



Oregon

# COASTAL NOTES

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## CALENDAR

Friday, February 22, 1991, is the next meeting of the Coastal Ports Maintenance Dredging Committee. The meeting will be conducted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

OCZMA is scheduled to meet in Salem March 7-8, 1991. Meeting materials will be forwarded to members a week prior to the meeting.

## Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program supported at Senate hearing

A public hearing was held Monday, February 11 by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to receive testimony on Senate Bill 246 which would extend current fees to 1997 to fund the state's Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program.

Lending his full support to proposed fee extensions, Senator John Brenneman said the Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program benefits recreational and commercial fishermen alike. Sen. Brenneman cited two creeks that had directly benefited from the program—Whiskey Creek and Cedar Creek.

The Whiskey Creek hatchery was started by aquaculturists from Oregon State University, and then taken over by Tillamook-area anglers who volunteered their time to make the hatchery part of the enhancement program. Sen. Brenneman said he has spoken to participants in restoration and enhancement programs such as the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) who have expressed excitement about the results of these efforts.

Sen. Dick Springer, committee chair, asked Sen. Brenneman how this related to other fee bills. Sen. Brenneman said he is aware of strong support in the commercial fishing community for a switch to ad valorem fee assessments. Rep. Larry Sowa concurred, adding that restoration and enhancement programs have been highly innovative and have worked better than anyone had envisioned.

In response to a question about the bill in relation to the legislative process, Sen. Springer said the bill didn't have to spend a lot of time in committee because the actions taken by the Joint Ways and Means Committee would amend the budget and change the bill anyway. Senator Joan Dukes said although you don't want to hold the bill in committee forever, she would like to feel the resource committee has an input in Ways and Means. Sen. Dukes indicated she would rather have a complete discussion on a bill in a substantive committee before it hits the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Sen. Brenneman concluded the testimony by referring to discussions during the previous legislative session. He said throwing in private hatchery issues had "muddied the waters" on the issues of restoration and enhancement, and he didn't think there would be the same political problems this session. After reflecting, he added maybe there would be.

An examination of the Restoration and Enhancement Program expenditures led to the conclusion that, overall, there are more benefits to the recreational fishermen. While there seems to be more of a benefit to recreational fishermen from the enhancement of natural runs of fish, the hatchery program expenditures indicated more benefit to commercial than to sport fisheries.

Money spent on obtaining access vastly favored the recreational fisheries. Looking at the enhancement expenditures by species, the monies spent on commercial fisheries all went towards salmon while the monies for sport fisheries were roughly distributed as: 75% for salmon, trout, steelhead, 20% for warm water species, and about 5% to other marine fisheries.

Testimony also came from volunteer members of the Restoration and Enhancement Board, representing both sport and commercial fisheries. Their common interest lies in developing the resources for the public. The board members attested to amazing changes that ODFW has undergone as a result of allowing public involvement in money and budget issues. It seems as though quite a few barriers within the otherwise diverse elements of the fishing community have been broken through the collective efforts of the Restoration and Enhancement Program.

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## Senate hearing

Continued

The committee also received testimony regarding SB 258.

Kay Brown of the ODFW talked about the move to modify the bill to call for the ad valorem fees commercial landings of fish. ODFW is developing the figures that would result from such a change in fee assessment.

Freshman Senator Tricia Smith asked whether or not fish was considered "property" and if so, would an ad valorem tax be subject to Ballot Measure 5? While this question went unanswered, Sen.

Sen. Springer noted that while SB 258 had been assigned to the Senate Rules Committee, he is asking for it to be reassigned to the Senate Agriculture and Resources Committee.

Sen. Dukes testified on the bill, indicating she represents a number of commercial fishermen who stand to have fees increased under the proposal filed on behalf of ODFW. She indicated while she has not fully determined where her constituents stand on this issue, she is generally concerned about the principle behind the bill.

Sen. Dukes said there are concerns of equity when people who are taxed do not directly benefit from the tax. In continuation, she said that while the proposed fees are for the sustained funding of programs already in place, the hatcheries could still be closed.

## Tourism comes to Caucus

Representatives from the Tourism Division of the Economic Development Department gave a presentation to the Coastal Caucus Monday, February 11.

Julie Curtis, acting director of the division, gave an overview of the division's budget. Robin Roberts, western regional coordinator, explained the division's role with respect to regional vs. state-wide tourism promotion.

In the past the Tourism Division has operated from a combination of monies from the state general lottery proceeds. Governor Barbara Robert's budget for the coming biennium allots the division \$5 million from the lottery fund.

As coordinator, Roberts deals with 26 counties west of Central Oregon to the Coast, in a primarily non-money capacity. She cited infrastructure, transportation and rural tourism as being especially important state tourism issues.

In response to a suggestion from Representative Walt Schroeder that the Tourism Division needs a coastal representative, Roberts answered that most of the requests are for product development rather than promotion. She suggested that the Coast needs a product development person—someone who can serve on the Water Conservation Board as well as attend other planning meetings in the development stages of tourism-related activities.

The Coastal Caucus will next meet to discuss fisheries issues Monday, Feb. 18 at 7 a.m. at JB's Restaurant, 260 Liberty St. SE, in Salem. Bob Jacobson, commissioner of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Scott Boley, a Gold Beach fisherman, will speak. Jeff Curtis and Jim Martin, also of ODFW, will also be at the meeting as well as a number of legislators supporting recreational fisheries.

### Quote of The Week:

"We realize that the Endangered Species Act is more of a federal issue. We are spectators in a row boat watching the Queen Mary and wondering where she is going to land."

