

Exhibit A
**Update on Columbia River Harvest
Reform**

Supplemental Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of November 9, 2016**

From: [Dave Schamp](#)
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: attachment
Date: Wednesday, November 09, 2016 7:24:46 AM
Attachments: [0442_001.pdf](#)

Please find comments for the November 9, 2016 meeting regarding the Columbia River reforms.

Thanks!



CCA

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
OREGON

November 8, 2016

Chair Finley and Commissioners:

My name is Dave Schamp. I am a fourth generation Oregonian, avid sport angler, Air Force veteran and very concerned about recent developments regarding the Columbia River harvest reforms.

On December 7, 2012, this Commission made a historical decision to institute long awaited and desperately needed management reforms on the Columbia River to protect endangered salmon and steelhead. The Coastal Conservation Association continues to applaud your courage and commitment to protecting our iconic salmon and steelhead stocks.

Your leadership led to a bi-state agreement supported by a wide range of interests. Now is not the time to abandon the good work of the bi-state work group or jeopardize the bi-state agreement by changing course. The plan is working and benefits are being realized. Please stay the course!

With any plan this complex with competing priorities there will be a need to revisit and refine elements, but the foundation of this monumental positive shift in fisheries management cannot be compromised. Guiding principle #6 states "Phase out the use of non-selective gill nets in non-tribal commercial fisheries in the main stem Columbia River. Transition gill net use to off channel areas." Staff has apparently decided to re-write the guiding principle stating in their recommendation "This recommendation meets the policy objective to remove gill nets from the main stem for significant portions of the year." The use of gill nets in the Columbia's main stem must end December 31, 2016. It is imperative that you stand firm on ensuring the removal of gillnets from the main stem of the Columbia at the end of the transition period. Allowing non-selective gillnet harvests to continue in mixed stock fisheries is irresponsible and unnecessarily jeopardizes imperiled fish stocks as well as your credibility with stakeholders and the bi-state agreement.

Adjustments to the plan using adaptive management was expected, but there is no basis for shifting allocations that results in an economic increase to the gill net fleet in the range of 50% to 60%. Guiding principle #4 says "In a manner that is consistent with conservation and does not impair the resource, seek to enhance the overall economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries in Oregon and Washington." It does not say the gill net fleet will be guaranteed certain ex-vessel value or that they will realize an economic increase.

Arguably, if the gill net fleet would actively participate in the development of alternate gear an economic increase could be achieved, but they continue to refuse and instead insist on using archaic and destructive non-selective gear even though the use of seines has been shown to result in high catch rates of target species. According to the staff report "Overall, and based on the 2014-15 fall seine fisheries, it appears that in the hands of experienced and skilled fishers, and fished in a location free of snags, beach and purse seines are capable of relatively high catch rates of target species." This information along with historical data clearly show that seines are a viable alternative to gill nets. We also now know that purse seines could provide access to the valuable upriver bright fishery above the Lewis River in Zones 4-5.

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Sport fishers pay \$9.75 annually to support the Columbia River reforms, including increase production for off-channel commercial fisheries. While claims are being made about negative economic impacts to commercial fishers, according to the staff report the Columbia River Transition fund, which includes over \$1M in general fund revenues, has yet to be touched: “no counties have pursued developing a program to receive and distribute grants to commercial fishers, and we are not aware of any associated claims of economic harm by commercial fishers requesting reimbursements.” This strongly suggests that in reality there has been no negative economic impact to commercial fishers.

Eliminating the barbless hook requirement on the Willamette is overdue and welcomed. It was clear that the Young’s Bay bubble restriction was intended to be punitive and would not reduce the catch of Select Area Brights. We strongly support staff’s recommendation to eliminate the bubble. It’s expensive to enforce and does not provide a benefit to fish or fishers.

ODF&W staff have done an outstanding job of compiling background information and a comprehensive report. Based on the information contained in the report it is apparent that the management reforms are working and in some cases providing significant conservation enhancements. An example from the report, “Thus, for commercial fisheries, the cost-benefit of releasing hatchery fish in off-channel Select Areas is orders of magnitude more efficient than hatchery releases from non-off-channel areas for main stem commercial fisheries. The conservation benefit is two-fold, shifting hatchery releases from wild fish areas and dramatically increasing the number of hatchery fish harvested from hatchery releases.

Thank you for your resolve in assuring implementation of the Columbia River Fisheries Reform to protect and enhance the thirteen endangered stocks of salmon and steelhead. Please don’t bow to the pressure of the commercial interests who refuse to take an active role in moving beyond non-selective harvest in the Columbia’s main stem. Don’t jeopardize the bi-state agreement because of misleading claims by commercial interests that the economics are not working out or that they are entitled to a 60% increase in profits. If it’s true that the economics are not in their favor they should be rewarded for finding ways to selectively harvest hatchery fish not refusing to embrace the direction of the ODF&W Commission and the legislators who passed SB830. It’s time for the commercial gill net fishers of the Columbia to move beyond their outdated and harmful practices and support progress that will preserve our iconic salmon and steelhead runs for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Schamp, Chairman
CCA Oregon