



Bio – Nick Furman

Nick Furman is the Executive Director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, an industry-funded commodity commission under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. He has held that position since 1990, leaving briefly in 2006 for eighteen months to lead the Oregon Dairy Products Commission through a ‘transition’ period.

Prior industry experience includes four years as a district sales manager for a large West Coast seafood company, six years as a “visiting” assistant professor of Fishing Technology at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay, and twelve years of “hands on” experience as a crewman and vessel captain in fisheries from California to Alaska.

Nick is also a long-time distance runner and an avid bicyclist. During the summer of 2004, he completed a ‘solo’ bicycle ride from Coos Bay, OR to Cape Cod, MA, following the Lewis & Clark Trail for many of the 4,316 miles across the United States. His wife Kathy drove the ‘sag’ vehicle and kept him hydrated during the hot, 100-mile days on the road and together, they raised over \$6,500 for a local domestic violence shelter. They also enjoy kayaking the many bays, rivers and estuaries along Oregon’s South Coast.

Nick Furman

Nick is the Executive Director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC). This is a commodity commission that was established to assist the fishery primarily with marketing product and as a way to unite the fishery under one voice. With the exception of 18 months in 2006-2007 when Nick made a short foray into the dairy industry, he has been the leader of ODCC since 1990. Nick has become the voice for the industry, representing the needs of the fishery in a variety of processes. ODFW staff has observed just some of Nick's many roles: a visionary, a leader, an advocate, a partner, a marketer, and even at times, a chief cook and bottle washer at many of the seafood demonstrations hosted by ODCC. Under Nick's leadership, the crab fishery has seen market expansion benefiting the entire fishery and significant changes in management of the fishery. A few of Nick and ODCC's accomplishments include:

- **Seafood Oregon:** Seafood Oregon is an umbrella group representing the seafood commodity commissions of Oregon (i.e., Dungeness crab, salmon, trawl groundfish and shrimp, and albacore tuna). Nick is a leader in this group and has developed relationships with the other commodity commission directors that are ones of great respect and support.
- **MSC Certification:** The Oregon Dungeness crab fishery achieved Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification in December 2010. This certification is instrumental for expanding international markets, especially European markets. The ODCC, with Nick at the helm, spearheaded the seven year effort. The fishery was assessed by an independent assessment team looking at a variety of environmental standards. After a long and thorough process, the fishery was deemed environmentally sustainable. The certification process is not over, however. Nick and the ODCC are committed to seeing the certification through the required annual audits and periodic re-certification assessments.
- **Pre-season price negotiations:** Prior to the start of the season ODCC is a key participant in the price negotiation process. This is a tightly controlled collective bargaining process born from legislation passed in 2003. Nick was an active supporter of that legislation and works annually to oversee the negotiations between harvesters and processors.
- **Crab pot limits:** A major shift in management of the Dungeness crab fishery came in 2006 with the implementation of a pot limitation program. This program was developed through considerable consultation with industry, facilitated by ODCC and Nick. Beginning with this process and continuing today, ODCC is partnering with ODFW to coordinate and conduct bi-annual 'Crab Summits' held to gather industry input on issues and changes to the fishery.
- **Derelict gear:** In 2009 a partnership was formed between NOAA, ODFW, ODCC, and OSP to explore methods for removal of derelict crab gear; the project concluded earlier this year. As an 'in-kind' donation to the project, ODCC developed 'Operation CRABPOT' (Clearing Refuse and Building a Pristine Ocean for Tomorrow), an industry-led volunteer effort to spend one week removing debris from the ocean. Nick was instrumental in the success of this program and has since partnered with NOAA to continue and build the industry-led derelict gear removal program. This work is critical to the sustainability of

the fishery and is serving as a nationwide model for industry-led efforts and agency/industry partnerships.

- Pre-season testing: The ODCC is a key collaborator in crab quality testing prior to the start of the fishery. They take the lead in organizing vessels and financing and overseeing processing of the crab after it is landed. They have even volunteered to fund tests in other states to the benefit of the entire West Coast fishery.
- Marine spatial planning and Territorial Sea Plan amendment: Oregon is currently working through a process to amend the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) to identify areas for potential siting of renewable energy facilities. Nick is the chair of the Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition (SOORC), a regional fishing interest group that represents fishermen in the Bandon/Coos Bay/Reedsport area. Under Nick's leadership, this group was the first to directly engage in the marine spatial planning process by mapping their fishing grounds for protection from renewable energy development. This group led the way for all the coastal communities to participate in this innovative resource mapping process and continues to engage in the final stages of the TSP process, expected to be completed in 2012.

The interesting things you find when you do a Google search on someone's name: During the summer of 2004 Nick completed a 4,316 mile solo bicycle ride from Coos Bay, OR to Cape Cod, MA, raising \$6,500 for a local domestic violence shelter and part of the Women's Safety & Resource Center.