



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-4

For the meeting of: June 9, 2015

Date: June 3, 2015  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn  
Subject: Letter Regarding Klamath River Fishing Regulations – Blue Creek Closure

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Humboldt County is concerned about the economic impacts related to sport fishing closures at the mouth of the Klamath River and Blue Creek tributary. The Board is sending a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission requesting reconsideration of their decision and to remove the closure next year at the mouth of Blue Creek so the proper studies can be initiated to form the foundation for the decision making process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed letter related to Lower Klamath River Fishing Regulations – Blue Creek Closure.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature Rex Bohn

**REVIEW:**

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF ITEM:**

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Upon motion of Supervisor Bohn Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: June 9, 2015

By: Kathy Hayes  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

June 3, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission  
Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Lower Klamath River Fishing Regulations – Blue Creek Closure**

Dear Executive Director Mastrup:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our concern with the lack of communication and consequences of closures related to sports fishing at the mouth of the Klamath River and Blue Creek, tributary to the Klamath River.

The proposed amendments to Subsections 7.50(b)(91.1) and (b)(195), Title 14, CCR related to the Klamath River sports fishery closure were hastily made without full consideration to the economic impacts within Humboldt County and our neighbor Del Norte County. Additionally, as supported by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife during reports given to the Commission on February 12, 2015, that science should have been explored to support the decision.

While local input was included for consideration, we feel that they were ignored and the closure of Blue Creek was not fully vetted with sport fishery stakeholders and small businesses that rely on this fishery to support 50% of their yearly revenue. The closure does not just impact fishing guides, but rather a whole host of traveling public that spends the majority of their travel budget on food, lodging and transportation, directly affecting the regional economy.

At a minimum, run timing and species specific impacts affected by this closure should have been considered. As currently suggested by proponents of the closure, do Blue Creek Chinook salmon hold at Blue Creek during this time of year or are these Chinook migrating further up the Klamath? The period impacted traditionally only impacted summer steelhead runs, which guides target at the mouth of Blue Creek, not Chinook salmon. Is there the general belief that Chinook Salmon populations on the Klamath River are in trouble? It is my understanding based on quota's set over the last five (5) years that the Klamath Chinook fishery has been robust. There has been no discussion as to how steelhead fishing fits into any of the proposed closures. As of now, the closure has tied all our hands, keeping fisheries biologists from collecting vitally important information which could help answer some of these questions.



Humboldt County wants to see our vital resources protected. We rely on our fisheries both off and on shore, on the Smith and Klamath Rivers to support our tourism driven economy, it is critical that we work together to insure all aspects of these decisions are considered carefully before we close off resources that affect our economy. As there are many questions left unanswered concerning a population of Chinook that is currently not considered threatened, we would strongly recommend the Commission reconsider the Blue Creek Conservation Closure and the economic impacts to small businesses in our region.

While we understand that the decision has been made for this season, and even if corrective action were taken today, we respectfully request that the Commission reconsider their decision and commit to removing the closure next year at the mouth of Blue Creek so the proper studies requested by the Yurok Tribe can be initiated to form the foundation for decision making processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Estelle Fennell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Estelle" and last name "Fennell" clearly distinguishable.

Estelle Fennell, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

EF:kh