



April 12, 2017

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Opposition to House Bill 3425**

Dear Chairman Clem and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you representing Recreational Fishing Alliance, Oregon State Chapter (RFA-OR). Recreational Fishing Alliance is a national organization whose mission is;

*“To safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs and ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. saltwater fisheries.”*

This mission includes anadromous fish species even when found in fresh water.

We are concerned that the proposed language related to state fishery allocation in HB3425 is in conflict with the federal fishery management statute. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) contains a section called National Standards. It states in Title III, Sec. 301, 98-623(4) and 104-297(5):

*(4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.*

*(5) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.*

The fishery resources of Oregon should never be allocated to the highest bidders, resulting in questions about that policy as well as the validity of any data used to claim superior value.

RFA-OR has many members involved in federal fishery policy at the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Those members have worked for years to help create a collaborative culture at this Council. Allocative issues are formally decided every two years and rarely involve serious contention. RFA-OR often partners with commercial

fishing interests when crafting allocation policy proposals. This is the opposite of what is being proposed, regarding catch sharing with HB3425.

I believe that the state of Oregon has a mandate to provide for fair and equitable fishery allocation policy. If fair and equitable is not supported by all users, then the Legislature has a duty provide for it by statute if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Holloway".

John Holloway  
Co-Chair Recreational Fishing Alliance  
Oregon State Chapter  
Garibaldi, OR

CC: Curt Melcher  
Rep. Deborah Boone  
Sen. Betsy Johnson