fisheries' managers in the above mentioned locales have demonstrated an impartiality when considering harvest and conservation needs.

Let me close by emphasizing the considerable need to ***embrace harvest opportunities as co-equal to conservation requirements***; and to remind policy makers those two needs do not in this instance fashion a zero sum state of affairs. We have the knowledge and expertise to produce best practices hatchery origin fish that will boost wild fish spawning populations while simultaneously providing augmented fishing opportunities.

Kind regards,

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