



**Northwest Sportfishing
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March 16, 2011

Andrea Matzke
Oregon DEQ
Water Quality Division
811 SW Sixth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Ms. Matzke,

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association to urge the DEQ to adopt the proposed human health criteria for water quality based on a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day. Moving to this standard recognizes the need to reduce the contaminants found in Oregon's waters. These contaminants affect the health of our fish and ultimately have effects on the health of people who consume them.

Sport fishing is a major activity in Oregon. It provides countless hours of recreation and it is the basis for a large sport fishing industry that provides jobs and income essential to the economy of our state. This change to a stricter standard will move the state forward toward the reduction of risk to both fish and people.

We understand that the proposed standards have been developed in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency and with the involvement of key stakeholders. We think the process used has been sound and that the recommendations are valid efforts to make progress in cleaning up our natural environment. This issue is of particular interest to the Indian Tribes of the state since their members rely on wild caught fish for a substantial source of food. Many who sport fish in Oregon regularly consume their catch as well. Strengthening the current standards will reduce the health risks of these fish consumers. We know Oregon Tribes are in support of the proposed regulations and we concur with their recommendations.

Strengthening the consumption standard is beneficial to our organization because it will assure the continued benefits of active sport fishing in our state and therefore the continued vitality of our business activity. Again, protecting the safety of fish from Oregon waters protects aquatic health, human health and the health of an industry that employs nearly 11,000 in this state, generating a billion dollars in economic benefits¹. We feel these standards will be a sound investment in Oregon's future.

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries
and the businesses dependent upon them. Call toll free: 1-866-315-NSIA

We realize that a change of this magnitude is controversial. However, we support the efforts to improve the current status and urge you to adopt the draft rules as permanent policy of the State.

Sincerely,



Liz Hamilton
Executive Director,
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
503.631.8859

ⁱ Citation: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.