

Please see the attached document requesting that Council address 2 related topics.

1. A letter from the Oregon Coastal Caucus requesting that Council join them in supporting and promoting the values of sustainable salmon harvest, the social and cultural well-being for our constituents as well as the environment, and the economic benefit for commercial and recreational fishermen, by utilizing **all** salmon production and restoration methods including hatchery production.
2. A request for the Council to join us by replying to us with written support for the letters and signatures (6 pages) endorsing and calling to fully fund hatchery repairs for the minimum amount of \$35 million (See attachment, 2 pages). This will enable Cole River hatchery to once again successfully produce PFMC managed salmon for the benefit of our fresh water and marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. This is a mitigation hatchery under the direction of the USACE.
 - a. For those that are science oriented, please look up the latest article on reproductive success relative to salmon by Kathleen O'Malley and her Genomics team at Oregon State University.

Reproductive success improves after a single generation in the wild for descendants of some hatchery-origin Chinook salmon

April 16, 2024

Source:

Oregon State University

Summary:

Researchers who created 'family trees' for nearly 10,000 fish found that first-generation, wild-born descendants of hatchery-origin Chinook salmon in an Oregon river show improved fitness.

“Our findings suggest that fitness may improve in the wild as quickly as it declines in the hatchery,” said OSU associate professor Kathleen O’Malley, the study’s senior author.

- i. This, combined with the study of "plasticity", or the ability of organisms to change behavioral traits relatively quickly to match their environment, causes us to challenge some of the assumptions that we have based much of our policy on. We're not saying that anyone is wrong.
- b. Using Oregon as an example, Oregon statutes by themselves do not seriously impede us from restoring salmon runs, but policy language needs to be kept updated as the science progresses. Take for example, Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy. It was adopted in 2021 with criteria being added in 2022. It has not been updated since that time and has been used as a keystone piece for our management. There have been layers of policy adopted using this as a baseline. Policy language is not defined

by nature, it is only our best opinion at the time.

The overarching message is that science is always evolving. We must realize that within the last 20 years our technology and database have advanced immensely. There is also the newest work being done on DNA that is pulling back the curtain of uncertainty even further. All of these questions and more should cause us to reexamine the foundational premise of segregating and minimizing hatchery origin salmon in the name of restoration because in the last 40 years there have been no runs of ESA listed salmon recovered. Our hatchery production has over time, been reduced and so have our salmon runs.

We have to do something different.

Please join us in being an advocate for sustainable hatchery production.

Gratefully,

Leonard Krug

President, Oregon Anglers Alliance and valued Partners

4-8-24

1. Cole Rivers Hatchery funding request. Please see the letter regarding Cole Rivers hatchery beginning on page 7.
2. Request for the PFMC to support hatchery salmon production for the sustainability of our salmon populations.

Please see below endorsements and requests for support from Council.

There will be live public comment offered to Council at the June meeting.



Oregon Coastal Caucus

Rep. David Gomberg, Chair
Sen. Dick Anderson, Vice Chair
Sen. David Brock Smith
Sen. Suzanne Weber
Rep. Boomer Wright
Rep. Cyrus Javadi
Rep. Court Boice

May 15, 2024

Chair Brad Pettinger and Council
Executive Director Merrick Burden
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

Council Chair Brad Pettinger, members of the Council, and Executive Director Merrick Burden,

As members of the bipartisan Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus, we are responsible for representing the voices of the coastal communities, industries, and economies that make up our collective districts.

This letter is to request that Council join us in supporting and promoting the values of sustainable harvest, the social and cultural well-being for our constituents, and the economic benefit for commercial fishermen, by utilizing all salmon production and restoration methods including hatchery production.

Our inland streams are the arteries and lifeblood of our ocean. Healthy salmon densities are relative to the health of our rivers, estuaries, and our marine environment. All aquatic species benefit from healthy populations of salmon.

There are two primary tools to recover salmon. We are urging you to join us in advocating for both fish production through habitat conservation as well as hatchery production. It is widely accepted that without hatchery production there will be no harvest.

There is no significant genetic difference between hatchery origin and natural origin salmon. Natural origin fish can be the product of hatchery fish pairing in the wild. There are many real-world examples of this. Look to Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, the Great Lakes states, Oregon's own Willamette River, and Washington State's Lonesome Larry.

Recent [work from Oregon State University on the subject](#) by Professor Kathleen O'Malley and her team lends some much-needed clarity on the role hatcheries can play in the restoration of salmon.

Recent advocacy efforts within our congressional delegation, our tribes, and our fishing industries for infrastructure investments in Oregon's Cole Rivers Hatchery on the Rogue River further demonstrate a shared understanding as to the importance of our hatchery programs.



