

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Salmon Season Rules

Commenter(s)	Concerns/Issues	Response	Change
Dr. Clinton C. Shock Ontario, OR	OWEB should not make current rules permanent. The salmon emergency declared by the governor is for a limited time. OWEB does not need permanent rules for a short term emergency.	The temporary rules expire on January 21, 2007 and cannot be extended, so unless the Executive Order (EO) is rescinded prior to this date the only way the Board can continue to exercise an evaluation criteria that includes hiring displaced fishers, is through permanent rules tied to the EO. The intention is to tie the preference to the emergency not unlike a drought emergency.	No
Dr. Clinton C. Shock Ontario, OR	OWEB should reconsider the scientific basis of their original decision. The assumption behind the policy is that salmon numbers are down due to environmental deterioration in Oregon. If not due to environmental deterioration in Oregon, then largely due to a) short term fluctuations, b) fishing in excess of sustainable harvest, or c) loss of environment on the Trinity River, then we need other policies. Policies could be designed around a) a short break in fishing, b) fewer fishermen, or c) environmental restoration on the Trinity River.	The proposed rules do not address the ecological basis for the salmon season state of emergency. These rules are based on developing an effort to assist the fishing community affected while adding value to the ecological conditions of Oregon coastal salmon streams.	No
Dr. Clinton C. Shock Ontario, OR	Critical watershed restoration needs are present in every corner of Oregon. OWEB will be the best steward of funds by expenditures based on unbiased evaluations of the relative merits of all possible projects in the state.	The projects supported will provide the same ecological benefits as regular OWEB grants.	No
Harney County Watershed Council	We believe the creation of this problem was due to administrative acts directly from the Governors office and that solutions to the collapse of the commercial fishery employment should be a direct responsibility of the Governors office and not of the agencies peripheral to that office. We do not believe it is the obligation of OWEB to cure administrative decisions made by the Governors office.	The fishery closure occurred as a result of federal action, not state action. OWEB is part of the executive branch of Oregon government, which is headed by the Governor. State agencies are obligated, within their missions, to provide assistance under the executive order. OWEB is able to provide assistance through expedited, qualified grants to local groups who use displaced fishers (men or women) to complete needed restoration and related activities.	No

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Harney County Watershed Council	How will funding these programs will affect the watershed funding throughout the entire State? We request that another look be taken at the use of these funds for projects that are primarily directed a one time economic subsidy of a specific group of workers.	This funding is only provided for projects that benefit watershed health and key mission activities of OWEB and the Oregon Plan. The amount of funding available in the 2005-2007 biennium for restoration grants is greater than \$40 million. More funding is available this biennium for each restoration grant cycle than ever before benefiting watershed health in all parts of the state.	No
Harney County Watershed Council	With the continuing growth of demand on OWEB funds for watershed enhancement programs we see the setting of a priority for these displaced fishermen programs as potentially a direct competition to the current stream of funding allocation to the watersheds of the entire state. The precedent set by selecting one group of displaced workers to thus subsidize, seems unfair to all the other groups who have been displaced by random acts in the name of natural resource protection. (i.e. logging, mining, and public land grazing).	These rules are OWEB's response to the directive in the Governor's Executive Order. Projects funded under these rules support the Oregon Plan and OWEB mission, which focuses on investments that have ecological, economic, and community benefits.	No
Kaety Hildenbrand Marine Fisheries Extension Faculty OSU Extension Service Lincoln County	While salmon habitat enhancement projects are vital to the recovery of the salmon fishery, there are also other avenues of research that are vital to maintaining the infrastructure, community, and market for the salmon fishery. These projects could really benefit from being included in OWEB's granting rules, and the salmon fishermen waiting for jobs could also benefit. I recommend that that under OWEB actions, letter B should state: Gather information that can be directly used for salmon habitat or fishery restoration and retention; and letter C should state Conduct outreach to the public concerning salmon habitat restoration, or the salmon fishery.	The needs identified are valid, but OWEB funds are limited by statute and mission to watershed and habitat restoration.	No

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Wayne Hoffman MidCoast Watersheds Council	The current application process permits three types of applications, with different forms. The process does not provide for applications with mixed types of work. Provision to allow such applications would facilitate the process of finding meaningful, valuable work for these fishers. The separation for accounting purposes does not need to extend to the application process. Request that the proposed rule be rewritten to provide for, or at least to avoid setting up unnecessary barriers to, applications to hire fishers for jobs that involve both restoration and data-collecting tasks.	This is a good idea in concept, but because of the nuances of OWEB funding, it is impractical to mix types of work in a single grant application and agreement.	No
Henry Bryson Commercial Salmon Troller (oral comment)	As a salmon troller, there is a need and want for this program, but desire is to fish. Would be nice to have these programs in winter when they're not fishing.	Employment through OWEB-funded projects is available at these time frames, but is set by the local grant recipient.	No
Henry Bryson Commercial Salmon Troller (oral comment)	There is no easily accessible full list of the programs available to him. Information seems to be passed by word of mouth, but it needs to be posted somewhere everyone can see.	Comment not germane to the rules, but is appreciated and will be passed along to others participating in the response.	No