

Coos Bay Trawlers Association, Inc.
PO Box 5050
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

April 10, 2017

Dear Chairman Clem and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Coos Bay Trawlers Association (CBTA), I am writing to oppose House Bill (HB) 3435. CBTA represents shore-based bottom and mid-water trawlers from Coos Bay, Oregon. We have worked hard for 20 years to help change how the trawl industry harvests shrimp, nears-shore and deep water species.

As you may know, with the help of ODFW, Oregon's shrimp fishery was the first shrimp fishery in the world to receive the sustainable certification status from the independent Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), a feat the citizens of the state and the country should be proud of. Furthermore, our trawl fishery has also earned the MSC certification which encompasses multiple species. We can not wonder if the introduction of 3425 is being proposed in retaliation of the attempt to ban gill net fishing on the Columbia River.

It seems to us that the collaborative system we currently have with state, federal government and NGO's is something special and has worked so well because of our understanding that we must work together using the best science available in making decisions about our natural resources that belong to all of the citizens of the United States.

Most commercial fisheries on the west coast are 100 percent accountable not only for the harvest that supply shore-side jobs, but also for all discarded fish. We are monitored very closely. The recreational fishery is not and we know many recreational fishermen that do not follow the rules for catching food fish for personal consumption and make money selling their recreationally caught fish.

Commercial fishermen generate revenues to the state from many sources, not just food fish. We don't understand how the "proportional with revenues" will be accomplished to determine the right to fish and who will make such a determination. Does the state really want to open such a can of worms? Who will determine what revenues will be used and which revenues will not?

This bill seems like an attempt to make a law to benefit a special interest, not the entire citizenship of the state.

Thank you,

Steve Bodnar
Director CBTA