Oregon Coastal Caucus

Rep. David Gomberg, Chair
Sen. Dick Anderson, Vice Chair
Sen. David Brock Smith
Sen. Suzanne Weber
Rep. Boomer Wright
Rep. Cyrus Javadi
Rep. Court Boice

We request that the Council join us and our commercial salmon fishing industry by embracing the values of hatchery production. We cannot continue to feed a nation without hatcheries.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rep. David Gomberg, Chair

Sen. Dick Anderson, Vice Chair

Sen. David Brock Smith

Sen. Suzanne Weber

Rep. Boomer Wright

Rep. Cyrus Javadi

Rep. Court Boice

(The above letter requests that Council join the OR CC in supporting salmon hatchery production for the sustainability of our salmon populations.)



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

1245 Fulton Avenue - Coos Bay, OR 97420
Telephone: (541)888-9577 Toll Free 1-888-280-0726 Fax: (541)888-2853

May 6, 2024

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Cole River Hatchery

Dear Council Members:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (“CTCLUSI”) in support of funding for Oregon’s Rogue River Cole River Hatchery.

CTCLUSI is aware of a recent request submitted by a number of parties in support of the Cole River Hatchery in amount of \$35 million and supports that request. Funding of this facility will benefit the Tribe and its members by making salmon available for harvest – salmon that provide a valuable cultural and subsistence resource in the life of our members.

We agree that Cole River Hatchery is a valuable facility for both local fish production and regionally -- producing salmon, trout and steelhead for much of the state south of the Columbia River Basin. We appreciate the State of Oregon’s recent commitment of \$2.9 million for needed improvements, but this investment falls far short of what is needed to ensure that the hatchery can meet the fish production that it is capable of.

For these reasons, the Tribe strongly supports the request for funding in the amount of \$35 million for this facility.

Respectfully,

Brad Kneaper
Chair, Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Val Hoyle
Oregon Governor Tina Kotek

Rep. David Gomberg 4-30-2024



Rep. Boomer Wright 4-29-2024



Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:47 AM

To: 'oregonanglersalliance@outlook.com' <oregonanglersalliance@outlook.com>

Subject: Jackson County's Logo - Letter of Support for Cole Rivers Hatchery Funding Request

Good Morning,

At its Work Session this morning, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners supported the letter of support regarding a Cole Rivers Hatchery funding request and approved the use of Jackson County's logo on the letter, which is attached.

Best Regards,

Kacie Kinney

Executive Assistant



Board of Commissioners

10 S Oakdale Room 214

Medford OR 97501

541-774-6116

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:47 AM

To: 'oregonanglersalliance@outlook.com' <oregonanglersalliance@outlook.com>

Subject: Jackson County's Logo - Letter of Support for Cole Rivers Hatchery Funding Request

Bob Main Coos County Commissioner, " I support the full infrastructure repairs at the Rogue River Cole Rivers Hatchery.

Bob Main" 4-15-2024

Rep. Court Boice 4-14-24



Sen. David Brock Smith 4-13-23



Sen. Suzanne Weber 5-6-24



I am sorry for the delay.

Senator Weber would like to sign on if that is still possible. I have attached her signature.

Katy Cvitanovich

Chief of Staff for
Sen Suzanne Weber
Senate District 16 Rural Northwest Oregon 503-300-4493

I'm happy to sign on. I'll let someone else tweak the draft if necessary.

Best,



Cyrus Javadi DDS

State Rep. HD-32 | Tillamook County, Clatsop County, City of Clatskanie
Capitol Office: (503) 986-1432

From: Teresa Spangler
<tspangler@ctclusi.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024
2:31 PM
To: Chief Doug Barrett
<doug.barrett@ctclusi.org>;
All Tribal Council
<AllTC@ctclusi.org>
Subject: RE: Cole Rivers
Hatchery Funding Request

Teresa Spangler
Vice - Chair, Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes of Coos,
Lower and Siuslaw Indians
[1245 Fulton Ave](mailto:1245FultonAve@ctclusi.org)
[Coos Bay, OR 97420](mailto:CoosBayOR97420@ctclusi.org)
541-294-3972

I also support this letter.

Thank you

4-8-24 Cole Rivers funding request

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW.
Washington, DC 20500

Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Ron Wyden.
Representative Val Hoyle.
Representative Cliff Bentz.

