



## URGENT REQUEST - NWAA MEMBERS AND AQUACULTURE ALLIES:

UPDATED February 27, 2025

This week, the **Oregon Legislature** is considering **HB 2965**, a bill that would preemptively ban finfish aquaculture in Oregon. As we have argued in the DNR hearings and legal files, NWAA believes that banning an entire sector before it even begins is short-sighted and sets a dangerous precedent that will stifle responsible seafood production and will thwart future business opportunities.

### How You Can Help

We need as many people as possible to submit written testimony **opposing HB 2965 before 8:00 am PT FRIDAY**. It is not too late to make your opposition known. At Wednesday's hearing, we heard the usual litany of reasons to pre-emptively ban an activity—from Don't Cage our Oceans and Mercy for Animals. You can read the currently filed testimony here:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Testimony/HB2965>

### How to Submit Your Testimony

1. Visit the Oregon Legislative Testimony Portal:  
[Click Here to Submit](#)
2. Fill out your name and email.
3. Choose "Oppose" under Position.
4. Copy & paste one of the testimony templates below (or personalize your own message).
5. Submit by Friday, February 28 at 8:00 AM when the portal closes.

### Testimony Templates

1. I urge you to not move HB 2965 out of committee. Banning finfish aquaculture in Oregon before it even exists is an extreme and unnecessary step that ignores science and shuts down potential economic opportunities for our state. Other regions have successfully developed well-regulated, sustainable aquaculture that supports food security, job creation, and wild fisheries. Oregon should not take an anti-business, anti-innovation stance that limits our ability to adapt and grow in the future. Please oppose this bill and allow for science-based discussions on aquaculture's role in Oregon's seafood economy.
2. HB 2965 is not based on science, and I strongly oppose this unnecessary legislation. Multiple peer-reviewed studies, including a NOAA-led Pacific Northwest study, have demonstrated that well-regulated aquaculture can be done safely with minimal environmental impact. Other progressive seafood-producing nations, including Iceland and New Zealand, have embraced aquaculture as a sustainable solution. Even Alaska's governor has recently voiced support for aquaculture as a way to strengthen the seafood industry. Oregon should be making decisions based on science, not misinformation or activist pressure. I urge you to oppose HB 2965 and instead focus on responsible, science-driven policy.



3. I strongly oppose HB 2965 because responsible aquaculture supports the sustainability of wild fisheries. The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and NOAA all recognize that aquaculture is essential to reducing pressure on wild fish stocks while providing a stable, climate-friendly source of seafood. Without local aquaculture, we will continue to rely on imported seafood from countries with weaker environmental standards, increasing carbon emissions and putting more pressure on wild fish stocks globally. Please vote NO on HB 2965.

#### **Every Voice Matters!**

Your testimony, along with those from your colleagues, customers, and partners, will make a difference in ensuring that Oregon remains open to sustainable seafood innovation. Please take a few minutes to submit your testimony and **encourage others to do the same.**

If you have any questions or need help submitting, please contact Maria Smithson at [m\\_smithson@hotmail.com](mailto:m_smithson@hotmail.com), who is leading this effort on behalf of NWAA and Oregon members.

Thank you for your time and support!