



Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

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June 7, 2022

Mary Wahl, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
ODFW.Commission@ODFW.oregon.gov

Dear Chair Wahl,

Thank you and the Commission for the recent visit to the North Coast. We always appreciate when State Boards and Commissions take time to engage with residents and stakeholders about issues most important to our communities. We write to you today, to voice our support for co-management of the Columbia River with Washington State.

Commercial fishing has a long history of being a significant economic, social and recreational contributor to our area. Unfortunately, during the last decade local businesses and the community at large have experienced negative impacts of policies from the Commission and Salem. We request the Commission formally revisit co-management of the Columbia River.

Policy related to Columbia River fisheries needs balance, backed by science, and consideration of all Columbia River user groups. Close collaboration and alignment with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will allow more harvest for the public while maintaining strong opportunities for recreational angling.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners request the Commission schedule an agenda items to consider this change. Without forward movement on this issue, we will strongly consider petitioning for rulemaking.

We realize the commission works on a variety of complex issues, and appreciate the time spent learning more about the commercial fishing industry in our area. We hope the visit benefits the commission and provides a better picture of how Columbia River Management coincides with regional businesses, which tie into the seafood industry in different ways. We also hope it provided perspective to how "fish money" contributes to our state economy.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala
Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners