

Rep. Hanlon Reports

If you keep your eye on the little bills, you are bound to spot one that makes big changes in state policy. One such bill is HB 3006, a small bill that changes a long-standing compact governing Oregon and Washington fisheries. Since the years of World War I, the Columbia River Compact has, with relative success, ironed out the differences between Oregon and Washington fishery departments and regulated fishing on the Columbia River. One of the provisions of this compact is that the rules adopted each year by the Compact expire at the end of each January. I think it's an important provision for many reasons, which I'll go into, but HB 3006 deletes it from the statute. That's all

the bill does. There is no provision that the Compact must change its rules each year to reflect the best management of the resource, or that it must reach agreement with Washington. Supporters of the bill, including the Department of Fish and Wildlife, argued that if the rules expired each year and the Compact failed to agree on new rules, then the rules would revert back to 1935 or 1937, they weren't sure which.

First of all, I don't agree that the rules would revert to 1935; second, I think one reason we've been so successful in reaching agreement is simply that we've had to. If the rules don't expire, there is less incentive to tackle some of the tough management issues again and again, every

year. This bill simply makes life easier for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and for no good reason.

Finally, I foresee a danger that bad rules or rules made improperly will be continued without adequate opportunity for review or challenge. I am party to a lawsuit on this very issue; I joined a group of fishermen and women in a suit against the Department of Fish and Wildlife, challenging the elimination of the Columbia River longline sturgeon season. One of those fishermen and I challenged the rule again by going fishing in April, the traditional month for sturgeon longlining. He and I are facing a Class A misdemeanor charge, and believe

me, we didn't do it for fish. We did it to challenge a rule we believe was made illegally, and I didn't want to see badly made or illegally made rules continue each year into perpetuity.

Unfortunately, the bill has passed and been signed into law by the Governor. It's one I fought against and lost — at least in this round.

Most of you have probably heard that the Tillamook forest work camp bill has passed and is headed to the Governor's office for signing. This is one we've been pulling for over two sessions, and while I regret that the final version was toned down in the Senate Judiciary committee, I do believe it represents

a firm commitment on the part of the Corrections Division to screen all forest camp inmates thoroughly and to open communications with local residents.

The bill will be important not only for the Jewell area, but for the state. A related bill, HB 5066, appropriates \$12.5 million for construction of new minimum facilities. This bill is an important part of the Governor's Oregon Comeback, as part of his corrections plan to ease prison overcrowding. I supported that bill, and I believe that in raising the issue of who is allowed into minimum security work camps, we have placed an issue on the table that will help other communities as well as ours.

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