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OREGON SALMON COMMISSION

March 28, 2013

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Support of HB 3441 -1 Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board

The Oregon Salmon Commission is an industry funded state commodity commission under the Oregon Department of Agriculture and represents the Oregon ocean commercial salmon fishermen.

The Oregon Salmon Commission supports HB 3441-1 for the following reasons:

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center as directed through HB 3441-1 will conduct research to minimize the risk to naturally produced fish from hatchery produced fish, while also maintaining the harvest of those hatchery produced fish.

The research through the Oregon Hatchery Research Center can go a long way to minimizing the risk to natural populations, while still allowing robust hatchery productions. This is important because a significant portion of the salmon harvested by the commercial fleet are hatchery fish. Our commercial fishermen provide the consumer with access to a public resource, therefore it is important to keep enough abundance of hatchery stocks.

This new board, with its broad cross section of members, will help guide the Research Center towards its goals. Also since funds have come through commercial and recreational fishing license fees, it is appropriate that several new board members represent these groups.

The commercial harvest of salmon is an important part of the culture and economy of Oregon, and coastal communities and fishing families are supported through the revenues produced by commercial fishermen.

Therefore we urge support for HB 3441-1 and thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Executive Director
Oregon Salmon Commission