



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

October 8, 2021

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Saving Coquille River Salmon

Dear Governor Brown,

The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over 530 businesses and members in Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston, is deeply concerned about the decline of fall Chinook salmon in the Coquille River. These fish are a prized resource for Coos County's tourism, recreation and quality of life. We urge you to act promptly and forcefully.

In particular, we urge your support for the Coquille Indian Tribe's proposal to assume co-management, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, of the river and its fish. The Coquille Tribe's heritage is strongly bound to the river that shares its name. The tribe is prepared to offer its resources, its experience and its passion in defense of these indigenous fish. No one is better suited to the task.

The Coquille River's problems are well-documented:

- For several years, the local hatchery program has collected insufficient brood stock.
- Too few juvenile salmon are released each year.
- Voracious seals contribute to the shortfall by feeding on returning adult fish.
- Predation by invasive, non-native bass further diminishes the smolt population.
- Habitat restoration efforts need to be increased.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been unable to give this problem the resources or the priority it needs. We join other local voices to endorse the Coquille Tribe's co-management proposal. It appears to offer the best opportunity to maintain a fall Chinook run on the Coquille River.

Thank you for your consideration of this innovative partnership.

Sincerely,

Timm Slater
Executive Director