

***Oregon Chapter
American Fisheries Society***

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December 15, 2010

To: Oregon's Honorable Senators and Representatives

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS), representing 400 professional fishery workers and scientists, strongly recommends your support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214/H. R. 2565) which is part of the Omnibus Public Lands, Water and Wildlife Package currently being considered in the United States Senate.

This legislation, if passed, will constitute a substantial step toward the immediate conservation and eventual restoration of aquatic habitat, water quality, and native fishes of North America. It will support jobs in the watershed restoration industry and create jobs in the fishery, recreation, tourism, and other sectors that rely on healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act is landmark legislation aimed at enhancing, protecting and restoring fish habitats nationwide. The legislation directs critical resources toward the nation's fish and aquatic communities by fostering regional partnerships that support fish habitat conservation from-the-ground-up.

The Omnibus Public Lands, Water and Wildlife Package includes authorizing legislation to conserve our nation's public lands and waters, cultural and historic resources, gateway communities, and fish and wildlife habitats.

The ORAFS works toward the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fisheries and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit. We believe that passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214/H.R. 2565) will lead to actions that are urgently needed. This legislation will bring a strategic, science-based, and action-oriented approach to freshwater and coastal habitat conservation and provide vital funding, and leverage other public and private resources, to support these efforts.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation,

Richard Grost
ORAFS Past-president

cc:

Senate: Wyden, Merkley

House: Wu, Walden, Blumenauer, DeFazio, Schrader

AFS national (Hawkes, Hubert)

AFS Western Division (Martin)

ORAFS (ExCom, Committees, and membership via website, listserve, and newsletter)