



EXPRESS LANE

FOR FISH

Salmon cannon explained

MIGRATING SALMON GET A BOOST PAST DAMS

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

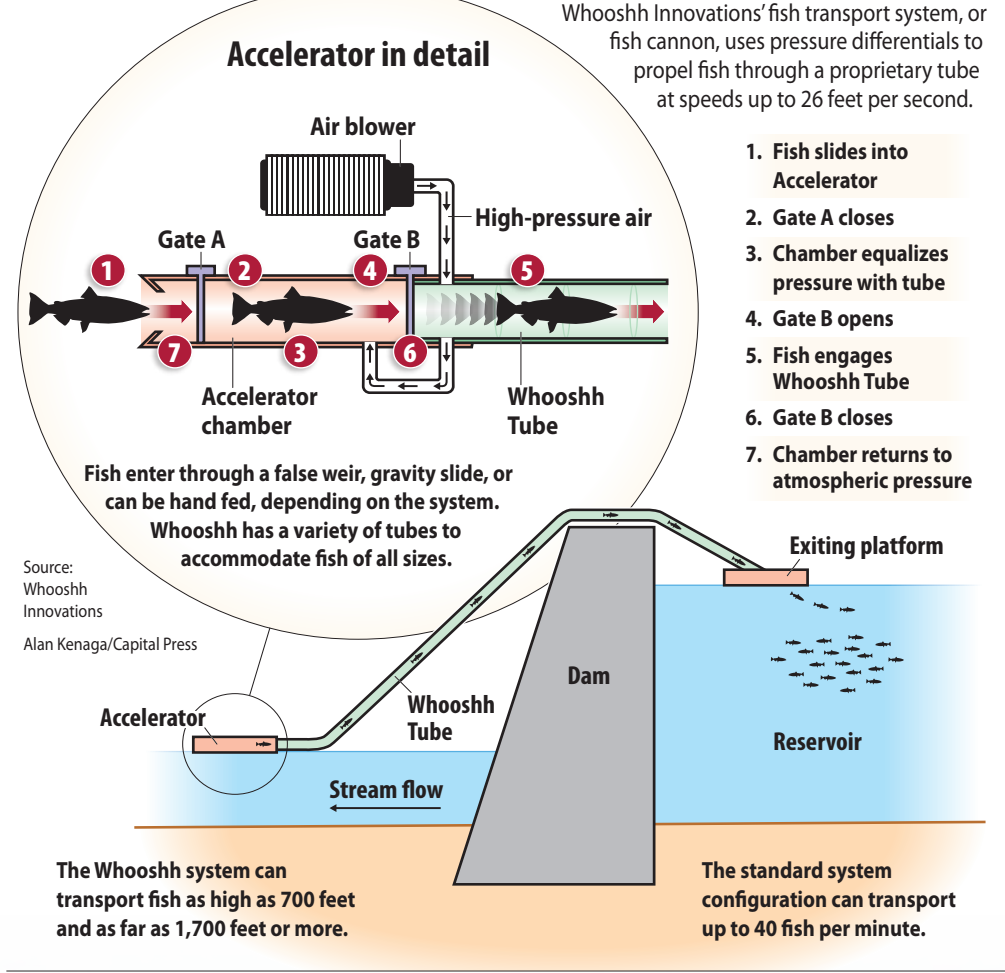
SEATTLE — Eight years ago, Vincent Bryan III was field testing his prototype of an apple harvest-assist machine in his family's orchard near the Columbia River southwest of Quincy, Wash. Helicopters passed overhead with large buckets of water dangling from them. He was curious about their mission and later found out they were moving salmon over a nearby dam.

It seemed to him like an expensive way to move fish. His apple harvest machine used vacuum tubes to move apples from pickers' hands to a bin. He wondered: What if you could move salmon over dams in tubes instead of using helicopters, fish ladders or trucks?

