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February 25, 2009

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FISHING NETS OREGON \$782.9 MILLION IN 2008

Recently released report from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Travel Oregon highlights recreational fishing's contribution to state and local economies

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Travel Oregon recently released preliminary findings of a joint report: Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, and Shellfishing in Oregon: 2008 State and County Expenditure Estimates.

The study, prepared by Dean Runyan Associates, offers detailed breakdowns of the economic benefits to the state of fishing, hunting, shellfishing and wildlife viewing in all 36 Oregon counties.

Striking in the report are the extensive statewide benefits of fishing. In 2008 alone, sport fishing generated \$341.5 million in travel and local recreation expenditures and an additional \$441.4 Million in equipment, for a combined 2008 total of \$782.9 Million in directed spending.

Recreational fishing is clearly an important economic engine, both for the entire state and for many county economies reaping rewards from fishing-generated dollars.

Bob Rees, President of the Northwest Guides and Anglers Association, praised the report as an affirmation of sport-fishing's economic value, but insisted its economic contribution could be much higher.

“What is amazing about those numbers is they reflect one of the worst years for recreational fishing in recent memory,” said Rees. “2008 was marred by shortened seasons and abrupt closures that wreaked havoc on the fishing and tourism industry. If we had the opportunity to fish full seasons in 2008, fishing’s economic contribution would have been much heftier.”

Dan Parnel, President of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, reiterated Rees’ evaluation of the sport-fishing industry’s economic potential. “The management framework on the Columbia River is stunting our industry,” said Parnel. “The current method of wild harvest allocation has resulted in truncated seasons for both commercial and sport fishing that are choking our businesses. I applaud the ODFW report for

showing what recreational fishing brings in, but its numbers are a shell of what they could be if a workable management framework, like SAFE for Salmon, was in place.”

SAFE for Salmon is a legislative proposal seeking seeks to maximize sport and commercial fishing opportunities by prioritizing the mainstem of the Columbia River for sport-fishing and moving commercial gill-nets into SAFE zones. It has been introduced as SB 554 and HB 2734 in Salem and enjoys the support of a broad and growing bi-partisan group of legislators.

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For more information on SAFE for Salmon, please visit www.safeforsalmon.com or call 503.631.4747