

Sept. 28, 2010

To: Oregon Dungeness Crab Fleet
From: Nick Furman/ODCC

RE: Transition...



Many of you may already know that back in February, I announced to the Commission that I would be stepping down as the Executive Director of the ODCC sometime this year, when I felt that my work was done and things were ready to pass on to the next person chosen to provide leadership and direction to this organization. That time has come...

I've realized over the past few months that there will never be a 'perfect' cut-off point so I decided on September 30th as my last day - 22 years after I was hired in October of 1990 as 'Marketing Director' of a commodity commission that, if the truth were known, was on the verge of being shut down by Commissioners frustrated with the way things were going and not sure if there was anything they could do to change it.

I know there are some who think they would have been doing everyone a favor, and saved the fleet a whole bunch of money in the process, if they had pulled the plug back in 1990. Just last week, an Astoria crabber said my departure was long overdue and that I couldn't get down the road quick enough to suit him. Glad I could make your day Mike...

To those of you who have found value in the programs, projects and efforts of the Crab Commission over the years, and showed it through your support, participation and encouragement, it's been both a privilege and a pleasure to work for and with you. In the process, many of you have become good friends.

The ODCC is in good shape. It has an excellent working relationship with ODFW, ODA and other state agencies. It is well known throughout the seafood industry, respected in the political arena and has developed valuable connections in the culinary community. The bridges and relationships build up over the years in all these areas on behalf of the Oregon Dungeness crab industry couldn't be stronger.

The ODCC has a good financial foundation and the Commission is made up of committed individuals who take their role and responsibilities on your behalf very seriously. Three recently appointed members - Mike Retherford (F/V Winona J), Crystal Adams (Hallmark Fisheries) and Jake Postlewait (Oregon Coast Bank) - all represent the 'next generation' in this industry, and their energy and fresh perspective will serve the Commission well for some time to come.

The Commissioners have appointed staff member Hugh Link as 'Interim Administrator' while they search for my replacement. Hugh functioned well in that role when I left briefly to work with the Dairy Products Commission back in 2006, and I have no doubt that he'll do a good job this time around. I hope you'll give him your support and encouragement during this transition.

In closing, I want to thank you and all the members of the Crab Commission over the years, for making this 'chapter' in my career in Oregon's fishing and seafood industry so fulfilling and rewarding. Stay safe as you harvest the best crab in the world - Oregon Dungeness...

Nick