About a year later, he was testing his harvest-assist machine in a citrus orchard near



Vincent Bryan III



A tube carries fish over the Cle Elum Dam in July 2017. The 1,700-foot-long tube is the longest Whooshh Innovations has used to transport salmon. Fish travel at 32 feet per second.

USDA benefits come with trade-offs for hemp

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Access to USDA benefits may prove a tough trade-off for hemp farmers whose crop will face stricter testing protocols under new federal regulations.

Next year, hemp growers will be able to take advantage of crop insurance, farm loans and conservation programs offered by the USDA due to interim rules for the crop set to become effective Oct. 31.

Because hemp had long been considered a type of federally illegal marijuana until now, growers haven't been able to use those USDA programs even in states where the crop is legal.

In exchange for federal legitimacy, hemp will eventually come under USDA testing protocols that may be less forgiving of THC, the psychoactive substance found in cannabis, than regulations established by some state governments.

"It's just more of the regulations that are just crippling," said Rick Bush, a hemp grower near Salem, Ore. "It makes it impossible to comply because there is not a hemp strain that will meet that criteria."

Exceeding the USDA's limit of 0.3% THC would cause a hemp crop to be considered marijuana, which remains illegal under federal law and would then have to be destroyed under the new USDA regulations.

State governments have also set the limit for hemp at 0.3% THC, but they vary in how the level of that substance is calculated.

In Oregon, for example, cannabis has been considered hemp as long as its level of "delta-9" THC is below 0.3%.

In 2020, however, the state is changing its standard to require less than 0.3 percent of delta-9 THC combined with THCA, which converts into the mind-altering delta-9 form when exposed to heat.

Basically, the change means some cannabis that qualified as hemp in previous years based on delta-9 THC alone will now be considered "hot" because the added level of THCA will make the crop exceed the 0.3% limit.

Oregon revised its testing protocol in anticipation of the new USDA rules, which turned out to be prescient because the federal government will also require the testing of "total" THC, rather than the delta-9 form alone.

It's unclear how much of Oregon's previous hemp crops would have been too "hot" to sell under the new protocol, since

Fresno, Calif., and noticed a neighboring orchard, which had been alive the year before, was now dead. Its irrigation water had been reallocated for fish.

Believing there had to be better solutions, Bryan turned from his fruit harvest-assist machine to experimenting with moving fish in tubes.

He assembled a meeting of fish experts from the National Marine Fisheries Service, also known as NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and universities to discuss his idea. They met at his family's Cave B Inn & Spa

Resort near their Cave B Estate Winery and orchard, southwest of Quincy, where he first observed the helicopters carrying fish.

In an effort to help 12 salmon and steelhead populations that are protected under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government has spent more than \$1 billion to help the fish get past the dams and to improve their habitat, according to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

While much focus had been on helping juve-

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Oregon wine industry coalition forms new trade group

Members previously fought to defeat legislation seen as 'anti-competitive'

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

SALEM — A new trade group representing the Oregon wine industry is calling for statewide unity following a highly contentious and divisive legislative session earlier this year.

The Oregon Wine Council formed Oct. 24 with a

13-member board of directors including winemakers and vintners from the Willamette Valley to Southern Oregon. Members say their interests have not been represented by the Oregon Winegrowers Association, the industry's main lobbying and advocacy organization.

Ken Johnston, co-chairman of the wine council board

and chief operating officer of Winemakers Investment Properties LLC in Salem, said the group aims to serve the industry better as a whole.

"What we intend to bring is more voices to the table," Johnston said. "We have to do a better job in the industry of making sure all voices are heard and represented."

While Oregon's wine

industry continues to grow in sales and production, cracks began to emerge during the 2019 Legislature over a series of controversial bills.

Senate Bill 111, backed by the Oregon Winegrowers Association, was particularly seen as anti-competitive by some winegrowers. It called for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to convene an

advisory committee that would review enforcement measures for the state's wine labeling standards, and increased maximum fines for violations from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Supporters of SB 111 claimed it was needed to protect the brand and integrity of Oregon wines. But opponents claimed the bill would have shrunk markets for Oregon grapes.

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