

**Subject:****From:** Johnny O <outfishu@cox.net>**Date:** Wed, 30 Jan 2008 09:01:22 -0800**To:** Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

Agenda Item D.1.d

Public Comment

March 2008

Sir, I respectfully submit to you that a large part of the salmon shortage in Washington, Oregon and California is because of the explosion of California sea lions and the increase of the Alaskan salmon harvest. The sea lions now follow boats fishing for salmon and steal our fish and our fishing gear. It doesn't take a scientist to figure this out, please speak to the fishermen that are experiencing these problems.

Thank you

John O'Riordan

**Subject:** Salmon population collapse  
**From:** Rory Houchin <houchin.rory@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** Wed, 30 Jan 2008 10:55:36 -0800  
**To:** Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

There are many theories for the collapse of the Sacramento River salmon run. Here's another of the man made variety.

Two changes, put into effect in 2001, at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery has greatly reduced the salmon runs.

1. Hatchery personnel have been killing the early fall run chinooks and donating them to food banks without spawning them.

2. They terminated "trucking" the juvenile salmon past downstream predators and pumping stations. A policy which led to the peak run five years ago. Instead now, they just dump them in the river near Redding.

This was witnessed by a retired fish and game captain on a visit to hatchery three years ago.

You can't blame global warming for every thing. And pumping freshwater from the delta has not increased 88% to coincide with the salmon fishery collapse.

I feel it's something that should be investigated(Coleman Hatchery) and be fixed.

Thank you, sincerely,

Rory Houchin

**Subject:** west coast Chinook Salmon

**From:** Michael Edwards <deenmike@msn.com>

**Date:** Mon, 04 Feb 2008 00:05:58 -0800

**To:** Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

Hi Chuck

I'm Mike Edwards, Just an old Fisherman that has fished the Southern Oregon coast for, well I guess around 40 years. Really paying huge attention to what has been going on with our Salmon fishery and the puzzlement of everyone involved from what I read and also hear. For decades we have heard loud and clear that our problems when ever there is one, is ocean conditions and I mean any mis management or what ever, the blame always goes to the Ocean conditions. Well! this time we are in the middle of a huge decrease in Salmon from Washington to California and it has been the worst by far the last two seasons that I have seen with the biggest declines. The 2007 season as totally in the toilet. I have a 24' jet and I run rivers from March until the water gets to low and drives me to my drift boat and I know how to use both. We just do not have the fish and it is not going to get better, but! much worse and the culprit is Canada with the nets they are using and as told they know exactly that they are targeting the US fish. I have a good very good friend in Alaska that commercial fishes and they target the hell out of Canadian fish by fishing those early river fisheries, Then with Canada indicating if they want to target there fish we can play the same game and target Alaskas fish. Well they are targeting Washinton and Oregons fisheries. Living in North bend Oregon a friend of mine commercial fishes part time out of Coos Bay, He said if he had to make a living just commercial fishing he'd starve seeing what he has seen in the last 3 years with commercial fisherman. Believe me I'm not sticking up for Commercial fishing one bit as I have seen the Numbers of Coho thrown back as there gear is loaded and one after another thrown back with very little servival rate. When they are dragged through the water for 30-45 minutes most are dead at arrival to the boats and the ones that aren't are stressed so bad they don't make it anyway. With huge numbers of Coho off shore the last two seasons and with no accountability because they just have no answers when these fish are out of our esturaries and at sea. If they did instead of a few sitting on there butts there would be more attention paid on the issues we now have especially when there is no excuse. When I see the Fish that the ODFW is calling our Native fish I have to laugh. I will give you one very very good example. The Sixes River Noted for its full strain of native Steelhead and Also Salmon. This fishery remembering back some years until the city guides found out about our jewel rivers in the Sixes and Elk Rivers. Both very short Rivers. The Elk with a Hatchery just 8 miles from the Pacific and only about a mile apart at the jaws of the rivers The Sixes and Elk. The last 7-10 years I have caught my share of fish on the sixes with more than half being clipped fish and in the last 4, excluding the last 2 more than 70% were clipped fish and this has been going on for god knows how many years prior, we always noticed a few but there were so many fish to us it didn't matter. scale samples proved them to be Elk River chinooks. 2 years ago was the worst season I have seen on the sixes river with the exception of last season in 2007. I landed 2 fish both clipped and I don't know of 2 dozen fish caught all season the Elk was not much better infact they might have gotten just enough fish to spawn. Its not just those 2 rivers but when there is only about 60% clipped at the hatcheries before releasing does everyone think those are a hatchery fish when caught who knows?????? But! when speaking with hatchery personels Biologist about this, they indicate that If! a Chinook that comes from a hatchery and isn't clipped becomes a native to that strain and as aggressive as the Chinook Salmon is it will spawn with the nativs and vise versa. This Bs of Natives chasing off Hatchery/Natives when spawning is total BS I have seen the way they spawn at dry creek the old Chinook Dead line where it still should be, But! it matters no longer as I'm afraid that strain of natives and hatchery fish are gone with no help from a hatchery just a mile away. That is Sickning in itself. What this coussel better do is get this commercial off shore problem taken care of with Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California and if this doesn't happen we will never see these fisheries come back. We NMeed our hatcheries runing at 100% and put fish in our esturaries this is what we pay for. CANADA I'm, telling you needs to be addressed on these issues big time and this netting is totaling rediculous. They take take take and when I say Take its everything that cant get through those nets. Accidental catches what the heck does that mean it's a licence to catch everything and they do.

We need our hatcheries to run more than 25% as the largest hatchery in the State is running and that is the Rogue river at cole cr. Talk about rediculous there hasn't been a run in that river for some years eather. the Springer Run is down the toilet. A river that size and prestine with no fish. Where is the Tax payers dollars going??? The General Fund????? We purchase hunting and Fishing Licence and

now the poor person whom used to be able to catch a crab to eat or dig a clam has to pay for what we have no enhancement for Razor Clams, Crabs, and everything else we have including our sturgeon and halibut all we get is restricted and we do not see our dollars working on all these issues. Its never too late to see our fisheries come back, we have seen over the years with mother nature and she always returns us back to a great Oregon, But! this time it is out of her hands. Over commercial fished and the nets are the biggest issue we have today. I thank You for your time and hope this is addressed as I don't think I'm going to quit fishing any time soon. Good Luck you have a big job ahead of you. Be honest with yourself do what this state needs, More fish. Get these hatcheris going by not having or having too many as a few have said . that isn't why there Natives are in the toilet they are nice big Chinooks that cant escape those nets. Concerned sportsman Mike Edwards