



CITY OF BANDON

P.O. BOX 67
BANDON, OREGON 97411

Public Service...We Take It Seriously

Sept. 21, 2021

Dear Governor Brown,

The Bandon City Council urgently requests your support to save the Coquille River's fall Chinook salmon run. Without immediate, decisive action, we foresee the rapid extinction of this precious resource.

Fishing for salmon in the Coquille River has provided recreation, nourishment and economic benefit to Bandon since the city began. Before that, the area's indigenous people revered and relied on these marvelous fish for thousands of years.

In recent years, however, the number of fall Chinook in our river has fallen drastically. The reasons are well-known: invasive bass species that devour salmon smolts, ravenous seals that deplete the brood stock, diminished hatchery production, rising water temperature and sediment, and a need to restore salmon habitat.

We join the Coquille Indian Tribe in sounding the alarm about the salmon's plight. Although we appreciate the efforts of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, its resources appear inadequate to rescue our fall Chinook. The Coquille Tribe is stepping forward with an offer to partner with ODFW on this urgent priority.

We eagerly support the tribe's co-management proposal. A cooperative effort of the tribe and ODFW appears to be our best hope of restoring the fall Chinook as a viable local fishery. For the sake of our area's environment, social and economic well-being, we urge you to put your full support behind this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Schamehorn
Mayor, City of Bandon