

September 16, 2021

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

Dear Governor Brown:

As you are aware, fishing for salmon in the Coquille River has provided recreation, nourishment and economic benefit to Bandon and the surrounding area since we became Bandon. And, before that, the area's indigenous people relied on the Chinook to sustain their families. We must work to stop the drops in numbers of Chinook in our river. The reasons are well-known and our need to restore salmon habitat is immediate. We have invasive bass species that eat salmon smolts, hatchery production that is diminishing every year, hungry and aggressive sea lions that deplete the brood stock, and rising water temperature and sediment therefore causing a need to restore salmon habitat.

When the shocking news came this spring from ODF&W that the Coquille River would be completely closed to all salmon fishing in 2021, it spelled more disaster for our community. This closure includes the financial impact on our restaurants, tackle shops, lodging, marinas, parks, campgrounds, guides and service stations coupled with the losses from the ongoing COVID devastation.

We join with the Coquille Indian Tribe in a loud sounding of alarms about the salmon's plight. While it appears that ODF&W is working to better this situation, we need immediate and stronger efforts, as their resources are limited at best, to help rescue the Chinook. We strongly support the tribe's co-management proposal, working with ODFW on this urgent priority. Their effort is our best hope of restoring the Chinook as a viable local fishery.

As we represent a large percentage of all types of Bandon businesses, we implore you to fully support the work of the Coquille Indian Tribe and ODFW, both with words and actions . . . for the sake of our area's environmental, social and economic well-being.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Osborne,  
Chair of the Board of Directors