

House Concurrent Resolution 14

Sponsored by Representative MCKEOWN, Senator ROBLAN; Representative BOONE (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Commends Tom Rumreich for his contributions to Oregon fisheries.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas by the age of 15, Tom Rumreich knew he wanted to be a fish biologist and make a
3 positive contribution to Oregon fisheries; and

4 Whereas five days after graduating from Oregon State University with a degree in fisheries
5 science, Tom Rumreich was hired by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

6 Whereas when the Legislative Assembly passed legislation in 1981 that created the department's
7 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), Tom Rumreich was ready to step on board; and

8 Whereas the goals of STEP—to rehabilitate and improve natural habitat and native fish stocks,
9 to ensure that the harvest does not exceed the fish population's reproductive capability, to provide
10 for volunteer participation in achieving the state's fish management objectives and to support public
11 educational programs related to fisheries—are goals that Tom Rumreich enthusiastically adopted as
12 his own; and

13 Whereas as a STEP biologist for the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille district, Tom Rumreich put his
14 vision and energy to work to partner with the community and other stakeholders in developing and
15 carrying out a multitude of projects that include stream and bank restoration, tree planting,
16 hatchery construction and creation of educational programs that also serve as volunteer opportu-
17 nities, in addition to hatching millions of salmon and trout eggs and raising the fry; and

18 Whereas Tom Rumreich has been instrumental in the construction of the Millicoma Interpretive
19 Center, hatcheries on Morgan Creek and Noble Creek and capture and release sites at local ele-
20 mentary and high schools; and

21 Whereas the part of Tom Rumreich's job that he enjoyed the most, and that he is best known
22 for by many in the community, remains the educational programs that include instruction in the
23 salmonid life cycle, hands-on fish wrangling and field trips that draw students from as far away as
24 Medford, with 5,000 elementary to high school students involved each year; and

25 Whereas over the years, Tom Rumreich has taught so many classrooms of children the knowl-
26 edge and skills to participate in fisheries work, such as egg harvesting, habitat restoration and the
27 fin clipping used to distinguish hatchery fish from wild ones, that he was awarded recognition for
28 "touching the minds of over 100,000 kids"; and

29 Whereas Tom Rumreich believes in involving the whole community in fisheries resources and
30 understands that children can not only learn through the program but also be hands-on volunteers
31 that make a difference, saying, "You provide for them the opportunity to become stewards of that
32 resource at all different levels—it's all about that ownership and that stewardship—and those are

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 some of the true dividends of being able to really get people involved on a large scale”; and

2 Whereas one of Tom Rumreich’s most treasured moments was when he overheard a high school
3 student tell another that the day of the hatchery field trip was one of the greatest days he had ever
4 had; and

5 Whereas in addition to the inestimable educational value imparted by STEP, Tom Rumreich has,
6 through the program, helped bring the Coos Bay area a positive local economic impact valued in the
7 millions of dollars annually, with everyone from boat dealerships to restaurants benefiting from the
8 improved fishery; and

9 Whereas in 1982 only 200 or so Chinook salmon were harvested in the Coos Bay estuary, in 2011
10 an estimated 11,000 Chinook were harvested, and STEP has been credited with 81 percent of that
11 increase; and

12 Whereas 2.3 million fall Chinook salmon were released in the Coos River in 2016, of which two
13 million were raised with the assistance of 3,000 STEP volunteers under the guidance of Tom
14 Rumreich; and

15 Whereas in August 2016, Tom Rumreich retired after 37 years with the department, most of
16 which were dedicated to improving Oregon fisheries through STEP; and

17 Whereas the naming of Rumreich Hatchery on Morgan Creek in his honor is a fitting tribute
18 to the years of energy, creativity, hard work and expertise that Tom Rumreich has given to this
19 state; now, therefore,

20 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

21 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, commend Tom Rumreich for
22 his years of service with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and his extensive contributions
23 to his community and the salmon and trout fisheries of Oregon.

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