**BACKGROUND**

ORS 508.819 requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to implement a lottery to issue new commercial troll salmon vessel permits when the number of permits renewed drops below 1,200, in order to bring the number back up to 1,200 in the next year. Only 1,139 permits were issued/renewed in 2006, leaving 61 available through the lottery process. The limited entry statute allows the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) to suspend the lottery for up to two years at a time. The OFWC suspended the troll salmon permit lottery in 2006 for 2006 only. Suspension shall be based on the OFWC's assessment of the condition of the resource, and shall account for the recommendations of the Troll Salmon Permit Review Board. House Bill 3541, passed by the Legislature this year and effective in 2008, amended ORS 508.819 to require ODFW to implement a lottery when the number of permits issued drops below 1,000 instead of 1,200. Therefore, in the future, no action will be required by the ODFW and OFWC to suspend or implement a lottery until the number of issued permits drops below the new 1,000 permit maximum that industry expects will occur through natural attrition of the fleet.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A number of interested parties were contacted by staff regarding whether or not to suspend the troll salmon lottery for 2007 (Attachment 4).

- The Oregon Salmon Commission was contacted and provided their input via letter to the OFWC.
- Twenty individuals who had inquired or expressed interest in this year’s lottery were notified by letter of the July 13, 2007 OFWC meeting.
- ODFW staff discussed their recommendation that the lottery be suspended in 2007 with the Troll Salmon Permit Review Board and the Board (4 out of 5 members) affirmed the suspension.

**ISSUE 1**

Should the OFWC approve a suspension of the troll permit lottery or should the lottery be conducted for the year 2007 to increase the number of permitted vessels back to the 1,200 permit maximum?

**ANALYSIS**

The last review of Oregon's restricted commercial fishing systems followed the passage of Senate Bill 938 in 1995 and at that time created the 1,200 salmon troll permit cap. Background and history of the troll salmon permit program and lottery provisions can be found in Attachment 2.

In light of the continued restrictions on ocean salmon seasons due to conservation concerns with ESA stocks and reduced abundance of other stocks, as well as the groundfish fishery crisis and growing concern about effort shifting among all fisheries, it would be appropriate to suspend the salmon permit lottery.
OPTIONS

1. Approve the staff recommendation to suspend the troll salmon permit lottery for the year 2007 and adopt the attached Order (Attachment 3).
2. Reject the staff recommendation and direct staff to proceed with the troll permit lottery for the year 2007.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Approve the staff request to suspend operation of the troll salmon permit lottery for the year 2007.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the suspension of the troll permit lottery for the year 2007 as proposed by staff and authorized by ORS 508.819 and to adopt the Order as shown in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE