

## **ODFW LICENSE FEE INCREASES 2015**

**INTRODUCTION**-My name is Linda Buell. My husband, Captain Mick Buell and I recently purchased a 43' Delta, the "Alaska Sunrise" to add to our Family Charter business, Garibaldi Charters, located on the North Oregon Coast. We sold our other two boats to my son-in law and daughter, Ty Mautner and Captain Tamara Mautner. They are the new owners of Garibaldi Charters and we simply book out our new boat with them.

**Loss of Charter boats** on the Oregon Coast from 100, now down to 55. Twenty eight charter boats docked in Garibaldi in my father-in-laws time (1980's -1990's). He was a charter boat owner & Captain for 20 yrs. In the last few years, our Port has lost the Topaz, BullFrog, Andrea K, Oakland Pilot, & Herbie, Leaving only 5 certified Charter Boats, and 1 or 2 other six passenger, uncertified boats in our Port.

**Daily License Fees are not comparable** to California or WA. CA is \$15.12 for a daily fishing license & WA is \$20.10. Both states include Shell fish Licenses. We understand the need to raise our resident fees by what seems to be a fair amount for multiple days of fishing, but to penalize our tourists so much for just one day of fishing is unconscionable. Add to that an almost two fold increase in shellfish license fees in the next few years, and on top of that, an ocean endorsement fee is inviting a possible disaster to one of the most popular sports on the Oregon Coast, Ocean Charter Fishing.

**OUR RECOMENDATIONS** When adding programs to the ODFW's already heavy workloads, the Legislature needs to add funding priorities from the General Fund or elsewhere before these type of programs are initiated, not afterwards at the expense of our different fishing sectors and certainly not at the expense of our tourist businesses.

**A more reasonable approach**, and certainly better for charter businesses, would be to "compete" with CA and WA for our tourists by having, if not better rates for fishing in Oregon, at least matching rates. Instead of raising the shellfish license fees, include them in the Daily Angling License Rates now being proposed as CA & WA do. If we cannot match these rates somehow, we will lose much of our out of state business. Finally, I think most everyone loves Oregon's beautiful ocean and the idea of the freedom of the sea's. Trying to take that from Oregonian's fishermen and Tourists alike through yet another (fee) tax is probably the worst thing

that this legislature and the ODFW could do. Which ocean users will be “endorsements” next? Shore side fishermen, birdwatchers, kayakers, surfers, sail boats, kids wading in the surf? The unintended consequences of “ocean endorsement” fees needs a lot more thought and exploration before enacting this provision in ODFW’s proposed increases. Please.

Sincerely, Captain Mick Buell  
& Linda Buell-owners Charter  
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Garibaldi Charters  
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