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Montana

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Montana

Melinda S. Eden
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Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

August 27, 2009

Memorandum

To: Council Members

From: Oregon Council office

Re: Resolution regarding commercial and sport fisheries

At the Council Meeting in Astoria, three commissioners of Clatsop County in Oregon, and Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties in Washington, will present remarks regarding the following policy statement:

THREE-COUNTY FISHERIES COALITION APPROVES RESOLUTION

The commissioners of Clatsop County and Pacific and Washington counties in Washington together endorsed a joint policy statement supporting the lower Columbia River salmon industry. The entire resolution reads:

We the Elected County Commissioners of Clatsop County, Oregon, Pacific County, Washington, and Wahkiakum County, Washington, have formed the ***Lower Columbia River Joint Fisheries Coalition***, and resolve to uphold the following principles that we feel reflect the will of our constituents, protect our heritage and culture, and protect our fishing-dependent economies by supporting:

- Equitable distribution of Lower Columbia River Salmon among commercial, sport, and tribal communities who have a legal and moral right to share cultural and economic benefits provided by the salmon fisheries on the lower Columbia.
- Participation by all partners in the creation of equitable allocation policies for commercial, tribal, and sport fisheries.
- Fishery policies based on best available science and that are subject to peer and public review.
- Consumers' rights to purchase locally caught Lower Columbia River Salmon in restaurants and markets in local communities and abroad.

- Economic investments by commercial and sports fishermen that create and retain jobs for local families and which have a multiplying positive effect for businesses (i.e. financial sector, insurance, manufacturing, retail, seafood processors, tourism, and marketers.)
- The heritage and culture of the people of the Lower Columbia River who have fished commercially and recreationally for centuries and whose identities, traditions, businesses, and livelihood are dependent on the local fisheries.
- Efforts to improve all fish stocks in the Lower Columbia River until supply exceeds demand.
- Providing information, education and interpretations of the environmental and cultural legacy provided by the Columbia River salmon for those who visit the Lower Columbia counties by acknowledging the importance of salmon as a first food for Native Americans and the importance salmon plays in the culture and heritage today.
- Improving the timeliness and transparency of permit processes by agencies that regulate the Columbia River Estuary.
- Protecting the rights of private property owners as we endeavor to restore habitat to increase the availability of Lower Columbia River salmon.
- Holding those who have polluted the waters and silt of the Columbia River accountable and responsible for the legacy pollution they have caused.