



## Salmon Season Disaster - Summary of Potential Industry Assistance

Oregon's commercial salmon fishery is suffering drastic cutbacks this year resulting in fishing families and coastal businesses struggling to survive. The Oregon Salmon Commission and the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) are working together to identify avenues for assisting the industry. Here is a summary of these actions:

We are urging the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to declare a fisheries disaster under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

We are urging the President of the United States to declare a disaster so salmon fishermen can get unemployment assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. This program is important because it allows self-employed people (most fishermen) to be eligible for assistance. On June 2, 2006, Governor Ted Kulongoski signed a letter to the President of the United States asking for a federal disaster declaration.

Governor Kulongoski issued executive orders declaring a state of emergency for Oregon's coastal counties impacted by the closures. A number of state agencies are developing strategies to use state programs to assist the commercial salmon fleet and other impacted businesses. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) took action to fund work opportunities for ocean salmon research data gathering; fund work opportunities for displaced fishermen to implement salmon habitat restoration projects; fund work opportunities for displaced fishermen to conduct field evaluations to support salmon recovery; fund work opportunities for coastal salmon recovery community outreach; and fund accelerated development of restoration projects. **These projects are all contingent upon Legislative Emergency Board Action on June 23, 2006.** (See articles on page 2 - Port Outreach Specialists and page 3 - Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon Project)

On June 2, 2006, Governor Kulongoski convened the Ocean Salmon Emergency Summit II. The Congressional representatives told that they are continuing to push for a federal disaster declaration and finding money for assistance. The Coastal Caucus is working to get direct payments to fishermen through the Emergency Board. State agencies gave reports telling what they are doing. Oregon Parks & Recreation is offering preferential hiring to the fleet for seasonal and/or temporary work at the coastal parks. Community Colleges and Workforce Development will help the Salmon Commission hire Port Outreach Specialists and develop transition teams to connect fishers to state services.

The Coastal Caucus, state legislators representing the Oregon coast, has secured a place on the June 23, 2006 Emergency Board to request \$2 million of immediate direct financial assistance for commercial salmon fishermen. This infusion of state resources would help stabilize the salmon industry, coastal ports, and other businesses serving the salmon industry until a more complete federal response can be put in place. This is also contingent upon Legislative Emergency Board Action on June 23, 2006.

At the federal level, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee is working with the Bush Administration to identify unspent federal dollars in the FY 2006 budget for re-programming to assist the West coast salmon industry. In addition, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee has made commitments to the Oregon Congressional Delegation that an "appropriate federal response" will find a place in the FY 2007 Budget. Oregon's Congressional Delegation is seeking to attach salmon disaster assistance to other bills working their way through Congress.

Farmers from the Klamath Basin are raising money to assist salmon fishing families through "The Klamath Relief Fund for Family Commercial Fishermen." (See article on page 2)

We hope that these efforts will help our fishing families survive this salmon season disaster.

## **Klamath Farmer - Commercial Fisher Fund**

Klamath Basin farmers are collecting money for our commercial fishing families in need of assistance through “The Klamath Relief Fund for Family Commercial Fishermen.” This action is coming through the Klamath Bucket Brigade & Klamath Relief Fund.

Some of our fishermen traveled to the Klamath Basin to enjoy farmers’ hospitality and talk with them about the salmon situation and the Klamath River. Several farmers visited the Oregon coast learning more about what we do. This communication revealed that we are all small business people just trying to make a living and support our families. Because of this, the farmers wanted to find a way to help the fishers and thus began the fund.

100% of the funds collected are tax deductible and will go directly to fishermen and families in need. Flyers are being posted in coastal communities and around the state asking for contributions to this fund. Checks can be sent to: The Klamath Relief Fund for Family Commercial Fishermen, P.O. Box 5252, Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

A process is in place for fishing families to ask for needed assistance. This will be used to pay bills from vendors (gear stores, haul out, moorage, etc.). Eight port representatives along the Oregon coast have volunteered to talk with fishers and fill out the application form. This confidential form will be sent to a screening committee which will review the requests and issue checks if appropriate.

We urge families in need to talk to their port representatives and begin the brief paperwork. Please bring copies of bills that need to be paid.

Brookings/Gold Beach – Ralph Dairy, 541-469-5900

Port Orford – Leesa Cobb, 541-332-0627

Bandon/Coos Bay/Charleston – Don Yost, office 541-888-2548, cell 541-297-2424

Winchester Bay/Reedsport/Florence – Al Pazar, home 541-997-9166, cell 541-999-1538

Newport – Lisa & Mark Newell, home 541-336-5615, cell 541-270-4715

Pacific City – Ray Monroe, home 503-965-6712, cell 503-801-4744

Garibaldi – Darus Peake, work 503-322-3600

Astoria – Esther Jones, port office 503-325-4521

**Thank you to the Klamath Basin farmers and families for helping our fishing families.**

## **Port Outreach Specialists Project**

### **Hiring Fishermen or Fishing Family Members to Assist the Salmon Industry**

A project being funded that will help fishermen and fishing families is for Port Outreach Specialists. This program would assist members of the ocean salmon troll fishing industry to access support, resources, training and entry into a variety of jobs programs.

