

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

In the 2013 Regular Session of the Oregon Legislature, Senate Bill 830 established the Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund (Transition Fund) and directed the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish and implement a Columbia River fisheries transition program. This program will provide grants to counties for implementation of county-managed programs.

An implemented county program would provide compensation from the Transition Fund to Oregon Columbia River vessel permit holders for economic harm resulting from restrictions related to Columbia River fish management and reform adopted by Commission rule. The county program would also provide financial assistance to permit holders who demonstrate a history of recent landings to help offset costs associated with fishing gear changes related to Columbia River fish management and reform if required by Commission rule.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

There was extensive public involvement associated with the overarching Commission policy and Senate Bill 830. Agency staff discussed the policy and Transition Fund program with the Lower Columbia River Joint Fisheries Coalition on several occasions. The Joint Fisheries Coalition includes representatives from both Clatsop and Columbia counties. On October 2, 2014 agency staff met with Clatsop County staff to present a proposal for establishing grant procedures for the Transition Fund. County staff were presented with the agency's draft rule language and examples of data available to establish measures of economic harm. Agency staff met with members of the Salmon for All board on November 12, 2014 to discuss these draft rules and get additional feedback.

### ISSUE 1

#### **ESTABLISH RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERIES TRANSITION PROGRAM**

### ANALYSIS

Funds deposited in the Transition Fund will be used to provide grants to qualifying Oregon counties to help compensate vessel permit holders for economic harm and fishing gear changes related to Columbia River fish management and reform adopted by Commission rule.

The Transition Fund consists of \$500,000 in General Funds appropriated by the Legislative Assembly but also allows the Commission to accept grants, donations, contributions, or gifts for deposit into the Transition Fund (none of which have been received to date). Any interest earned in this account shall be credited to the fund, which is authorized through January 1, 2019.

The proposed rules guide establishment of a compensation and assistance program with Oregon counties that choose to participate. The rules define procedures counties must follow to establish a program and to apply for the grants they will use to financially assist permit holders. Participating

counties will be required to establish an advisory committee to oversee the program. The committee and county will jointly determine eligibility requirements, compensation rates, procedures for distributing funds to Columbia River vessel permit holders, and other procedural requirements that may be needed to operate the program.

In addition to providing administrative oversight, the Department will also provide technical assistance as needed to help a county determine eligibility of permit holders, including providing appropriate fish ticket information to the county. Other examples of technical assistance include descriptions of seasonal, stock composition, and market variability of the fisheries.

**OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the proposed new rules and establish a Columbia River fisheries transition program shown in Attachment 3.
2. Modify the proposed new rules and establish a Columbia River fisheries transition program.
3. Reject the proposed new rules and delay establishing a Columbia River fisheries transition program.

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

<b>DRAFT MOTION</b>	I move to adopt the administrative rules to establish procedures for implementing the Columbia River fisheries transition program as proposed by staff in the draft OAR's shown in Attachment 3.
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	Upon filing with the Secretary of State.