

### The cost of closing commercial fisheries

#### New rockfish season provides opportunity

Oregon fishermen have more opportunities to catch rockfish, or groundfish, following NOAA Fisheries' approval of a new ocean fishery that uses selective gear to target plentiful species off Oregon while avoiding over-fished species.

NOAA Fisheries this week announced a final rule authorizing a new Oregon recreational fishery for groundfish, such as yellowtail and widow rockfish, at mid-water depths greater than 40 fathoms.

Recreational fishing for rockfish off Oregon generates more than \$14 million for the state's economy annually and has been the largest recreational ocean fishery in the

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John Holloway/National Fishing Alliance

**Above:** A fisherman using a line with a long leader pulls in a yellowtail rockfish off the Oregon Coast.

**Below:** Many commercial fishing boats remained at the dock last year with the closure of the ocean salmon troll fishery.



Stories courtesy Northwest Fisheries Science Center and NOAA

#### Fishermen lost jobs and as much as \$9 million

Closure of the commercial ocean salmon troll fishery last year cost an estimated \$5.8 million to \$9 million in lost income for fishermen, with the loss of 200 to 330 jobs.

That's according to a new model that determines the cost of closures based on the choices fishermen make. Scientists hope the model, described for the first time this week in the scientific journal Marine Policy, will help policy makers anticipate the economic toll of fisheries closures.

Such foresight may be especially useful as conditions off the West Coast grow increasingly variable, leading to

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Wendy's flagship restaurant in Dublin, Ohio.

### Warrenton could get area's first Wendy's

The Columbia Press

A Wendy's fast-food restaurant could be on its way to Warrenton.

A representative of the company submitted plans to the city this week for a 2,400-square-foot restaurant in the Warrenton Highlands shopping center across from Home Depot.

Plans submitted by Baysinger Partners Architecture in Portland include a drive-through window, 11 tables inside the restaurant and several more on a patio.

At its busiest times, the restaurant could do up to 170 transactions per hour.

The proposed Wendy's location was in the plans for Warrenton Highlands as a spot for a drive-through restaurant when the 52,000-square-foot shopping center opened in late 2011. It is just under half an acre and zoned general commercial.

The Highway 101/Ensign Lane intersection is the busiest in the city.

Baysinger has asked for a pre-application

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### Airport land a perfect fit for eco-business park

By CINDY YINGST  
The Columbia Press

What better place to study the effects of tides and wetlands than in the thick of them?

The Port of Astoria's business park -- a concept devised long ago yet still an empty field -- could become home to a Center for Environmental Studies.

"One of the biggest things we face in our area is navigating the

balance of living in a sensitive ecological area with our economic restraints," said Jim Knight, executive director of the Port of Astoria.

The port's land adjacent to the airport could fit the bill.

It's been vacant for years and garnering no interest from developers, perhaps because it's in a sensitive area that could be affected by tsunamis, wind, tides and wetlands.

Not to mention Federal Aviation

Administration restrictions.

Enter the USDA's Rural Development Business Grant program.

The program targets anything that would promote small and emerging companies employing 50 or fewer employees making \$1 million in gross revenue or less. Deadline to apply is April 30.

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$500,000.

Kevin Cronin, who was hired by

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Cattle graze in the field behind the Airport Industrial Park sign across from the U.S. Coast Guard station.