

Smith Holly

From: Salmon For All <info@salmonforall.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 12:43 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Cc: Brad Warren; Matt Markee
Subject: Oregon SB 557

Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Senate, Salem

ATT: Shelley Razka

I write to you today as a private, concerned citizen who happens to work in a fishery office. I am not speaking on behalf of my employers, because I do not have the opportunity to present it to my Board of Directors. But I do not think they would disagree with my position. They are, after all, fishermen and processors.

I recently attended a workshop at the FisherPoets Gathering in Astoria, Oregon presented by Brad Warren of Global Ocean Health in Seattle. The subject was what works and what doesn't in legislation intended to reduce the amount of carbon entering the atmosphere. This is of critical importance to the seafood industry, since the amount of carbon entering the atmosphere is directly related to ocean acidification, which threatens the fishery stocks on which all of our fisheries depend. It has already had dramatic effects on the oyster growers of the Oregon and Washington coasts. The amount of upwelling along the coast of the Pacific Northwest brings up from deep water that long ago absorbed the emerging burden of carbon emissions due to the industrial revolution, exacerbating the effect of carbon emissions released today. Several years ago, oyster hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest began to lose their oyster larvae, because the larvae couldn't grow a shell in time to grow into adulthood. The culprit turned out to be the Ph of the water used by the hatcheries. Some began buffering the water coming in to the hatchery, and others relocated to Hawaii, where ocean acidification is less intense. It is still a mounting concern for the oyster industry.

Ocean acidification also threatens other fisheries. It will have a dramatic effect of the Dungeness crab fishery – by far the most valuable fishery in Oregon and Washington. Ocean acidification also threatens our valuable stocks of salmonids. When salmon smolts enter the ocean, they primarily sustain themselves on krill, such as copepods, which are tiny shrimp-like creatures. If the Ph of the water is too low, the shells of these creatures melt, which should scare all of us. Krill are at the bottom of the food chain for most marine fish species. This is seriously troubling.

The best policies on reducing carbon emissions place a cap of carbon emissions, provide an incentive for reducing the amount of carbon emitted by putting a price on carbon emissions, and then reinvest the proceeds to help people and industries to be part of the solution. This system, which was adopted in New England several years ago, has proven to make a dramatic difference in lowering carbon emissions while benefiting the economy. Reducing carbon emissions this way not only has positive benefits for the environment, it's good for business. That's what amending SB 557 does. It's smart legislation which deserves bipartisan support. It replaces the parts of SB 557 in 2011 that haven't done what the Oregon legislature intended back then, and changes the bill to adopt policies that have proven very successful elsewhere. Everybody benefits.

Respectfully,

Hobe Kytr, Administrator
Salmon For All