

# **Public Correspondence**

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**Bayer Research--Independent, Not-for-Profit Studies of Biology and Ecology**

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Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Ave. NE  
Salem, Oregon, 97303

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Exhibit E: LIMITED ENTRY ANCHOVY PETITION for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting on April 23.

I am writing in opposition to this petition and in support of the Staff Recommendation in the "Agenda Item Summary" to deny this proposal (see [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/10/04\\_apr/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/10/04_apr/)).

As noted in the Agenda Item Summary, one concern is that juvenile salmonids, particularly juvenile chinook, will be caught as bycatch in this proposed fishery. The proposed fishery would be from May 15 through October 31, which is also the peak out-migration period for juvenile chinook and coho. Juvenile chinook and anchovies have been caught together in seine sets in several Oregon estuaries.

My second concern is that juvenile salmonids eat anchovies in estuaries (e.g., McCabe et al. 1983). Consequently, the anchovy fishery could negatively affect the growth and survival of juvenile salmonids while they are in Yaquina Bay.

My third concern is that salmonids eat anchovies in the ocean. Removing anchovies in this fishery could thereby affect salmonid growth and survival and thereby negatively impact commercial and recreational fisheries, including charter boats.

While anchovies are often considered to be merely "baitfish," they are forage fishes for many other fish that are important in Pacific Northwest fisheries (e.g., WDFW 1998). As the Marine Conservation Network (2007) notes, forage fish may be the most important fish in the sea because "*Without forage fish the ocean food web would collapse and no longer support large, diverse assemblages of top predator species.*"

Removing anchovies in Yaquina Bay as proposed in this petition does not seem prudent because it could negatively affect salmonids and other fish important in Oregon fisheries, so I urge the Commission to deny this petition.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Yours,

Range Bayer

References

- Marine Fish Conservation Network. 2007. Forage Fish: the Most Important Fish in the Sea. This is at <http://www.foragefish.org/>
- McCabe, G T., Jr., W. D. Muir, R. L. Emmett, and J. T. Durkin. 1983. Interrelationships between Juvenile Salmonids and Nonsalmonid Fish in the Columbia River Estuary. Fishery Bulletin 81:815-826. This is at <http://fishbull.noaa.gov/81-4/mccabe.pdf>
- Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). 1998. Washington Forage Fish Management Plan. This is at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/forage/manage/foragman.htm>