



May 9, 2008

TO: Oregon Troll Salmon Permit Holders

FROM: Katy Coba, Director *Katy Coba*

RE: Salmon Fisher Financial Assistance

On April 10, 2008 Governor Ted Kulongoski declared a state of emergency for affected areas of the Oregon coast due to anticipated curtailment of the ocean salmon fishing season. The Governor released \$500,000 from the strategic reserve fund to provide immediate assistance until further aid is made available by the federal government.

The Oregon Salmon Fisher Financial Assistance Advisory Group has reconvened to discuss options for the distribution of the strategic reserve funds. The Advisory Group includes a representative of the ocean charter fishery industry and the Oregon State Marine Board. It is the desire of the Salmon Commission and the Advisory Group to include eligible ocean charter fishers into the salmon fisher financial assistance program. Ocean charter fishers will be required to submit an application to be considered for assistance, however **troll salmon fishers** will **not** need to submit an application form.

Assistance to Oregon troll salmon fishers will be allocated based on the following criteria:

1. Fisher must be a current Oregon resident,
2. Fisher must have held a valid 2007 Oregon Troll Salmon permit,
3. Fisher must have vessel landings of salmon on record with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007 commercial troll salmon seasons, and
4. Fishers with Oregon commercial troll salmon landings for the 2008 season may not be eligible for financial assistance if the gross landing value of the current 2008 landings are greater than the highest gross landing value received in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007.

When administrative rules related to this program are completed they will be posted on the Oregon Department of Agriculture website at www.oregon.gov/oda. The Oregon Department of Agriculture will acquire salmon landing records for 2003-2007 from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, therefore you do not need to submit a Landings Records Request from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. **You do not need** to submit anything to the Oregon Department of Agriculture or the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to receive assistance. A timeline for distribution of the financial assistance checks has not been determined. Please check the websites on the following page for updates.

If you have questions please feel free to make contact via the following media:

1. You may check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website at: www.oregon.gov/oda or the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at: www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/commercial.
2. You may call or e-mail the following people directly:
 - a. Sherry Kudna, Oregon Department of Agriculture at 503-986-4619 or skudna@oda.state.or.us.
 - b. Nancy Fitzpatrick, Oregon Salmon Commission at 541-994-2647 or njf@class.oregonvos.net.
 - c. Michelle Grooms, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 503-947-6247 or michelle.l.grooms@state.or.us
 - d. Ocean Charter information may be obtained from the Oregon State Marine Board at 503-378-2617.