



PORT OF BANDON

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Dear Governor Brown,

The Port of Bandon enthusiastically endorses the Coquille Indian Tribe's urgent efforts to save fall Chinook salmon in the Coquille River. We urge your support to rescue this ancient and cherished resource from extinction.

As you know, fall Chinook have nearly disappeared from the Coquille River. After flourishing for thousands of years, the fall run has crashed in the past few years, plummeting to just a few hundred fish. Urgent action is essential, or this once-abundant resource soon will disappear forever.

Several issues must be addressed:

SMOLT PREDATION – Invasive bass (both small-mouth and striped) devastate juvenile native salmon.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION – Because of diminished breeding stock and degraded hatchery facilities, recent smolt releases have been grossly inadequate.

WATER QUALITY – Well-documented increases in temperature and sediment have impeded spawning and smolt development.

HABITAT – Cooperative partnerships with willing landowners have a proven record of restoring salmon habitat. These need to be accelerated and additional incentives created.

ADULT PREDATION – When adult salmon return from the ocean to spawn, especially during low flow periods, they become susceptible to pinniped predation in critical locations.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has worked to address this crisis, but it's efforts to date have been inadequate to restore our river's fall Chinook. We believe that the Coquille Tribe's resources, experience and motivation can swing the balance in the salmon's favor. A formal and committed co-managed effort between the ODFW and Coquille Tribe is something we fully support.

We urge you to endorse the partnership that is developing between the tribe and ODFW. Cooperative management offers the best hope to forestall extinction of these precious, magnificent fish and restore the watershed for the salmon and all of us who depend upon it's health.

Sincerely,

Reg Pullen, Commission President