



SENATOR DICK ANDERSON PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Dick Anderson Asks DHS to Immediately Return Coast Guard Search-and-Rescue Helicopter to Newport Before Crab Season Begins

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. – Senator Dick Anderson (R-Lincoln City) announced today that he has formally requested the immediate return of the U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and aircrew to the Newport Coast Guard air facility ahead of the upcoming Dungeness crab season. The [full text](#) of his letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is below.

“Dear Secretary Noem,

I write to urgently request the immediate return of an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and crew to U.S. Coast Guard Air Facility Newport, Oregon, for the duration of the 2025–2026 Dungeness crab season.

The Oregon Dungeness crab fishery is one of America’s most valuable and most dangerous. Winter bar crossings at Yaquina Bay, Depoe Bay, and nearby ports routinely occur in extreme weather. Since the relocation of Newport’s helicopter to North Bend, the central Oregon coast has no dedicated rotary-wing search-and-rescue capability during the period of greatest risk.

Fixed-wing aircraft and boats cannot perform hoist rescues in the low ceilings and heavy seas that dominate our winter coast. The absence of a helicopter in Newport during crab season creates an unacceptable and preventable threat to human life.

I respectfully ask the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard to, at least, temporarily redeploy one MH-65 and aircrew to Newport no later than December 1, 2025, and to conduct a longer-term review of permanently restoring rotary-wing coverage to the central coast.

The fishermen and families of Senate District 5 are deeply grateful for the Coast Guard’s service. Returning the helicopter is literally a matter of life and death.

Thank you for your immediate attention and your service to our country. Myself and my office is available at your convenience at anytime to discuss this matter.”

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