

Submitter: Michael Brainard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2342

In the second quarter of 2024 an individual intentionally broke into a fish hatchery and poured bleached into a rearing pond at the Smith River Fish Hatchery which killed nearly 18,000 fish salmon.

The maximum penalty for poaching Chinook salmon – a species that is protected under the endangered species act – is \$750 per fish. If officials assessed fines for every salmon killed, the individual would have been asked to pay nearly \$14m. Their final sentence? 30 days in jail, three years of probation & \$15,000 in restitution.

Its time that people be held accountable for their actions rather than making taxpayers cover bills for stupidity