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Testimony of
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Before the
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
SB 830
April 8, 2013

Honorable Chair Dingfelder and members of the Committee,

Thank you on behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA) for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 830. The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association is a trade organization formed in 1993, representing hundreds of businesses with thousands of year round, family-wage jobs, consisting of manufactures, manufacturer's representatives, wholesalers, retailers, boat builders and dealers, guides, charters, Sportfishing Associations and individuals who are "Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and businesses dependant upon them". (*Member listing enclosed*)

In 2011 638,000 adult anglers spent over 5.6 Million days fishing, sustaining over 11,000 jobs in Oregon. The expenditures, license dollars and tax revenues from 2011 are attached.

The NSIA uses three guiding principles when developing policy guidance for measures to support and focus our efforts on: Conservation, Economics and Social Equity. The passage and implementation SB 830 hits the mark on all three principles, especially economics. For this we have to thank the leadership and vision of Governor Kitzhaber, Senator Fred Girod, the staff at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the years of hard work between the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and their stakeholders that bring us to where we are today.

And after a very, very long process, SB 830 paves the way for a better future. As I stated earlier there have been numerous meetings in both Oregon and Washington, in Portland, as well as on the Coast. At the table and with abundant opportunity to comment have been representatives of the sport and commercial fishing industries, as well as members of the conservation sport angling community. It's a process that's asked all sides to make sacrifices so we all can enjoy a better future tomorrow, while providing better conservation of our fishery resources.

The sports fishing community alone is committed to paying an additional \$9.50 to help implement these reforms. ODFW estimates that 90,000 anglers will end up purchasing this tag. That's \$855,000 in revenue for the year, roughly \$1.6 million for the biennium. Given that the Washington state Fishery Enhancement Tag was purchased by over 220,000 license holders, we believe that number may be understated.

SB 830 is a bill that will create jobs. There is no doubt about it. Independent economists believe so, ODFW says so, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council figures substantiate it and the Columbia River Fiscal Impact

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Advisory Committee accepted this statement of fact. Specifically, this last committee estimated that the annual ex-vessel values of Commercial Columbia River salmon landings are estimated to increase potentially by 20% in the transition period and 6% to 14% long-term. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council estimates that personal income for the commercial industry during the transition could be upwards of \$1.43 million dollars. By any yardstick, the measures adopted by the Oregon and Washington Commissions and embodied in SB 830 will create better economics and better conservation in Columbia River Fisheries.

This is also true on the sports fishing side and this is welcome good news for an industry that's seen stagnant growth over the last few years! These same studies and committees report and I quote, "compared to current conditions, the total annual economic impacts are estimated to be increases of about \$4.6 million and \$7.7 million during the transition period and the long term, respectively. As I stated earlier about the endorsement tag sales, it is our sincere hope that we can work with the department to craft fishing season that will someday outperform these numbers.

And finally, most of SB 830 speaks to enhancement to the SAFE areas and transition funding for the protection of the commercial industry. This includes actions such as building additional net pens, moving additional hatchery fish, etc. That will require additional ODFW employees and partnerships with private businesses. SB 830 also buys us additional Oregon State Police troopers, who will patrol the Columbia River, but also the surrounding counties. Given past cuts to OSP, we all should be excited about that. All of these additional people would likely move to Clatsop or Columbia County and benefit those local economies.

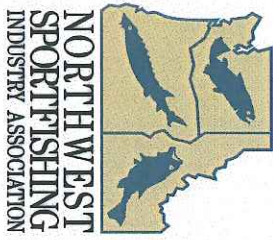
This isn't just about Oregon. It's a multi state process, representing years of bi state hearings that have included the Washington Commission. A Commission that voted unanimously to support the direction Oregon is headed. Our state has made promises that we need to uphold.



Oregon Sport Fishing—A Heritage and an Economic Force for Conservation

2011	Retail Sales	Total Multiplier Effect	Salaries and Wages	Jobs	State and Local Tax Revenues	Federal Tax Revenues	Total Days Fishing	Adult Anglers (resident and nonresident)
Oregon	\$680,636,132	\$1,172,481,577	\$382,802,979	11,043	\$72,381,359	\$91,781,493	5,658,437	638,000

Sportfishing Means Business! In Oregon, growing sport fishing opportunity grows jobs, protects an important piece of our heritage, and connects families and friends to each other and the natural environment.

