

Watts Remy

From: Sen Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 9:42 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 1025

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For the record file please.

Thank you!

Betsy
6-1716

From: Chris Weber [mailto:cjplweber@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Sen Johnson; Barbara Trout
Subject: Senate Bill 1025

I was born and raised in Tillamook and have been clam digging in Tillamook Bay since I was a child. We always enjoyed digging and consuming the clams we have been fortunate to take. They were plentiful and easy to dig not only for adults but kids, too.

Over the last few years the number of commercial clam diggers, both divers and rakers on the sand bars has increased significantly. Over the last 3 years we have noticed a significant decline in the number and size of clams that are available in Tillamook Bay..

When we go out to the sand bars it is difficult to even find a cockle and when we do they are about 1/2 the size they used to be. Gaper clams are also showing a significant decline. According to ODFW the bay has not been surveyed since 2010, while the harvest of clams has increased to 85 to 90 percent of the statewide harvest. This is not sustainable. We need to rein this in before the resource is depleted. Some of the commercial harvesters are from out of state and rake clams on the sand bars during an entire tide.

In addition, the commercial harvesters currently have a size restriction on the clams they harvest. The clams that are rejected are just thrown overboard or left on the bottom of the bay for crabs to consume. The gapers are especially vulnerable to this waste. Recreational clammers are required to keep all gapers that are dug, regardless of size or condition. We need to stop this unaccounted for harvest of our resource.

Tillamook Bay is a very desired location for fall Salmon fishing and one of the most popular areas to fish is the Ghost Hole. Last year the commercial clam divers anchored their boat at the top of the Ghost Hole during the height of the salmon fishing season in September and October. The Ghost Hole can have as many as 200 boats fishing in a confined area during this time. State law requires boats to stay at least 50 feet away from a dive boat and to not create any wake. This law is understandable but they should not be obstructing a waterway where so many boats are fishing. They have the rest of the bay to dive for clams. We need to set GPS Coordinates to enlarge the Ghost Hole restricted area for everyone's safety.

Recreational clammers have been required to buy a shellfish license for at least 10 years, so ODFW can have the monetary resources to manage our clams and crabs. We need them to do their job. We are truly concerned about our natural resources in Tillamook Count and the rest of the states estuaries .

Thank You

Chris and Patsy Weber

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