



PORT OF COQUILLE RIVER

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Dear Gov. Brown,

The Port of Coquille River joins other Coos County agencies and countless Coquille Valley residents and businesses in asking your support to save fall Chinook salmon in the Coquille River. We believe that a unified effort, as proposed by the Coquille Indian Tribe, is the best hope of saving this important local resource.

Chinook salmon have thrived in the Coquille River for thousands of years, but the fall run is facing a troubling crisis. In just the past few years, a formerly healthy fishery has nearly disappeared. This development isn't just bad for the fish. It also damages local residents' enjoyment of the outdoors and an important sector of our local economy.

The salmon face numerous challenges. Invasive bass devour Chinook smolts. Loss of habitat further impedes development of juvenile salmon. Unfavorable ocean conditions and local seal predation reduce the annual breeding stock, and degraded state facilities further diminish hatchery production.

We appreciate the work of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on this problem, but we've seen that the department lacks sufficient resources to turn the crisis around. For that reason, we support the Coquille Tribe's proposal for a co-management agreement.

Already this fall, we are seeing positive results from the tribe's participation and leadership in organizing a cooperative local response. We believe that the tribe's access to resources, combined with its historical affinity for the river, make it an ideal partner to join the state in managing the Coquille watershed.

We urge you to support continuing collaboration between the tribe and ODFW. Cooperative management is the best hope for the salmon, for local recreation, and for the future of our local economy.

Sincerely,

Port of Coquille River District

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