

House Committee on Water February 5, 1991 - Page

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER POLICY

February 5, 1991Hearing Room D 1:30 p.m.Tapes 13 - 14

MEMBERS PRESENT:Rep. Chuck Norris, Chair Rep. Bill Dwyer, Vice-Chair Rep. Bill Markham Rep. Walt Schroeder Rep. Larry Sowa

VISITING MEMBER:Rep. Dave McTeague

STAFF PRESENT: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator Pat Zwick, Committee Assistant

MEASURE CONSIDERED:Informational - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

HB 2485 - Authorizes State Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue annual angling conservation stamp. - Public Hearing

WITNESSES:Randy Fisher, ODF&W Rollie Rousseau, ODF&W Jeff Curtis, ODF&W Darren Bond, Treasurer's Office Dave Nelson, Oregon Water Resources Congress Jim Myron, Oregon Trout

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TAPE 13, SIDE A

010 CHAIR NORRIS: Calls the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Reviews Oregonian article concerning the cut off of irrigation water in California.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

034 RANDY FISHER, ODF&W: Introduces Rollie Rousseau and Jeff Curtis.

Presents operational and budget information for Department of Fish and Wildlife reviewing (EXHIBIT A).

089 REP. MARKHAM: What is your average shortfall for Mitchell Act

hatcheries?

090 ROLLIE ROUSSEAU, ODF&W: About \$400,000 operational costs for the biennium.

098 FISHER: Continues review of (EXHIBIT A).

110 CHAIR NORRIS: Does National Marine Fisheries Service make direct cash contributions?

112 FISHER: We are on a letter of credit to them.

Continues review of (EXHIBIT A).

Reviews Comparative Analysis - Base Budget agency request to Governor's recommended (EXHIBIT B).

295 REP. SCHROEDER: What are you spending this biennium?

300 FISHER: \$63 million.

325 CHAIR NORRIS: What would happen to poundage fees if we find we have a threatened and endangered species and have severe harvest restrictions?

330 FISHER: Fishermen want to go to an ad valorem system rather than the poundage fee.

If fall chinook are not listed, fishing restrictions will be mainly in rivers. There may be some dealing with the Canadians to free more fish to help us.

363 ROUSSEAU: All poundage fees paid by the commercial industry go to the General Fund. They have nothing to do with our General Fund budget directly, so you could have no fishery and our budget is not affected.

We are proposing to change that in a bill introduced by the Department to have those funds come to the Department and be dedicated for commercial fish programs.

380 REP. MARKHAM: Are you prepared to give us an overview on the Portland meetings of the Salmon Summit?

386 FISHER: Yes. They are trying to solve the problem of more water in the river to flush the fish down river to ensure that they get out of the Snake system to the mouth of the Columbia in the least time possible.

TAPE 14, SIDE A

FISHER: Continues.

The big concern is fall chinook because they migrate when the water is the lowest and the temperature is the highest.

If Fall chinook are listed, and found genetically different than the hatchery fish, there will be a real problem because there is no way that you can get enough water to flush them out, and you would have to shut down all fisheries on the coast and everywhere.

030 CHAIR NORRIS: Are the waters being looked at in terms of recent drought years or average years?

036 FISHER: They have been looking at a 50 year average.

They feel they could build storage projects in Idaho and other places that may take care of the problem in the long run.

The short run must be dealt with next year.

040 CHAIR NORRIS: Is there credible evidence that the situation today, with the dams, is a great deal different from the pre-dam days?

046 FISHER: In pre-dam days freshets flushed the fish out in about ten days.

We are looking at having a 16 1/2 day travel time instead of the current 35 to 40 days.

If you cut off all the harvest, you would still not rebuild the runs because the losses are so high at the dams.

Continues review of (EXHIBIT B).

120 REP. MARKHAM: What are poundage fee amounts?

123 JEFF CURTIS, ODF&W: Five cents on salmon and five cents on restoration and enhancement, by statute.

We will ask for continuation of the Restoration & Enhancement Program and increase the salmon poundage fees from five to ten cents for a total of fifteen cents.

Whiting is not currently on the list, but would be added.

150 REP. SCHROEDER: The new bill Mr. Curtis speaks of increases the poundage fees from 60 to 600% depending on the species.

How much ad valorem would you have to have to make up for the poundage fee?

165 FISHER: We are currently investigating and discussing that.

170 REP. SCHROEDER: How do you figure the nonconsumptive use value?

175 FISHER: From ODF&W studies and extrapolations.

190 CHAIR NORRIS: How do you view the state of Oregon's fish and wildlife as compared to five years ago?

200 FISHER: We are concerned about the future and what it has to offer. We have a large list of sensitive species. Need to try and insure that what we have, we have as long as we can keep it.

