

RESOLUTION NO. 2265

Introduced by All Commissioners

Opposing the Mitchell Act Fund Reductions for Big Creek Fish Hatchery,  
Sandy Hatchery and Elochoman Hatchery

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the agency that administers Mitchell Act funds is anticipating a shortfall for state programs tied to Mitchell Act funds that were intended to provide mitigation for the loss of salmon production caused by the mainstream Columbia River Dams; and

WHEREAS, removing the funding from lower river hatcheries is negatively impacting those industries that the Act was intended to provide relief for; and

WHEREAS, the Big Creek Fish Hatchery program oversees hatchery-raised, fin-clipped salmon smolts that are released into the Columbia River for the fall Chinook Salmon Program, and is one of three lower river hatcheries that have been targeted for cuts in anticipation of reductions in federal funding through the Mitchell Act; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Columbia River Salmon Fishery is an important part of our economy and is traditional to much of our population. The impact of cutting the funds from the Big Creek Fish Hatchery program will impact the Lower Columbia River region heavily, which is already an economically distressed area; and

WHEREAS, closing of the Big Creek Fish Hatchery program that oversees hatchery-raised salmon smolts will negatively impact many aspects of the Lower Columbia River economy, including but not limited to:

- loss of jobs permanent and part-time
- commercial and troll ocean fisheries
- sports fishermen and sporting industry retail stores
- guides and chartering businesses, both river and ocean
- gillnet fishery
- fish buyers, processors and the fish markets that sell these products
- tourist trade; buoy 10 fishery is well know as one of the biggest fisheries in the world
- harbors and marinas
- restaurant owners, motels, service stations, other retail businesses
- loss of revenue for sport and commercial licensing fees to the states of Oregon and Washington;


And

WHEREAS, the City of Warrenton supports the Oregon fishing industry, maintaining marinas and piers for mooring commercial fishing vessels and building infrastructure for processing seafood products in an effort to help sustain the industry in our community,

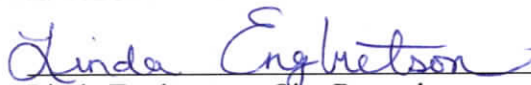
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Commission of the City of Warrenton that the City of Warrenton does oppose any cuts or reductions in The Mitchell Act funding to the Big Creek Fish Hatchery, Sandy Hatchery, and Elochoman Hatchery programs or reduced production from these hatcheries.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Warrenton this 10th day of April 2009.

APPROVED

  
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Gilbert Gramson, City Manager

ATTEST

  
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Linda Engbretson, City Recorder