



Representative Deborah Boone (HD-32)

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Boone Helps Secure Emergency Funds for Salmon Fishermen

*SALEM*—Representative Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach) testified yesterday in favor of providing \$1 million in emergency aide to coastal fishermen whose wages have been threatened by the federal restriction on commercial salmon fishing. Before a subcommittee of the Legislative Emergency Board, Rep. Boone, along with other members of the Legislature's Coastal Caucus, spoke to the catastrophic toll these restrictions have taken on the livelihood of these commercial fishermen.

**“Through no fault of their own, our coastal salmon fishermen have fallen on hard times,”** Boone said. **“The worst part is that without our help, there’s almost no way they could make up the difference this year. We can’t afford to turn our backs on this industry and the people who play such a critical role in our economy.”**

The legislation provides \$500,000 immediately to the Department of Agriculture for direct assistance to affected salmon fishermen. In addition, another \$500,000 has been set aside by the committee and may be paid out later this summer when the Emergency Board meets again. The funds may be used by the commercial fishermen to pay business expenses and for the upkeep of their boats.

Because commercial salmon fishermen often operate as small independent businesses, many are considered self-employed and are not eligible for unemployment compensation from the federal government. The federal government has considered offering disaster relief to those affected by the policy, but no action has yet been taken.

**“We knew we couldn’t wait for the federal government to act.”** Boone said. **“These fishermen need help now to pay their bills and put food on the table.”**

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