

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER

April 01, 2005 Alsea Grange Hall, Alsea, Oregon

1:30 P.M. Tapes 60 - 61

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Jenson, Chair

Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, Vice-Chair

Rep. Phil Barnhart

Rep. Alan Brown

Rep. Billy Dalto

GUEST MEMBER: Rep. Mike Schaufler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rep. Jerry Krummel, Vice Chair

Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

Pamella Andersen, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Oregon Plan Overview, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Informational Meeting

Public Comment

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 60, A

004 Chair Jenson Calls the meeting to order at 1:58 p.m. Introduces the committee members. Opens the informational meeting on the Oregon Plan Overview.

oregon plan overview – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

057 Lindsay Ball Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). States the Oregon Plan is a coordinated partnership between governmental entities, the public and land-based industries. Submits and reviews written testimony (**exhibit a**) and the report on the Coastal Coho Salmon (**exhibit b**), noting the need to avoid other fish being added to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) list and the necessity of removing existing fish from the list. Reviews adult Coastal Coho distribution, abundance, restoration funding, locations of restoration projects throughout Oregon, and fishery harvest rates.

287 Rep. Brown Inquires if there is a way to rate the impact of changing ocean conditions on recovery and can conditions be anticipated.

300 Ball Discusses core habitat areas throughout the state to which fish retreat, where they are able to survive, and which the agency can protect. States unusual ocean conditions cannot be averted; however, the fish have demonstrated resiliency. Reports with existing monitoring the agency has the ability to implement management measures offering more protection. Reports north coast Coho need additional help.

371 Rep. Brown Asks if the habitat work is a continual process.

376 Ball Responds, yes, there will always be work to be done on the habitat. Comments on the evolving science and that scientists are continually learning, necessitating alteration to the way work is being accomplished.

394 Rep. Brown Questions if there is concern to opening a harvest too soon.

400 Ball States Coho may have been over-harvested in the past, but with the monitoring program and the ability to close a fishery, the present status is a strong approach.

438 Chair Jenson

Expresses his appreciation to Ball and ODFW for their successful work. Closes the informational meeting on the Oregon Plan Overview. Opens the meeting to public comment.

TAPE 61, A

PUBLIC comment

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| 015 | Wayne Giesy | Hull-Oakes Lumber Company. Submits and reviews written testimony (exhibit c) relating to the Fall Creek Hatchery Research Center (HRC). |
| 052 | Andy Landforce | Alsea resident. Speaks to the impact of the hatchery on fishermen in the Alsea Valley. |
| 160 | Jeff Light | Biologist, Plumb Creek Timber Company. Speaks in support of the hatchery construction. Supports ODFW's contributions to the plan. Mentions potential negative impacts. Notes the value of cooperative development between the university and ODFW. Mentions the Coho viability assessment analysis, stating his belief in and support of its quality. |
| 225 | Chair Jenson | Comments the legislature appreciates the support received from the private sector on these initiatives. |
| 248 | Bruce Buckmaster | President, BioOregon, Inc. Speaks in support of the HRC. Discusses Columbia Citizen's Forum and the cross section of groups it brought together on fish issues. States hatcheries are an essential tool to reach the objective of abundance. Relates BioOregon manufactures fish food for hatchery fish, with half of the production sent out of state. |
| 322 | Ron Anderson | Fish Nutritionist, BioOregon, Inc. Speaks in supports of the hatchery. Provides hatchery history, noting Oregon fish hatchery leadership is recognized worldwide. Offers three research topics: 1) ensure the hatchery salmon are produced identical to wild salmon; 2) ensure the effluent produced does not pollute; and 3) operate the hatcheries so the sum of all activities are sustainable. Discusses stream rehabilitation with fish carcasses. |

TAPE 60, B

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| 003 | Tom Davis | Chairman, Alsea Watershed Council. Requests the committee support the HRC on a long-term basis. States the entire world will |
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benefit, necessitating the program remain neutral, with no agenda science.

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| 030 | Chair Jenson | Comments public efforts will help drive how long the support lasts. |
| 052 | Stan Steele | River Run Oregon Guide Service. Relates he grew up on a hatchery, as his father was a hatchery technician. Reports historical background of fisheries. States the HRC is exciting because of its contribution to providing an economic boost to rural Oregon, and help in determining what causes downward spirals in fishing that impact local economies. |
| 144 | Rep. Brown | Speaks anecdotally on economic changes in the area over time. |
| 157 | Chair Jenson | Expresses appreciation for Jacobson's legislative work. |
| 186 | Bob Jacobson | Coastal resident. Comments the program is working with the Coastal Coho salmon. Notes components of the restoration effort. Relates the 'no list' recommendation they will be making to the federal government, and appreciation to all parties who contributed to the effort. Mentions the first hatchery in the 1800's. Relates why hatcheries are needed. Believes the HRC is the single most important salmon research development in the history of salmon issues. |
| 296 | Terry Thompson | Former legislator. Relates personal experiences on a salmon trawler as a child. Notes Oregon lives on natural resources. Believes the HRC will transform the fish industry. Relates the history of the Oregon Salmon Plan. |
| 389 | Chair Jenson | Reiterates Oregon is a natural resource state, and our economy is moved by what takes place in the environment. |
| 447 | Mimi Stout | Alsea resident. Relates experience of watching the community die and the efforts she and others have taken to maintain the health of the river. Notes she is a fish eater, not a fish catcher, and fish is becoming a more popular item on today's menus. Comments the HRC will be a big help in supporting that supply and boosting the community's economy. |

TAPE 61, B

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| 017 | Gary Blanchard | Forester, Starker Forests. Addresses Rep. Brown's question on the sustainability of fish if the ocean conditions deteriorate. Notes his company's contributions to voluntary restoration, stating there will be |
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		natural consequences as a result of management actions. Notes the adverse impact on their company if fish are listed on the ESA list. Comments on possible opposition to the hatchery.
072	Chair Jenson	Reports Oregon will be on the cutting edge of salmon recovery research.
081	Rep. Brown	Expresses appreciation for the private sector that has contributed to restoration.
085	Blanchard	Comments the HRC is a long term project and it could take a long time to know how effective it will be.
096	Rep. Schaufler	States the story that needs to be told in the cities is of the sacrifices the rural land owners are making.
116	Blanchard	Notes land owners are generous in inviting people to come look at what they are doing. Reports Starker Forests provides school buses to children so they can come out to see what is being done.
138	Chair Jenson	Closes the public comment. Adjourns the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Oregon Plan Overview, written testimony, Lindsay Ball, 3 pp**
- B. Oregon Plan Overview, Coastal Coho Report, Lindsay Ball, 6 pp**
- C. Hatchery Research Center, Wayne Giesy, 1 p**