

"Making a difference through excellence of service"



CITY OF WARRENTON

February 12, 2017

Office of the Governor
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Honorable Governor Kate Brown,

The City of Warrenton welcomed the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decision to extend commercial fishing opportunities on the Lower Columbia River. Warrenton did not support Measure 81, and the Warrenton City Commission did not support the Kitzhaber Plan to phase out gillnets on the Columbia River. Warrenton recently asked the ODFW Board to review the adaptive management practices outlined in SB 830 that seemed to warrant an extension of the commercial salmon fishery on the Columbia River.

The City of Warrenton operates two marinas. These marinas benefit from a healthy recreational fishing industry at the mouth of the Columbia River. Warrenton embraces the recreational user groups with open arms and several local businesses benefit from their business.

Equally important, Warrenton is the home to a large commercial fishing fleet and two seafood processors. One of these processors, Pacific Seafoods, is beginning a multi-million dollar investment in a brand new facility. Pacific Seafoods has historically processed commercially-harvested salmon from the Columbia River as part of their business model, and they employ many in our community.

A healthy commercial salmon fishery, including a well-managed gillnet fishery on the Columbia River, helps to sustain our commercial fishermen who have made Warrenton home by providing them with a supplemental source of income. Many recreational fishermen also commercially-gillnet and vice versa. Both are vital components in an economic mix that supports our city services, marinas, and marine-based businesses.

Warrenton needs both a healthy commercial fishing and a healthy recreational fishing industry in order for our community to stay fit. We need to maintain the balance in the harvest of salmon that Senate Bill 830 was intending to promote. We would politely ask you to defer to the judgement of the ODFW Board that has been carefully considering this matter and rendered what we believe to be a reasoned decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mark Kujala". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Mark Kujala
Mayor, City of Warrenton
225 S Main Street
Warrenton, OR 97146

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