

Washington state's carbon tax bill dies

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Another ambitious effort to pass a carbon tax in Washington state has faltered as both Gov. Jay Inslee and the bill's prime sponsor said Thursday that there weren't enough votes to pass the measure out of the state Senate.

Washington would have been the first U.S. state to impose a straight tax on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels like gasoline and electricity and the legislation has been closely watched nationally.

But Inslee told The Associated Press Thursday they were still "one or two votes shy" of passing it out of the Democrat-controlled Senate. The bill also needed to clear the House, also controlled by Democrats, before the short 60-day legislative session ends March 8.

"I would consider this a sea change in the climate fight. It's come a long way from where we've been. We've basically shown that carbon policy is within reach," said the Democratic governor. He noted the bill cleared key policy and fiscal committees — advancing farther than previous measures — but didn't have the votes to bring it to a floor vote.

"On the arc of history, we're not quite far along enough on the arc," Inslee said. "That day will come but it wasn't quite here yet."

The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Reuven Carlyle, a Seattle Democrat, said in coming years, "we're going to see a price on carbon in this state."

Washington state has been on the forefront of policy to curb greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

A coalition of environmental, tribal and other groups

In 2020, the carbon tax would mean a 10 cent hike in gasoline prices, or nearly 4 percent higher than it otherwise would be, according to legislative analysts.

have vowed to bring a carbon initiative to the ballot in November should the Legislature fail to act.

Barry Rabe, a professor at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, said if the bill is defeated it underscores "that political support for a carbon tax does remain one of the heaviest lifts in American politics."

"Even in a state like Washington where you have a gov-

ernor who is enthusiastically in favor, a Legislature that seems to lean to the idea, this proves difficult to do at least at this point," he said.

Washington voters rejected a carbon tax initiative in 2016, with many major environmental groups surprisingly lining up against the bill partly over disagreements about how money raised would be spent.

Senate Bill 6023 would have imposed a new tax of \$12 per metric ton of carbon emis-

sions on the sale or use of fossil fuels such as gasoline and natural gas.

The tax would have started in 2019 and in 2021 would have increased \$1.80 per ton each year until it hit \$30 a ton. The tax was projected to raise \$766 million in the first two years.

Businesses such as REI and Microsoft Corp. voiced support for the measure. But other business groups, lawmakers and critics called it an energy tax that would be paid mostly by families and those who could least afford it. They criticized the numerous exemptions in the bill.

In 2020, the carbon tax would mean a 10 cent hike in gasoline prices, or nearly 4 percent higher than it otherwise would be, according to legislative analysts.

Todd Myers with the Washington Policy Center said the bill would not achieve the

promised carbon reductions. He said too much money goes to carve outs, special interests and expensive projects that won't actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions as promised.

"I don't think that the failure to pass this year is going to stop other states," said Charles Komanoff, who directs the New York-based Carbon Tax Center.

Carbon-pricing bills have been introduced in states, including Massachusetts, Oregon, New York and Rhode Island, but none have advanced as far as in Washington, experts noted.

Inslee said several bills are still pending in the Legislature that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including one that moves the state's electrical grid away from fossil fuels and another that sets higher targets for reducing carbon pollution.

For king salmon, an incredible shrinking feeling

Giant Chinook may be a thing of the past

By JOHN RYAN
KUOW

While the orcas of Puget Sound are sliding toward extinction, orcas farther north have been expanding their numbers. Their burgeoning hunger for big fish may be causing the killer whales' main prey, Chinook salmon, to shrink up and down the West Coast.

Chinook salmon are also known as kings: the biggest of all salmon. They used to grow so enormous that it's hard to believe the old photos now. Fishermen stand next to Chinooks almost as tall as they are, sometimes weighing 100 pounds or more.

"This has been a season of unusually large fish, and many weighing from 60 to 70 pounds have been taken," The Oregonian reported in 1895.

"It's not impossible that we see individuals of that size today, but it's much, much rarer," University of Washington research scientist Jan Ohlberger said on Monday, more than a century later.

Ohlberger has been tracking the downsizing of salmon in recent decades, but salmon have been shrinking in numbers and in size for a long time. A century's worth of dam-building, overfishing, habitat loss and replacement by hatchery fish cut the average Chinook in half, size-



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fisherman Tony Canessa with an 85-pound Chinook he caught near Astoria in 1925.

wise, studies in the 1980s and 1990s found.

Dam-building and fishing have tailed off, but Chinooks have been shrinking even faster in the past 15 years, according to a new paper by Ohlberger and colleagues in the journal *Fish and Fisheries*. Older and bigger fish are mostly gone.

Few fish are making it to old age, which for a Chinook salmon means spending five or six years in the ocean after a year or two in freshwater.

"The older fish, which normally come back after five years in the ocean, they come back earlier and earlier," Ohlberger said.