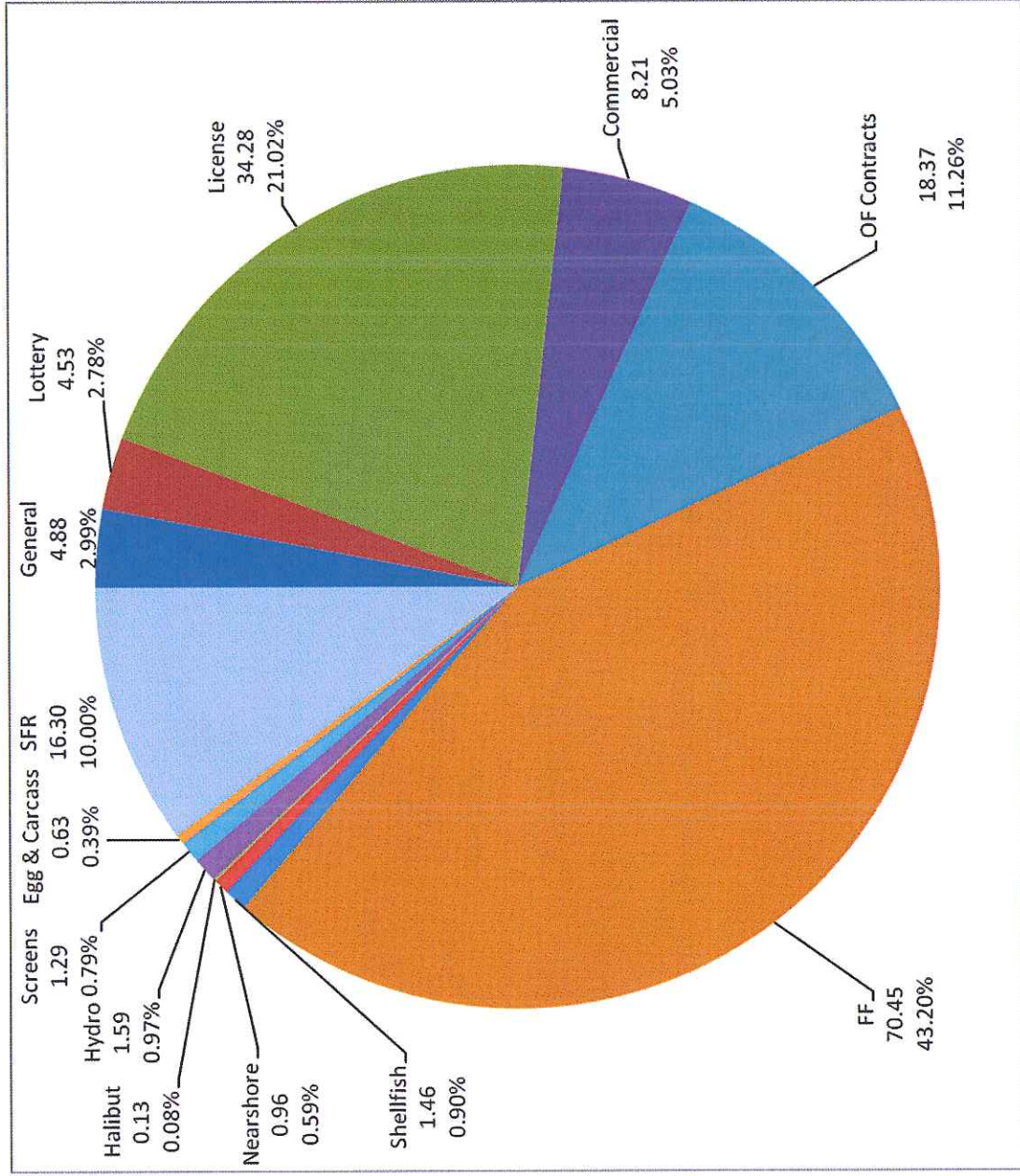


Supplied by **Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association** ~ NSIA: Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them. For more information, call 866.315.NSIA or go to www.nsiafishing.org.

Citation: Southwick Associates. *Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*. Produced for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sport Fish Restoration grant (F12AP00137, VA M-26-R) awarded by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), 2012.

2011-2013 Fish Division Estimated Expenditures by Fund

\$163.08 million Total Funds



The Federal Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) fund is a Federal Excise Tax on manufacture of sport tackle and the marine fuel tax. This tax on the sport fishing industry is returned to states in a formula that is tied to the number of recreational license sales. In the current biennium, it generates 10% of the Fish Division budget.

Growing license sales not only directly funds the agency: More anglers buy more tackle, generating more excise tax.



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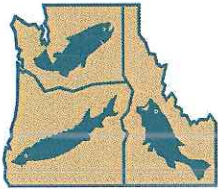
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Don Swartz, retired Fisheries Manager, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and life-long fisherman.



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Daniel (Dan) H. Diggs, Retired Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service



Dr. Doug DeHart, Retired Fisheries Chief, ODFW and retired senior Fishery Biologist, USFWS

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