

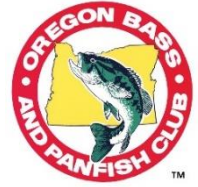
Exhibit B

Director Recruitment

**Public Correspondence received
as of January 10, 2024**

OREGON BASS & PANFISH CLUB

P.O. BOX 1021, PORTLAND, OREGON 97207-1021



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Date: January 9, 2023

To: Geoffrey Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor
Cc: ODFW Commission

Subject: Oregon Bass and Panfish [OBPC] warmwater fish issues for new ODFW Director.

For over 35 years, the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club has been a partner with ODFW for warmwater enhancement programs and related activities throughout Oregon. The OBPC has provided volunteers for programs, caught fish for transport, provided comments for draft regulation and other warmwater enhancement projects. With the change of Directors at ODFW, we felt it appropriate to comment on the state of warmwater activities at the Department.

The OBPC has concerns with, [1] fairness in funding allocation, [2] warmwater management emphasis on political objectives instead of science, [3] removal warmwater fish regulations and, [4] ESA impacts.

As background for funding allocation, about 27% of Oregon anglers target warmwater fish (an ODFW survey data-point). But, only about 0.15% of ODFW Fish Department funds are allocation for the benefit of warmwater fish. This allocation is not fair to present or future anglers that target warmwater fish or to the development of thriving warmwater fish communities for the future generations.

We believe that the change from a scientific approach to warmwater fish management to a political appeasement approach [show people that ODFW is doing anything, everything for Salmon, NOAA/NMFS letter dated November 1, 2012] around 2014, was further detrimental to warmwater anglers. The elimination of catch, bag, and size limits were detrimental to current and long-term warmwater fish success across the state.

The Endangered Species Act interpretation by ODFW has further contributed to reducing or eliminating warmwater fish enhancement programs. The ODFW position is that warmwater fish and Salmonoids can't coexist together. But the Oregon coastal lakes and the Columbia River are a living laboratory showing that Salmon and warmwater fish can coexist and thrive together. The ODFW should press the foundries of ESA and take bold steps to enhance warmwater fishing since there is no science to back up the warmwater fish restrictions.

Another significant point that should not be overlooked, is that the Salmon species have adapted to and thrived in the time of significant glaciation regionwide. With global warming in full swing, the 115-degree days, warming seas, droughts, wild fires and floods' impact on the cold-water loving Salmonoids will be significant. Even ODFW's own Environmental Policy notes that Salmonoid populations are going to suffer from the warming conditions, and that ODFW should adopt to a more open approach to warmwater fishing opportunities.

The warmwater fish require little habitat adjustment or restocking after initial stocking. Many ODFW stocks of warmwater fish planted nearly 135 years ago still thrive today. They adapt to many warm and cold environs benefiting present and future generations. It is statistically a bad practice to bet all your money on one species without a backup plan, in case of a likely failure of the Salmonoids.

The next director should be sensitive to warmwater fish issues and continue to work closely with the OBPC to enhance the warmwater fishing experience across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell McDougal", written over a horizontal line.

Mitchell McDougal
President, Oregon Bass and Panfish Club