The trend is clear, the reasons less so.

Two species eat more Chinook salmon than any others: orcas and humans.

The 2,300 or more resident killer whales in the Northeast Pacific Ocean eat about 20 million pounds of Chinook salmon a year — roughly equal to the annual commercial catch of Chinook in

'There is a large number of resident killer whales out there that really target Chinook, and they target the large Chinook.'

Jan Ohlberger

University of Washington research scientist

recent years, according to the new study.

"There is a large number of resident killer whales out there that really target Chinook, and they target the large Chinook," Ohlberger said.

A study from federal researchers in November found that orcas' consumption of Chinook salmon in the Northeast Pacific Ocean has doubled since 1975, surpassing humans' catches, which have fallen by a third over that time.

"As far as we can see, the killer whales are taking the older and bigger fish," said Craig Matkin, a whale researcher with the North Gulf Oceanic Society in Homer, Alaska. Matkin, who was not involved in Ohlberger's paper, studies Alaskan orcas' diets.

"We go along with the animals and scoop up fish scales and bits of flesh from where

they kill something," Matkin said. "They're sloppy eaters."

"They're going to go for the biggest, oiliest fish there are," Matkin continued. "That's Chinooks."

Salmon born in Oregon and Washington state spend most of their lives out at sea, often in Alaskan waters, where orcas aplenty await.

"Our (orca) populations have increased faster than anywhere else, and they're eating Chinook from all over the place," Matkin said.

In short, it seems Puget Sound orcas are having their lunch stolen by their better-off Alaskan relatives.

"It is an interesting twist to blame the marine mammals," Ken Balcomb with the Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island said in an email.

"I would first ask how the Chinook evolved to be so big during the preceding 12,000 years in the presence of hordes of such size-selective natural predators throughout their range. Large size was selected by Mother Nature for Chinook salmon in spite of natural predation."

Balcomb points to overfishing, habitat loss and salmon hatcheries that have diluted the gene pool of wild Chinooks.

Today's smaller Chinook salmon lay fewer eggs than bigger ones can. They also have a harder time digging out gravel nests deep enough to protect their eggs from scouring streamflows.

Chinooks' downsizing could spell trouble for all the mammals who want to catch them, whether they have fingers or fins.

"Predators are also going to adapt to this change in size and numbers," Matkin said. "You can't look at it as a static situation."

"Ultimately, the whales must eat to survive, and humans have not sufficiently allowed for that in their fisheries management calculations," Balcomb said.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$15.80-\$17.80 per month and business services are \$28.00-\$32.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 15 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

Lifeline discounts include a transfer restriction (port freeze). This means that you are unable to obtain the Lifeline discount on service with another provider for a period of time. The length of time depends on the services you purchase — 60 days for voice telephone service, 12 months for qualifying broadband service. Certain exceptions to the transfer restrictions may apply. See <http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/change-my-company.aspx> for more information.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

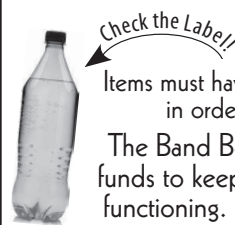
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Astoria Band Boosters

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

1P.M. - 3P.M. • SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH
AT ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL



PLEASE, NO EARLY DROP-OFFS

Items must have the 10 cent, OR redemption label in order to benefit the band programs

The Band Boosters are the primary source of funds to keep Astoria's school band programs functioning. Please help by dropping off your empties or making a donation.

Call (503) 791-8134

or email i_want_to_help@astoriabands.org for more information.

Help us keep Downtown Seaside blooming!

Dundeas Bar & Grill is donating 50% of all food AND beverage sales (including alcohol!) to the Downtown Flower Basket Program. Now in its 23rd year, Downtown Seaside is known for its lush flower baskets gracing its streets. Sponsorships, & basket orders for private purchase will also be available.



Flowerbasket Fundraiser
Dundeas Bar & Grill • 414 Broadway Seaside
Wednesday, March 7th, 2018 | 5PM to 10PM

Volunteer
Pick of the Week

Eli
Senior American Shorthair Tabby
Create comfort & coziness.
Eli is the epitome of softness and happy simplicity.
(More on <http://Petfinder.com/>)

Sponsored by
CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
1315 SE 19th Street, Warrenton • 861 PETS
www.dogscats.org Noon to 4pm, Tues-Sat

ASTOR STREET OPRY COMPANY
Presents
PETER PAN
A MUSICAL ADVENTURE
Directed by Katherine Lacaze
Music Direction by Dena Tuveng

SHOW DATES:
February 17 & 18, 24 & 25, and March 3 & 4
All shows perform on
Saturday & Sunday at 2pm

For tickets, call 503-325-6104
www.astorstretoprycompany.com
129 W. BOND ST. • ASTORIA