



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 09 - 08

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TILLAMOOK, LINCOLN, COOS, CLATSOP AND CURRY COUNTIES AND COASTAL PORTIONS OF LANE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES DUE TO LIMITATIONS ON OCEAN COMMERCIAL AND SPORT SALMON FISHING

Pursuant to ORS 401.055, I find that the dramatic and persistent decline in Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon available for harvest by the ocean fishing industry will result in the elimination of a viable commercial salmon fishing season along the Oregon coast. These conditions have created an imminent emergency.

These fishing closures will have profound consequences on many communities including significant increases in unemployment, human suffering, financial losses, and other stark economic impacts along the Oregon coast.

The affected areas are Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Clatsop and Curry Counties and the coastal portions of Douglas and Lane Counties that are west of Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian. I therefore declare a State of Emergency in the abovementioned counties and portions of counties.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. All state agencies shall work in a cooperative and coordinated manner in order to mitigate the impacts of this emergency; provide expedited service and resources to persons and businesses adversely affected by the emergency; and focus state efforts in a manner most likely to relieve the unemployment, human suffering, financial loss and other economic impacts of this emergency. In addition to the specific measures discussed in this Order, all state agencies are encouraged to think broadly and creatively about actions that agencies can take to address this emergency. Agencies shall communicate such ideas to the Office of the Governor. Response to the emergency shall be directed and coordinated by the Office of the Governor, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

2. OEM shall coordinate with affected counties to provide assistance to prevent reasonable threats to life or property, including the pursuit of available federal funding or resources to assist in mitigating the effects of this emergency. OEM shall also facilitate a partnership with federal agencies to help relieve the current salmon emergency and assist affected counties with their ongoing emergency preparedness efforts.



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3. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which operates under the direction of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission, is strongly encouraged to develop recreational and commercial fishing seasons, consistent with state conservation plans and the federal framework in order to help mitigate the effects of this emergency on coastal economies.

4. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will continue to liaison with the seafood commodity commissions, particularly the Salmon Commission, to provide a communication link between state government and the commercial fishing fleet. The ODA will explore opportunities to maintain a Salmon Commission structure during the salmon fishing shutdown.

5. Consistent with the collective bargaining agreements, statutes and administrative rules, all state agencies shall seek to hire qualified individuals impacted by the emergency declared in this Order when filling vacancies or making temporary appointments, for a period of one year from the date of this Order.

6. Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development shall pursue all available retraining opportunities for ocean fishing industry workers wishing to pursue alternative employment and shall coordinate the timely delivery of state workforce services and other human and community services to affected workers and families.

7. Oregon Employment Department shall offer re-employment assistance programs to affected ocean fishing industry workers.

8. As in 2006 and 2008, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department shall conduct outreach to displaced employees of the commercial and recreational fishing industries and make them aware of any seasonal positions available this summer at state parks along the coast.

9. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board shall provide opportunities to apply for grant funds to support fish habitat enhancement along critical salmon streams in Oregon for the purpose of accelerating the rebuilding of fish populations and creating new and meaningful work opportunities for displaced workers.

10. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) shall work with the Oregon Food Bank to provide additional food and nutritional support for affected Oregonians. Where possible, OHCS is directed to work with housing partners to provide additional assistance for emergency shelter, rental housing, and



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permanent housing for affected households in need. OHCS is further directed to work with local community based organizations to provide additional energy assistance and weatherization services to affected Oregonians as appropriate.

11. Oregon Economic and Community Development Department shall provide technical assistance to local governments, public ports, and businesses that experience adverse effects on their operations or revenues due to this emergency.

12. The Oregon Department of Revenue shall investigate and pursue options for affected Oregonians to obtain income tax credits and refunds and other financial assistance.

13. The Oregon Tourism Commission is directed to actively inform the public of continued recreational fishing opportunities and other tourism activities along the Oregon Coast and to highlight travel to the Oregon Coast, as appropriate within their overall marketing strategies.

14. The Department of Human Services shall continue to provide mental health and treatment services, alcohol and drug treatment services, nutrition programs, domestic violence assistance, and medical assistance to Oregonians in coastal communities, with particular attention to the increased needs in coastal communities caused by this emergency.

15. All other state agencies are directed to provide appropriate state resources and to seek any available private and federal dollars to provide emergency assistance to affected individuals, families, businesses, and communities, and to deliver such assistance in the most expeditious manner.

16. All state agencies specifically referenced in this Order shall report to the Office of the Governor sixty days of the date of this Order about progress made and every sixty days thereafter, until conclusion of the emergency.

17. This Order expires May 1, 2010, unless otherwise amended.



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Done at Salem, Oregon this 17th day of April, 2009.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE

