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April 2, 2007

Economic Disaster Looming for Oregon Fishing Communities

Seattle, WA - As the Pacific Fisheries Management Council meets this week to plan the salmon fishing season, the news doesn't look good for Oregon fishermen -- due in large part to low projected salmon runs. Comments from commercial fisherman Joel Kawahara.

Suggested Script: An economic disaster could be looming for commercial fishermen and fishing communities in Oregon. The Pacific Fishery Management Council is meeting this week to determine the length and quantity of this year's fishing season. But with Columbia salmon runs projected to be very poor, that could mean another shortened or cancelled season. Commercial fisherman Joel Kawahara says if something's not done soon to help restore salmon, the entire industry is at stake.

Actuality Cut 90%%ID%% (TRT :10) "Because fisheries managers are having to make conservation moves, they'll just eventually eliminate fishing, commercial and recreational. That's pretty much the only choices that they'll have."

Suggested Tag: Kawahara says this comes at the same time the Bush administration is proposing sweeping changes to the Endangered Species Act - and he says the changes would pose a direct threat to Pacific Northwest salmon recovery efforts.

Alternate Cut: Commercial fisherman Joel Kawahara says a shorter season effects more than just fishermen.

Actuality Cut 91%%ID%% (TRT :08) "The suppliers of fuel and ice, the people that work in the fish processing plants, then the secondary sales of fish, restaurants and stores, will be affected." (ends)

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite.

Lead: An economic disaster could be looming for commercial fishermen and fishing communities in Oregon. Dondrea Warner reports.

Wrap is Cut 92%%ID%% (TRT :33) "...recovery efforts."

Editor's Note: Kawahara is at 206-406-7026. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council is meeting in Seattle from April 2-6.

Still available: scripts and sound on the web page, or call toll free # and use the 2 digit cut # followed by %%ID%%

Cuts 87-89 U.S. Senate Approves Funding for Rural OR Schools and Communities-Reagan

Cuts 84-86 Closing the Door on Payday Lenders in Oregon-Curran

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