

Co-Chair Senator Frederick and co- chair Representative Witt and Members of the Committee.

My name is Rob Bignall, a fishing guide, living in Sherwood, Oregon. I am representing the Northwest Guides and Anglers Association.

My testimony today is based on attending previous ODFW Commission meetings where the controversy of commercial fishermen's use of gillnets continues.

SB 830 was established to phase gillnets out from the mainstem of the Columbia River. With the lack of support given by Commission and their disregard of ODFW Staffs recommendation we have regressed from the proposals of SB 830.

So, in observation of the pie charts presented by ODFW staff on Monday there are 680,000 angler license holders of which 9,845 have purchased the Columbia River Endorsement.

I cannot connect the dots in thinking there is 88% credibility for ODFW and a 95% confidence level between sportsman and the Department because your stated pool is of 900 Oregonians and appears not to representative of sports community that pays the bills for ODFW. Overall this is not at all a warm and fuzzy story.

The financial status of this department is dependent on recreational sportsman where 66% are Anglers, 33% are Hunters and we really have little to show for it other than your hand is in our back pocket in sustaining this department. The recreational community contributes \$2.5 billion annually to the Oregon Economy.

The ODFW Commission has damaged the relationship between ODFW and recreational sportsman; they have created a division between Washington and Oregon that have a time honored 100 year old compact in shared management that affects hundreds of thousands of families that are dependent on the sales relating to fishing.

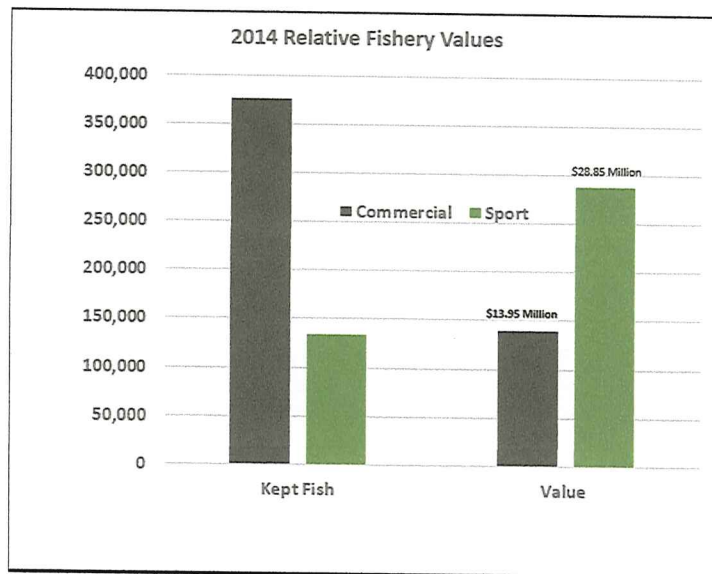
This is all over not following the policies ratified by our legislature under SB830.

Commercial fishing takes 2.5 times more fish as the recreational and they only contribute 4% the ODFW budget.

Under the business side of parody this would never fly, where 4% of the ODFW budget is controlled by 148 commercial permit holders that average less than \$23K per year, 70 of those make less than \$10K per year, and 50% of the ODFW budget is made up of 680,000 recreational fishermen with 2.5 times less fish taken.

Columbia River Oregon Gillnet Permit Data Only - 2007-2016

Year	Total Permits	# Permits that fished	Less than 10K	10-20K	20-30K	30-40K	40-50K	50-60K	60-70K	70K+
2007	307	154	105	31	13	3	0	1	1	0
2008	304	151	87	20	14	16	6	3	2	3
2009	301	163	91	32	21	10	7	0	1	1
2010	300	170	74	34	18	19	10	7	5	3
2011	297	171	75	4	22	12	11	6	3	2
2012	297	156	88	29	18	15	4	0	0	2
2013	293	144	58	21	23	19	7	4	4	8
2014	292	151	52	27	24	13	19	7	3	6
2015	289	141	57	29	22	18	8	3	0	4
2016	289	148	70	18	24	19	7	5	3	2



2014 Relative values per fish:

Commercial: \$37.12 per kept fish₁

Sport: \$214.78 per kept fish₂

On another note I have great respect in what you do as elected or volunteer officials when you have the words Senator, Representative, Director or Commissioner attached to your names.

But, what went on during the last Commission meeting on March 17th was way out of line. I watched a Commission panel being run by two of its member's brow beating the other members into submission for a unanimous vote taking SB 830 backwards.

Then I watched commission member Holly Akenson belittle, chastise, and degrade the ODFW staff and legislature in front of the total gallery over their requested projection of financial values for reduced agency funding that was ~~condoned~~ ^{approved} by fisheries Director Ed Bowles and ODFW Director Melcher.

So in conclusion, where is all the warm and fuzzy support for ODFW because the disproportional membership of our Commission or what I call "gillnet lobbyists" goals are to support a commercial industry that takes 50 % of the salmon resource participating only in 4% of the ODFW budget. Should we continue down this path ODFW financial status will continue to be in trouble.

Thank you for all allowing me to testify.

Rob Bignall
 It's All Good Guide Service
 19730 SW Chapman Rd.
 Sherwood, Oregon 97140
 503 313-3191