—Angus Duncan

## Both Houses hear Salmon Summit update in committee

The House Water Policy Committee was addressed Tuesday by Angus Duncan, one of Oregon's two delegates to the Salmon Summit.

Representatives Jackie Taylor and Bob Pickard joined the usual committee members at the head table. Duncan represents Governor Roberts at the summit and he works for for the Northwest Power Planning Council.

The issues at the table were water, power, fish and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Duncan couched these issues in terms of both the biological and legal contexts. He said the loss of wild fish populations are not due to any single cause, but to our decision as a society to pursue fractured uses of the Columbia River. Such uses have resulted in taking away the attributes of the river needed by the fish which need some of their own share back in order to survive, he added.

Duncan attributed the result of the ESA as constraining the ability of pursuing multi-use management of the river. He said that the Salmon Summit has forced people to contemplate issues that were once "uncontemplatable." Duncan said there are concerns over river flow rates, power levels, and harvest management practices. No single issue is the sole cause of the declining runs, nor would there be a single cure, according to Duncan,

Rep. Pickard asked Duncan to outline two possible scenarios for the outcome of the summit talks scheduled to end by March 4. Duncan said that because 80% of the work tends to get done in the last 20% of the time, he could offer an answer but not a prediction:

- Scenario one predicts harvest cutbacks linked to power cuts, but that they might aim to reduce the average length of time the fish spend in the water to 20 days in medium-to-bad water years. The historical travel time could be anywhere from five to nine days, but is now between 30-45 days.

- Scenario two is that the power/harvest cutbacks are not agreed upon, but that decisions are made on other water uses, and that the other issues would still have to be dealt with before the National Marine Fisheries Service decides on the endangered species issues.

Duncan gave a similar review to the Senate Water Policy Committee.

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# Summit update

Continued

Senator Larry Hill, committee chair, responded to a comment that Oregon has had a lower than national average power cost over the years because of the dams. In Sen. Hill's opinion, all the money defrayed in lost revenue for the fishing industry, built up over the years, should be added to the cost of power to determine Oregon's real power bill.

Senator Wayne Fawbush asked Duncan what the chances of restoring the fish would be after all the management strategies were implemented. Short of restoring the river to its pre-developed condition, Duncan said there is no high probability of any plan working.

# New Bills introduced

## SB 609

Sponsored by Sen. Breneman at the request of the Port of Newport, SB 609 adds an annual \$5.00 halibut tag to angle for halibut. This is in addition to the \$5.00 tags already required to angle for salmon or steelhead trout, and angling for sturgeon.

The bill includes a section to specify how many fish a person will be able to take with each tag, and how many tags per year a person can be issued by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The exact numbers were not included at this point.

The bill also establishes a Halibut Research Account, to study halibut populations and other halibut related research.

## SB 614

SB 614 is sponsored by the committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on behalf of ODFW. The bill adds poundage fees for canners, buyers, or wholesalers of any food fish or shellfish. Fees range from 5 cents/lb. of each species of salmon or incidental catch of steelhead trout except chum salmon; 1.25 cents/pound on shrimp; 0.75 cents /pound on halibut; 1.65 cents/pound on chum salmon, crabs and clams gross weight in the shell; 0.2 cents/pound on Pacific whiting. The bill also creates the Commercial Fisheries Fund, separate and distinct from the general fund. Monies in this fund go to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for the administration and enforcement of commercial fishing laws. Funds are also to be used for management and habitat improvement and other activities that relate to "food fish" resources.

## SB 621

Sponsored by the joint Committees on Ways and Means, SB 621 relates to records of the State Board of Geologist Examiners. The bill amends previous legislation which already requires the Board to keep a public record of its proceedings. The bill amends the statute to require a biennial roster "showing the names and places of business of all registered geologists and certified specialists. It is currently written to call for annual rosters.

## SJR 10

Senate Joint Resolution 10 comes at the request of the Committee on Transportation. It authorizes the use of fuel tax monies for mass transit purposes. The resolution would be a constitutional amendment and would require approval from the voters at the next general election.

# Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee update

Monday's Trade Committee continued the public hearings on the creation of the Wood Products Competitiveness Commission.

Some observations regarding the idea of going to non-profit corporation status:

- If you want the industry to get involved, you have to give them independence;
- A non-profit corporation would allow the state the freedom to walk away from it.

# Recycling Bill

It was *Citizen Lobby Day* Wednesday in Salem. An overflow crowd turned out for a public hearing on two recycling bills: SB 66 and SB 484. The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee heard a range of testimony from a variety of viewpoints but had to adjourn short of testimony from OSPIRG, the Oregon Public Interest Research Group. The hearing will be continued Feb. 20, 1991.

—Mara Brown  
Legislative Fellow

# U.S. Senator recalls Oregon heritage before state House

U.S. Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) spoke briefly during the House floor session Tuesday, Feb. 12.

During his introduction, House Speaker Larry Campbell noted that the Packwood name could be seen on the wall of the House chambers. Sen. Packwood opened his remarks by recalling that his great grandfather had been shipwrecked in Representative Walt Schroeder's own Curry County.

"Great grandfather Packwood wound up staying there for five or six years and went on to become Oregon's delegate in the Constitutional Convention," the Senator added.

## OCZMA

The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association, Inc. (OCZMA), is a voluntary association of coastal counties, cities, ports and soil & water conservation districts, established to provide a forum for the resolution of issues of particular concern to the local governments of the coast and the people they represent. 313 SW 2nd Street, Suite #C, P.O. Box 1033, Newport, Oregon 97365, (503) 265-8918, FAX (503) 265-5241

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