Up to seven fishers or fishing family members will be hired, under supervision of the Oregon Salmon Commission, to be responsible for:

- the notification, recruitment and selection of affected ocean salmon troll fishing industry members for employment in a variety of jobs programs both at sea and on land; and
- identify, guide and assist industry members in need of emergency services available through a variety of state agencies.

One Port Outreach Specialist could be from each of seven geographic areas (Brookings/Gold Beach, Port Orford, Bandon/Charleston, Winchester Bay/Florence, Newport/Depoe Bay, Pacific City/Garibaldi, and Astoria).

Some of the qualities we are looking for are:

- friendly, outgoing people who care about the fishing community,
- experience with or an understanding of the fishing industry,
- detail oriented,
- good communication skills,
- able to work odd hours,
- team players who will be able to work with the Salmon Commission and state agencies.

These are part time positions working about 80 hours a month. At this time the duration of the project is unknown depending on funding. We are working to identify people for these positions.

If you have the desire to help the industry and fishing families and are interested in applying for a Port Outreach Specialist position, please contact the Salmon Commission (mail, phone, fax, or email) with your information (name, address, phone, port, etc.). We will contact you with a complete job description and application. We hope to have these positions filled and ready for work before the end of June.

## **Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon (CROOS) Project Hiring Boats for Sampling Collection**

The Oregon Salmon Commission with the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES), Oregon Sea Grant, OSU Seafood Lab, and Oregon State University are working on a pilot project to collect and use genetic information to address the Klamath weak stock crisis for Oregon's ocean salmon fishery. This Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon (CROOS) project, composed of Oregon-based fishermen and scientists, has applied to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for funding the pilot project for this season. This funding is contingent on approval by the Legislative Emergency Board on June 23, 2006.

This pilot project was designed through a series of meetings between Oregon's fishermen and scientists in response to the current crisis facing our salmon fisheries. Presently, salmon ocean managers have no access to "real time" data on stocks and are unable to differentiate among stocks at local spatial and temporal scales. The result is large area closures for multiple months. New management tools are needed that can differentiate stocks in real time and at refined spatial areas.

If the funding is approved, the pilot project will take advantage of new genetic science technologies to gather more information on harvested stocks.

The project will consist of fishermen participating in sampling Chinook fin-clip tissue, scales and length (for aging), date, location, and other oceanographic data. Four vessels will use a digital technology system for datalogging individually harvested fish. The rest of the vessels will collect the data and record it using paper-based logbooks. Data from all sampled fish will be recorded and tracked using barcodes. Otoliths will be collected from some of the fish for chemical analyses.

Up to 50 boats, geographically distributed, will be hired to collect the data. The proposed budget will pay up to \$1,200 for each boat, plus \$300 for one crewmember, per opener for up to 4 openers. The project will spread out the collection times so that the entire season (through October) is covered. Fishing will only occur during the PFMC approved seasons and quotas. Each fisherman in this project will be allowed to sell his own fish.

The captain and crew of the boats doing the collection will need to be diligent about keeping their logbooks, collecting the samples according to the protocols, attaching barcodes to the fish, and communicating with their port coordinator. This is an important job that could yield much information about the ocean stocks.

These 50 boats will work through four port coordinators who will answer questions, help get materials to the vessels, be in communication with the vessels when fishing, and other duties as necessary. The hired port coordinators (fishermen) will probably be from 3 geographic locations, one – south coast, two – central coast, one – north coast. The proposed pay for these coordinators is \$3,000 for the season (\$2,000 for July/August, \$1,000 for September/October). Since this is a pilot project, there will be many questions and fine-tuning of the protocols and sampling techniques. The port coordinators play a very important role in communication with the fishermen involved in collection. A port coordinator can also be a fishermen in this project and get paid accordingly.

The fleet coordinator will be the contact person between the research scientists and the port coordinators.

If you would like to be involved in this pilot project (contingent upon approval of funding) as a fisherman/vessel and/or as a port coordinator, please contact the Oregon Salmon Commission (mail, phone, fax, or email) with your contact information (name, address, phone numbers, email, job interested in). You will be contacted with more detailed information and a job application.

### **Thank You!**

The Oregon Salmon Commission sends a heartfelt thanks to Salmon Commissioners and fishermen up and down the coast who have worked hard on this salmon disaster to find help for our fishing families. You have put in a lot of time and effort to ensure that the industry will continue to be vibrant and sustainable. We also want to thank Governor Ted Kulongoski, the State Coastal Caucus Legislators and Federal Congressional members for taking the time to listen and act. We also thank OCZMA for helping with communication and gathering data. Thank you Klamath farmers for supporting our fishing families. It has been a truly collaborative effort, and we thank everyone.

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*Tagline* is mailed to Oregon Troll Salmon Permit holders, interested industry individuals, coastal ports, Sea Grant Extension agents, state agencies and others interested. If you would like your name added to the list, please contact the Salmon Commission. (Permit holders - if you want your boat skipper and/or crew to receive *Tagline*, let us know.)



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