



Columbia River Fisheries Transition Program

- Senate Bill 830 was signed into law July 2013 to aid implementation of CR Fish Mgmt and Reform rules adopted by Commission
- Statute directs ODFW to establish and implement a Columbia River fisheries transition program and established the Transition Fund
- Statute specifies that the Fund was appropriated to the Commission, but distribution of funds to Oregon permit holders would be managed by county programs
- Statute appropriated \$500,000 General Fund moneys to the Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund
- Statute provides the Commission the authority to accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts from any source to deposit in the Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund

Purpose of OARs

- Provide criteria and procedures for implementation of Columbia River Fisheries transition program
- Establish a grant program for Oregon counties to receive funds for distribution to permit holders
 1. Compensate individuals for economic harm due to restrictions related to the policy
 2. Financial assistance to help offset the cost of required gear changes as a result of the policy
 3. Reimbursement to counties for costs necessary to implement the program

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Economic Harm

- SB830: “Economic Harm” means the reduction, unrelated to environmental and market variability or personal circumstances, in the annual income of an individual who holds a vessel permit issued pursuant to ORS 508.775 to ORS 508.796, from fishing under the permit that is due to Columbia River fish management and reform adopted by rule of the commission.

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County Overhead

County will be reimbursed for costs necessary to implement and operate the program (subject to agency review and approval)

- Establishing an advisory committee
- Establishing a procedure for application
- Establishing a procedure to provide an estimate of potential cost
- Distributing grant program funds
- Preparation of an annual report

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County Qualifications

Subject to available funds, a county qualifies for a grant if they:

- Establish a county advisory committee to oversee the county program.
- Establish a procedure to provide funds to permit holders under the program
- Establish methods to determine compensation rates for economic harm
- Establish eligibility requirements to ensure the person did experience economic harm as defined in statute

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Grant Agreement

- Description of the program and work elements
- Payment schedule
- Condition requiring an annual report due on June 1 of each year
- Condition allowing the Department to withhold payment pending resolution
- Conditions for termination of the agreement

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Grant Agreement cont.

- Condition requiring county to maintain records necessary for the Department to audit
- Changes in timelines if mutually agreed to
- Unexpended funds must be returned for re-deposit in the Transition Fund
- Program will sunset January 2, 2019, per statute

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Permit Holder Qualifications

- Possess Oregon Columbia River vessel permit
- Demonstrate a history of recent landings under Oregon Columbia River vessel permit
- Document economic harm (defined in statute) due to restrictions related to Columbia River reform rules

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Review of County Applications

- Applications submitted to the Department by March 1 of each year. Late submissions can be accepted at discretion of the Department
- Applications reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and consistency with rules and statutory requirements
- Incomplete applications returned for corrections or completion

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Grant Awards

- Approval for full amount requested
- Deferral of request pending additional information
- Denial of request

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Process Timeline

- Fishery ends October 31
- County works with Department to establish a program by January 1st of a given year
- County solicits applications from permit holders
- County submits application for reimbursement by March 1
- Department reviews county applications
- Grants funds to the county
- Annual report due June 1

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Technical Assistance to County

- Assistance with developing application
- Provide current Oregon permit list
- Provide historical and current Oregon permit landings and other data (run sizes, management actions, etc.) as needed to support county board criteria and evaluation processes
- Other assistance as needed to establish and operate program

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Public Discussion

- Discussions during development of Senate Bill 830
- Discussions during development of Commission policy
- Met with Lower Columbia River Joint Fisheries Coalition on several occasions
- October 2, 2014 met with Clatsop County
- November 12, 2014 met with Salmon For All

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Staff Recommendation

- Adopt the proposed new rules and establish a Columbia River fisheries transition program as required by Senate Bill 830