We are probably in the middle of a one to ten scale.

230 ROUSSEAU: Living resources vary according to nature. We try to manage the harvest for when you can take it.

270 REP. DWYER: Would it be fair to say that you have become pro-active

only recently for species that do not generate a lot of income or attention?

275 ROUSSEAU: Yes.

280 REP. MARKHAM: Why did we pass a state Threatened and Endangered law?

285 ROUSSEAU: To fill a void and include a plant program.

The Department is responsible for all wildlife. We are not given the authority to affect public, and for the most part, private lands and a federal decision is necessary. To that extent, ODF&W is advisory.

340 REP. MARKHAM: How much of your budget is being spent in that area?

345 ROUSSEAU: We are spending some General Fund dollars.

370 REP. DWYER: Asks that copies of "Inventory of Water Diversions in Oregon" be provided to the committee.

380 CHAIR NORRIS: Asks audience to introduce themselves.

TAPE 13, SIDE B

018 CHAIR NORRIS: Opens public hearing on HB 2485.

PUBLIC HEARING HB 2485

020 BETH PATRINO, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Reviews provision of HB 2485.

026 REP. BILL DWYER: Thinks that HB 2485 is a concept whose time has come to provide a continuous source of money to be appropriated to watershed enhancement, the acquisition of instream water rights, and other legitimate uses that may benefit state anglers.

Has heard criticisms of the bill, but could sell and justify the bill because the people who buy the stamp will get something tangible for their money.

085 REP. SCHROEDER: Would this be a required fee?

087 REP. DWYER: Yes.

088 REP. SCHROEDER: How would you compare this to the R & E fee increase?

090 REP. DWYER: The R & E money was matched with lottery monies and due to phase out.

099 REP. SCHROEDER: Would it be as simple to just increase the angling license fee?

101 REP. DWYER: The stamps are unique and a creative department could equal or exceed the cost of production.

112 REP. SOWA: The bill is a good idea.

Would you object to a surcharge on poundage fees by commercials?

120 REP. DWYER: Would not object.

Also concerned about fisherman who do not fish for salmon and steelhead.

140 REP. SOWA: Would you have objection to the stamp having to be purchased by all people who utilize the waters of the state, such as irrigators?

145 REP. DWYER: Would have no objection, but think they would be getting off tremendously cheap.

150 REP. SOWA: Commercial fisherman could have a stamp worth \$100 and elevate it up for irrigation diversions.

152 REP. McTEAGUE: Will comment when other witnesses have presented testimony.

175 DARREN BOND, TREASURER'S OFFICE: Requests that HB 2485 be amended to clarify the interest distribution. Presents suggested language (EXHIBIT C).

205 DAVE NELSON, OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS: Oregon Water Resources Congress supports the bill and feels it is a creative idea for the development of the fishery in Oregon. We think it has particular application to fish screening.

Whether \$2 is an adequate fee is subject to discussion. We would support a \$5 fee.

The idea should be given a lot of study in an effort to come up with a comprehensive program.

250 JIM MYRON, OREGON TROUT: Summarizes written testimony supporting HB 248 5 and offering suggested changes (EXHIBIT D).

315 REP. SCHROEDER: Speaks of present costs for someone relying on fishing to feed a family.

331 MYRON: Don't have a good answer for that.

345 JEFF CURTIS, ODF&W: The goals of the legislation are laudable, but ODF&W cannot support the mechanism for funding the programs proposed by HB 2485.

Paraphrases written testimony stating ODF&W's position (EXHIBIT E).

TAPE 14, SIDE B

CURTIS: Continues his testimony from (EXHIBIT E).

060 REP. SOWA: Speaks of Bull Run River which was dammed to provide drinking water for Portland.

What kind of argument would you put forward to a \$2 surcharge or angling conservation stamp to all the people who utilize the locked up watersheds which are kept from use by the public?

All people who utilize water for their own benefit should have to accept some of the financial burden for things that we, as a legislature, want

to accomplish for the waters of the state.

101 CHAIR NORRIS: Closes public hearing and will continue public hearing on HB 2485 on Thursday.

Adjourns meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by:    Reviewed by:

Pat Zwick,            Beth Patrino, Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A            -            ODF&W overview - Randy Fisher - 26 pages B            -            ODF&W  
Budget Information - Randy Fisher - 4 pages C            -            HB 2485 Proposed  
Amendment - Darren Bond - 1 pages D-HB 2485 Testimony - Jim Myron - 3  
pages E-HB 2485 Testimony - Jeff Curtis - 3 pages