



# Oregon Anglers

P.O. Box 253 • West Linn, OR 97068  
(503) 655-4077 • Fax (503) 655-1357 • [www.oregon-anglers.org](http://www.oregon-anglers.org)

I am Executive Director of the Oregon Anglers Research Society, OARS, a charitable corporation, which arranges funding, for fisheries research and educational projects. I am privileged to have served on the Stakeholder Advisory Board of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center since it's' startup; as vice chair the first year, and chair for the next two years.

I support the original bill 3441 without the amendments, because I believe in the original mission of our research institution

The personnel at the OHRC are incredible! Dr. David Noakes is one of the top fisheries scientists in the world, and Ryan Couture, the hatchery manager, and his staff are top rate.

But there is been an overwhelming feeling by fishermen, city and county leaders, and many legislators, that we have not made much progress toward the mission of the OHRC. Questions arise whether the Scientific Advisory Board, OSU or ODFW are holding up progress. Dr. Noakes is employed by both ODFW and OSU.

The use of conservation hatcheries by U.S Fish and Wildlife, the tribes, or other states like Idaho are showing such positive results reviving runs of Coho, Chinook, and Sockeye salmon where they were almost wiped out. The Oregon answer is to close hatcheries or reduce the mitigation numbers severely. ODFW's 50 year recovery plans aren't going to do much for local economies and the tens of thousands of jobs that are already hurting.

Much of the "bad hatchery fish" rhetoric that you have heard states there is a HUGE gap between the reproductive success of wild and hatchery salmonids. The actual numbers as presented by Drs. Blouin and Araki to the OHRC Advisory Committee was:

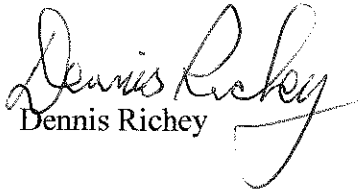
Wild / wild cross- 85%    Hatchery /hatchery cross-72%    wild/ hatchery cross- 82%

There was no statistical difference with w wild steelhead spawning with a hatchery fish. This, to me, is a gap we can close with our scientific advances, at our state-of-the-art facility at OHRC. But we MUST change the way we have been doing business. The original bill 3441 was an attempt to do that- to come to the aid of Oregon's communities which depend on fishing. I feel the amendments will not only keep us from progressing, but will make the advisory board totally powerless.

During the 2 years I was chair, and many times since then, the board has voted on whether or not proposed research fit the mission of the OHRC. Some were approved unanimously, some by a majority, and some rejected. The problem is the projects we needed never got past the "Scientific Committee".

It is ironic that the OHRC is now working on a contract with the Corps of Engineers to come up with hundreds of thousands of "surrogate" Spring Chinook (hatchery salmon that act like wild salmon) which is right in line with what we should be doing. But, the goal of the Corps is to prove that "wild" salmon smolts can survive the descent over the dams on the Willamette systems, with the goal of ending mitigation responsibilities.

I plead with you to take the proactive approach and approve 3441 without the newly proposed amendments.

  
Dennis Richey

OARS