

Watts Remy

From: pjtronquet@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 11:41 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Oppose HB 2379

Dear Senate Natural Resources Committee,

I was one of the original public advisory team authors of the Rogue Spring Chinook Conservation Plan, approved by the Fish and Wildlife Committee in 2007. No Oregon fish conservation issue has been more important to me than the recovery of wild Rogue spring Chinook and I follow the annual progress reports diligently. I understand the frustration with low hatchery adult returns but HB 2379 is misdirected. I see the bill as simply a backdoor attempt to dump more hatchery smolts into the river, with little concern for impacts to wild spring Chinook recovery. Wild adult returns have clearly outperformed their hatchery counterparts in recent years, so why would we risk the recovery progress that has been made? We don't want more competition from increased hatchery releases, not do we want the detrimental impact of adult hatchery fish spawning naturally. All this assumes that additional hatchery fish would return more adults to the river sport fishery, but as we have seen our management of hatchery fish ends at the hatchery door and the ocean environment is always the wild card. Wild salmon are always better adapted and the wild spring Chinook population of the Rogue is the gold standard. Don't risk it by assuming there is salvation in the hatchery.

Sincerely,

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