

“THE TIM JOSI LIGHT BULB”

Destruction To Tidewater Fisheries Tillamook Bay By Predation

To understand our tidewater fishery habitat problem, one needs to review thinking and conditions prior to the 1996 flood. Tidewater above the bay was deep and cool — an ideal fishery.

Jerry Dove was County Commissioner and was instrumental in cancelling our aggregate “gravel” collection stations up stream that had been ongoing for over 100 years.

The results of the shut down meant that in 1996 the gravel stations were full and with the great flood, gravel and aggregate material were delivered to tidewater, filling most all deep water pools. (Note: A collection station is where over burden accumulates when floodwater pushes materials down stream).

Tidewater is now made up of shallow waters. Predation through consumption now controls Tillamook Bay Fishery. In short, if we can't get the fish to the ocean, none will return. Tidewater streams silted in and fish can no longer spawn. Lost are the genetics forever.

Instead of correcting damage immediately, Jerry Dove avoided repair and was replaced by Tim Josi — who knew nothing about river berming, water hydraulics and river back flow called “Lift”!

Tim Josi, through lack of involvement, would not take advice from Rudy Fenk, head of Land, Soil and Water. Nor would he take advice on tidewater river flow and habitat destruction by alteration. Tim Josi would not give material removal support by permit to farmer families that live in tidewater areas that are equal in knowledge to our best biologist on river characteristics.

Back flow is the pressure of water held upstream while water is flowing downstream. In short, the greater the berm, the higher the water held upstream. That's why we flood in downtown Tillamook with 6 to 8 inches of rain, compared to 14 to 17 inches of rain in short periods of the past.

We need to selectively remove over-burden — the large berms and accumulations in the entrance to dead streams, as our Commissioners remove silt from county boat launch sites.

We need payment collection boxes in boat launch areas with a \$10 per head guide fee for customers, with an ordinance stating “what is paid here, stays here”. The income from this fee to go directly to a working department.

We have ignored habitat damage for 11 years through “Hands Off - No Management”. Our fishermen have seen the decline in catch, our future is not good.

I have sent letters to Josi, Labhart and Hurliman from Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Northwest Management Supervisor, Rick Klumph, stating that fish consumption through predation on getting fish to the ocean is a major problem and our hatchery fish are of lesser quality and are more vulnerable to consumption by predation.

I'm not mad at Tim Josi. I do not understand why we waste our fishery and forestry and not require the Port to incorporate elk management over cost of development.

We need an ongoing fish habitat repair program to maintain fish passage - let's name it **Land, Soil and Water**. Want to see fishery habitat that will make you sick, start with Rudy Fenk — then come to me! I will introduce you to Joe and Don Jenck!

My Opinion - Richard Stanfill, Tillamook, 503-842-4086