



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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September 18, 2023

Trinh Hansen
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
4026 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners strongly support local commercial fishing and seafood processing industries. As background, State reports show Astoria and Warrenton landed \$47.7 million in seafood in 2022, over a third of the value statewide. In addition, analysis by the Port of Astoria estimates seafood processors contribute over \$100 million to Clatsop County's economy each year. For our rural economy, the jobs and revenues associated with these industries are vital to the health and sustainability of our community.

While the County supports reasonable regulation to protect the environment and public health, the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) new wastewater discharge permits directly threaten the future of our sustainable seafood industry. The permits are overly-complicated, technically-infeasible and fail to reflect the unique traits of the industry. We respectfully request DEQ actively and cooperatively work with Da Yang and other industry interests to create permit requirements that strike a balance between the environment and the economic-sustainability of this industry.

Specific attention should be directed to the following areas by DEQ:

- Revise unreasonable requirements related to metals
- Eliminate daily sampling requirements
- Develop appropriate limits for all products/species processed
- Revise requirements related to chlorine
- Extend and adjust compliance timelines
- Resolve technical issues identified by the seafood processors

We implore DEQ to engage with the industry and to collaboratively find solutions that protect our water ways, fisheries and allow a predictable future for these vital coastal businesses.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala, Chair