



Oregon

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**To: The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**House Bill 2866
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Good afternoon Chair Clem and members of the Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2866 with you today. HB 2866 would change the Fish Hatchery Management Policy on disposition of adult hatchery fish collected. The bill asks that, 1) 50% of the adults collected are returned as carcasses to the natural spawning areas, 2) eggs and carcasses sales are prioritized to Oregon small business, and 3) to conduct an analysis and report on annual return rates of hatchery produced fish.

- 1) From 2013 to 2015, an average of 42.6% of the adult returns were placed back in Oregon stream through releases of live adults and carcasses for stream enrichment. Approximately 11.5% were used for hatchery brood stock, 27% were sold, 18.3% were provided to Food Banks and for Tribal Ceremonial/Tribal Substance purposes. The remaining <1% was used in education and research. These efforts are guided by the Native Fish Conservation policy, Fish Hatchery Management policy, Fish Health Management policy and a Memorandum of Agreement between DEQ and ODFW regarding Fish Carcass Distribution in Stream of Oregon.
- 2) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sells quality carcasses through competitive bid processes. The solicitation is broken into large and small packages. The packages sizes provide bidding opportunities for both small and large business. The revenue generated is important to address deferred hatchery maintenance projects.
- 3) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reports adult hatchery returns in the Fish Propagation Annual Reports. The estimates are based on the recovery of code wire tags. This fulfills our obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985, an expanded effort would require additional staff and resources.

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