

Mr / Madam Chair, members of the committee. My name is John Corbin. I am a first-generation fisherman and have been crab fishing in Oregon for the past 42 years. I have served on the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission for the last 12 years and have been very involved in other ODFW boards and committees.

We have had a good crab season this year. (19.6M lbs., \$70.8M). Mostly attributed to the fact that we had 80% of our catch in before Covid struck. As soon as China got the virus, our live markets came to a screeching halt and the price dropped by \$1 per lb. Later, when China started to reemerge from the pandemic, live markets started to gain steam again and the prices began to rise.

This year's crab season, although good overall, was not good for all. This winter saw very harsh weather. Many of our fleet were unable to battle the high winds and brutal seas that hammered Oregon through January. Unfortunately, by the time they were able to start getting out, the virus showed up here as well and that slowed them down even further.

In the United States, 80% of seafood consumed in restaurants. Dining out is like a mini vacation and people often eat food they don't always cook at home and spend more on meals than they normally would. With the closure of these eateries, much crab is still lingering in the processor's freezers. This will produce a trickle-down effect that will hurt this next year's season and more to come. It appears that many restaurants will not survive the extended shutdown and will be closing their doors for good. This does not help the seafood business at all. Oregon's crab fishermen and processors rely heavily on restaurants and a robust economy to keep our product moving.

At the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, we are doing everything we can to try to keep our messaging current and to promote our states iconic crustacean. We are managing this situation as it is evolving. We have a very robust marketing campaign that has had to see some changes. One has been sporting events. With the cancellation of sports, we have not used our advertising there and engaged with the fans in the manner that we have in the past, so we have redirected more of that into our TV and radio advertising. But, like everyone else, we will adapt and continue to promote Oregon Dungeness crab in a positive manner as Oregon's premier seafood product.

In closing, the coronavirus hasn't had as much of an impact on the crab fishery yet but is gearing up to hit us hard over the next couple years.