

**Exhibit (C)**

**Coquille Conservation  
Hatchery**

**Supplemental #4  
Public Correspondence received  
as of August 5, 2022**

*Court Boice, Curry County Oregon Commissioner*



*August 4, 2022*

*Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302*

*[ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov)*

*Re: Coquille Fall Chinook Conservation Hatchery Program (8-5-2022 Meeting, Agenda Ex. C)*

*Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Zarnowitz, Members of the Commission, and representatives of the Coquille Indian Tribe -*

*We know this matter to be a critical issue for frankly the entire Western United States. Our Anadromous Fish are such an incredible and special resource that we're all proud of. Immediate action is likewise critical. I have reviewed the proposed Coquille Fall Chinook Conservation Hatchery Operation Plan (the "Plan") and related documents. I strongly support their Plan and the proposal to implement a conservation hatchery, fall chinook for the Coquille. Frankly, we elated with this program. If for no other reason; in my nearly 7 decades of living in Curry County, I've never witnessed a Tribal Solution on any Oregon Resource issue that has not ultimately produced appropriate and excellent results.*

*Almost four years ago, Curry County pushed for strong related policy for Fish Rehabilitation in hiring well-known expert Steve Beyerlin as our Curry Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Coordinator. Myself, I've made three trips to the Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery in the last 4 months in meeting with Senator Merkley Staff, the Coquille Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rogue Basin County Commissioners and of course the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. We are very determined to get this 50-year-old facility repaired and modernized. Much is being accomplished toward those goals. Our vision is that this project will in the long-term help other Fish Hatchery Programs of course and including the Coquille.*

*Included in “the plan “and also in my view, the smallmouth bass are likely the primary limiting cause of the extremely low numbers of the Coquille River Returning Chinook. Wise Non-Native Fish Management in the Coquille will begin to address this problem on a meaningful level. That work will be critical to the success of this new conservation program.*

*Our three Commissioners are very united on our Southcoast Rivers Salmon Hatchery Programs. Curry County and our Fish Recovery Team remain committed and available to assist in anyway possible. We very much look forward to partnering with the agency and the Tribe to help ensure the Coquille River and its wild stocks of salmon and steelhead persist long into the future.*

*Respectfully submitted.*

*Court Boice, Curry County Oregon  
Commissioner*

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