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ONE DOLLAR

Willapa Bay gets new kill plan for salmon

Gillnetters say 20 percent rate will put them out of business

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

WILLAPA BAY, Wash. — The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a salmon management policy for Willapa Bay Saturday that gillnet fishermen say favors recreational fishing and will eventually put them out of business on the bay.

The new policy takes effect immediately and replaces an interim policy released earlier this spring. It outlines a less immediate cut to fishing activities than what was proposed previously.

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Port ponders mobile dining

Food carts could come to airport, waterfront

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria could soon offer mobile dining options in Astoria and Warrenton.

The Port Commission and staff reviewed potential leases for Teresa Estrada, who had unsuccessfully attempted to site a chowder boat next to the Bowpicker, and Robert Ripley, who wants to set up a food cart at the Astoria Regional Airport.

Estrada, through her company Darkhorse Dining Options LLC, wants to lease space for her vintage gillnetter, T's Astoria Chowder, and parking.

Operations Manager Matt McGrath presented multiple plans for placing Estrada's boat in a Port-owned overflow parking lot south of the Chinook Building or a grassy

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JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis in court in May.

FELONY INDICTMENTS HIGH IN CLATSOP COUNTY

Aggressive prosecutors, tourism are factors

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Felony indictments in Clatsop County are significantly higher than Oregon counties of similar and larger size, a pattern tied to aggressive prosecutors and the North Coast's growing popularity with tourists.

District Attorney Josh Marquis said defense lawyers joke that people come for vacation and leave on probation.

While the number of people indicted on felony charges in Clatsop County has remained steady, state figures show a clear trend.

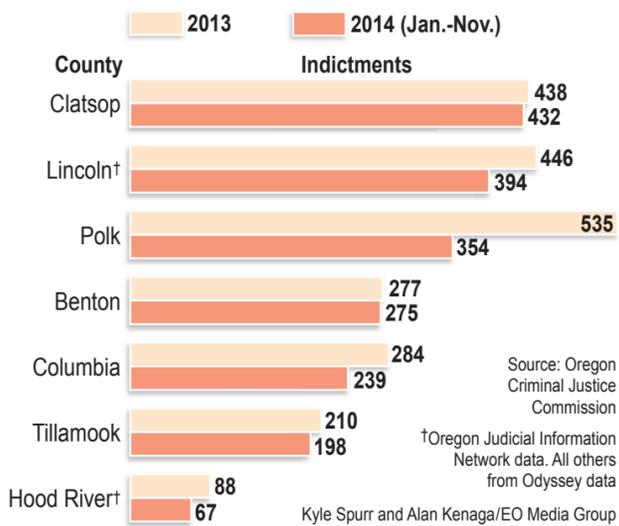
Clatsop County had 438 felony indictments in 2013 and 432 from January to November 2014, according to research by the state's Criminal Justice Commission. The numbers are noticeably higher than Columbia, Tillamook and Benton counties.

A large portion of crimes are committed by people from outside Clatsop County, including a few major homicide cases, Marquis explained, suggesting the county's attraction as a visitor destination might be influencing the pattern.

"The same things that encourage most of the good people to come here, also encourage people who do bad things to come here," the district attorney said.

Even though Clatsop County is relatively the same size as other rural counties, defense lawyer Kris Kaino said the North Coast gets a bump in criminal activity from people who are visiting. "I represent a lot of people charged with various crimes when they are here on vacation," Kaino said. "A lot of

Felony cases in select Oregon counties



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— Josh Marquis
Clatsop County district attorney

increase in the number of a cases. The consortium is considering adding another lawyer to help with the caseload.

"I have noticed in our practice, we are busier and have more cases than we ever have," Kaino said.

A chunk of the cases are likely misdemeanors, which accounted for 675 indictments in 2013 and 669 in 2014, according to the state's data.

Marquis noted the state is more concerned with tracking felony cases than misdemeanors because felonies impact the state prison population. However, he said, misdemeanors impact the quality of life in the local community.

The Criminal Justice Commission researches felony indictments to help the state allocate funds from a Justice Reinvestment program approved by the state Legislature

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non-Clatsop County residents."

Clatsop County's numbers match closest with Lincoln County, which has tourist destinations such as Newport, Depoe Bay and Lincoln City.

Lincoln County had a similar amount of felony indictments with 446 in 2013 and 394 through November 2014. Although the numbers closely match, Marquis points out that Lincoln County has a higher population — about 46,000 people, compared to Clatsop County, at about 37,000 — and two more deputy district attorneys.

Another explanation for the higher felony indictments in Clatsop County is a perception that the District Attorney's Office is more aggressive than others across the state.

"Is this an aggressive office? Yes. And I'm very proud of that," Marquis said.

Marquis credits his six deputy district attorneys for being responsive to cases and working in a timely manner. He insists there are no incentives in the criminal justice system to get indictments and convictions. In fact, Marquis said, his office does not keep a count of convictions.

The aggressive perception is more due to the hard work of the police departments and the deputy district attorneys seeing cases all the way through, Marquis said.

Kaino, who is a part of the Clatsop County Defense Association, a consortium of private defense lawyers, said the local group of lawyers have anecdotally noticed an

Shellfish farmers lick wounds, hire PR help

No defense against burrowing pests gives growers sinking feeling

By DON JENKINS
EO Media Group

OYSTERVILLE, Wash. — Third-generation shellfish farmer Brian Sheldon walked onto Willapa Bay at low tide and showed where he had planned to spray in May and seed with coin-sized oysters in July.

Because of negative public reaction, he and fellow growers won't spray for burrowing shrimp, an aptly named creature that tosses mud to the surface while churning firm tidelands into goo.

Sheldon said that if he went ahead and put down tiny

oysters on this shrimp-riddled 30-acre section, they'd be buried and dead by October. There goes, potentially, 25,000 gallons of oysters, at, say, \$24 a gallon.

"It's hard to watch ground like this go to hell and not be able to do anything about it," Sheldon said.

Sheldon and other oyster and clam growers in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor on Washington's southwest coast are regrouping after abruptly withdrawing plans to spray up to 2,000 acres of tidelands with imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide.



Don Jenkins — Capital Press

Willapa Bay shellfish farmer Brian Sheldon looks for clams on tidelands undermined by burrowing shrimp.

The Washington Department of Ecology issued the permit April 16 and public outrage followed.

Shellfish growers know applying pesticides in tidelands is controversial, but Sheldon said they underestimated the potential for backlash.

Getting DOE's permission was tough, but the agency and growers were portrayed by critics as partners in environmental crime.

"I mean, wow! That's unbelievable. I'm sure anybody in agriculture will know what I'm talking about," Sheldon said.

The plan unraveled. Puget Sound-based Taylor Shellfish Farms, the country's largest producer of Manilla clams and geoducks, announced May 1 it would not spray its Willapa Bay beds. The company

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