

Submitter: Stephen Kinsley
On Behalf Of: Oregon Coast Anglers
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5505

This testimony is given in support of capital improvements to Oregon Fish Hatcheries.

Our family first moved to the Oregon Coast 22 years ago because of a job transfer, and, in large part to the great outdoor activities including salmon fishing, decided to remain in retirement. Fishing has been a central part of our family tradition for many years and through recent generations, and we have enjoyed both the sport and even more the health benefits that are found in a salmon rich diet. We remember the days of abundant chinook salmon returns in local rivers, and have witnessed the diminished returns of recent years.

We know that there are a number of reasons for reduced size of fish and bag numbers, and also some of the reasons for a reduced State support of the STEP programs and hatchery infrastructure. We believe that hatchery program neglect is short sighted and underestimates the many benefits of a healthy and abundant salmon return to area rivers. The benefits of increased hatchery returns are many, and recent studies have demonstrated the resilience of "wild" fish that had their ancestry in hatchery stocks. It is time to dedicate funds to rebuild the hatchery program, and make our salmon stocks and returns great again!