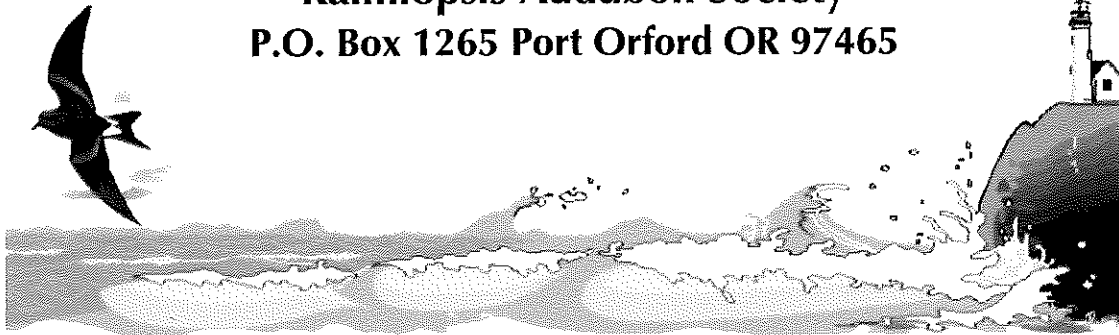


Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465



April 18, 2019

Re: Item F: Ocean Salmon Fisheries and Ocean Terminal Fisheries Rulemaking

Dear ODFW Commission members:

I cannot attend your meeting, and so I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has 380 members based in Curry County on Oregon's South Coasts who strongly support conservation of our state's birds, fish, and wildlife.

For the past several years, we have come to update you about a troubling situation with fall Chinook in our Elk River. You will recall that in 2013, ODFW found that the Elk River fall Chinook run was the only non-viable Chinook run on the coast and that our wild fish had a 16.9 percent chance of extinction. Since then, each year we've provided an update on many efforts aiming to address this situation, including by OHRC, local landowners, and ODFW.

After a year of poor returns in 2018 and with poor conditions again forecast for the 2019 season, we urge you to support ODFW staff recommendations to NOT open a terminal fishery at Elk River this year. This is definitely a critical time for precautionary management for our small but important Elk River fall Chinook run.

In addition, **we urge you to support the Department's recommendation to NOT open a terminal fishery on the Chetco River.** The watershed of this small river has recently been significantly impacted by a wildfire event (Chetco Bar Fire) that could affect habitat owing to sedimentation related to road and culvert failures. With poor ocean forecasts for this river as well, careful management is needed.

Both of these wild rivers are cherished by local communities for their fish and wildlife --and so we urge a precautionary approach that will hopefully allow for stronger fisheries when conditions improve.

Thank you for considering our view.

Sincerely,

Ann Vileisis, President

