



KATE BROWN
Governor

February 9, 2017

Michael Finley
Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission
1521 Nottingham Circle
Medford, OR 97504

Dear Chair Finley:

I am writing to request that the Commission change its decision regarding the non-tribal Lower Columbia fishery reforms and adopt rules that clearly match policy and law in the state of Oregon and the policy of my administration. The current rules, as adopted on January 20th, 2017, are not acceptable.

Oregon and Washington have invested a great deal of time and effort in resolving conflicts and providing certainty for fisheries in the lower Columbia River. It is the policy of my administration to honor those commitments. Honoring those commitments means adhering to the intent of Senate Bill 830, adopting regulations and rules concurrent with the state of Washington, and providing clarity, unity, and enforceability in the rules that govern the Columbia River fishery.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife presented a staff recommendation that balances these elements. Similarly, the policy adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission balances these interests. Either approach provides a clear and enforceable path forward. Non-concurrence between the two states is not acceptable. It will make enforcement complicated, confusing, and untenable, and put at risk ongoing funding and bi-state cooperation necessary for fishery reforms.

I ask that you adopt permanent rules to align the rules of the Fish and Wildlife Commission with the policy of my administration. I expect this action to occur by April 3rd, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown".

Governor Kate Brown

KB/jm