PFMC Chair Brad Pettinger
PFMC Ex. D. Merrick Burden
PFMC Dep. D. Kelly Ames
PFMC SSO Robin Ehlke

We the undersigned request that Oregon's Rogue River Cole Rivers Hatchery be fully funded for the minimum amount of \$35 million so that Cole Rivers Hatchery may be allowed to successfully produce quality salmon at its full capacity for the benefit of our river basin ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

1. Cole Rivers Hatchery can once again be a major salmon contributor. It rivals Bonneville Dam Hatchery in its size and potential for fish production.
2. According to NOAA and ODFW, 70% of salmonids harvested in Oregon are of hatchery origin. <https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/nrimp/feature/2003/07-2003.htm> Without hatcheries there would be no harvest.
3. Oregon hatchery operations expenditures over 2021-2023 were about \$35M per annum. Angler expenditures on gear and fishing trips alone approach \$400M, a great return on investment.
4. With Oregon having lost major infrastructure from its Rock Cr., Fort Klamath, and Leaburg hatcheries due to wildfires, and despite the challenge to meet its own production goals, Cole Rivers Hatchery has been assigned the additional tasks of producing fish to mitigate for other damaged Oregon hatcheries. Recently the USACE has eliminated and cut production for its mitigation requirements of salmon and steelhead at the Leaburg Hatchery.
5. The proposed measures are not detrimental to wild fish and are in line with Oregon Fisheries law and policy. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2005/06/28/05-12349/policy-on-the-consideration-of-hatchery-origin> Hatchery salmon production plays a vital role in conserving threatened and endangered species.
6. The hatchery has recently been awarded \$2.9 million for improvements, and Oregon is grateful, but this falls short of the total funding needed for infrastructure repairs that will provide the capability for it to operate at full capacity.
7. Cole Rivers Hatchery is not just a facility for local production. Due to failing Oregon hatcheries, it has become a regional hatchery, producing salmon, trout and steelhead for much of the state south of the Columbia River Basin.
8. Attempting to maximize fish densities to compensate for lack of quality infrastructure has been a constant cause for production loss and a source of frustration for staff.
9. As a 50-year-old hatchery, we now realize that the original design was flawed causing a series of modifications that over time, have resulted in a hatch house and early rearing pens that are overly complicated to operate and consequently counter-productive. Scott Patterson, fish propagation manager for the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, which manages the hatchery for the USACE, said his agency wants a new hatchery building, but the final decision belongs to the Corp of Engineers.

"With a new hatchery building, we can keep our small fish inside and covered. This will give them a chance to get bigger and be better able to adapt later on," he said.

"The improvements we make now will benefit us for years to come."
10. Many have questioned if Federal mitigation requirements are being met, but whether they are or not, they have never accounted for any loss of production, which has been commonplace throughout Cole Rivers history.

11. Adding climate adaptation (shade) is another component that was not considered 50 years ago. Summer temperatures are routinely in the 90°F range.

12. Some of the examples of lost production are as follows:

- April 2023; 866,694 steelhead fry lost at Cole Rivers.
- Year 2018; One million salmon eggs and fry died, victims of algae, fungus, and rust from a failed water system at Cole Rivers.
- Year 2000; An alarm malfunction led to the death of about 1.4 million spring Chinook at Cole Rivers.
- [News & Views Disease Management](#)
'Disappointing loss': 160,000 trout lost in Oregon after novel parasite infection
March 27, 2024 by Hatchery International staff

Key Considerations include:

- ODFW was never given the resources to operate Cole Rivers Hatchery. This is a USACE responsibility.
- ODFW maintains a "flat funding" level with no adjustment for inflation. Example: since 2019 fish food costs have gone up 30%.
- Like our commercial salmon fishing industry, the Southern Resident Killer Whale is a primary indicator species, and it is quickly trending towards extinction due to lack of salmon.

13. According to the NOAA programmatic EIS prey increase analysis concerning the probability of extinction for the Southern Resident Killer Whales from Jan. 2024, the areas described in Figure 6 illustrate the primary hatchery chinook production for the Southern Resident Killer Whales. Average proportion of hatchery Chinook salmon releases (2008-2023) by area as shown below.

Data from Table 3: Hatchery Chinook Releases by Area;

- Salish Sea Washington Coast 28%
- Oregon Coast Columbia River 62%
- Washington Coast 7%
- **Oregon Coast 3%**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2024-01/PDEIS-prey-programSRKW.pdf>

14. The NOAA EIS also shows that Columbia River stocks are **north migrating stocks**, going into AK and returning down through Canada to their home waters.

15. The Rogue Chinook are **south migrating fish** that are critical to the environment and especially to the cultural and economic well-being of Oregon and California.

The economic churn from creating salmon abundance for our environment and our wild fish, as well as our harvest fisheries, provides huge economic and tax benefits for our communities, providing a source of wealth that can be a larger part of Oregon's culture once again.

Salmon are not a keystone species; they are a foundation species. Our longevity and quality of life is directly dependent on the well-being of salmon. Please help us all by fully funding the repairs needed for Cole Rivers Hatchery.

Please see the above accompanying signature pages.