

Jim Coleman  
Public Forum

April 20, 2018

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to offer suggestions to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

My comments concern improving the dependability of salmon, steelhead and sturgeon landing data. Better data provides better decisions.

Processors of troll and gill net caught salmon and sturgeon are required to submit documentation of daily landings to ODFW. This provides actual catch numbers to the Department for analyses, which is used in the management of the respective fisheries. Other procedures are used to calculate an estimate of other impacts.


A river of quality data could be provided by charter and guide boat businesses. These businesses could easily provide 100% of fleet actual landing numbers that would improve the accuracy of the data utilized in making important decisions concerning salmon, steelhead and sturgeon in Oregon. This can be accomplished by requiring each of these commercial operations to document and submit each trip's fishers' landings for each day (as is done in Alaska). Further, because of the importance of impact rate information, all catch and release information should be recorded. Accumulation of this information will bring more actual numbers, providing improved basis for management decisions.

Standard numbered documentation sheets should provide the following information:

1. Name or number of boat and operator (filled out prior to fishing).
2. Date (filled out prior to fishing).
3. Names and tag numbers of fishers (filled out prior to fishing).
4. Tag location codes for areas fished.
5. Number of species landed and kept.
6. Number of species caught and released.

A space for tallying should be provided on the documentation sheet. These sheets should be retained by the operator. The information should be submitted electronically at the conclusion of each fishing day whether any fish are caught or not. Boarding, observation and sampling rules should coincide with the other commercial fisheries.

Alaska requires all guide boat businesses to follow trip logging rules. Following their lead will improve the data available to make important management decisions. With a more complete data base, more accurate assessments can be made by a data driven organization such as ODFW.

Respectfully submitted,  
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