Executive Order a Significant Win for CCA

Angela Hult
Oregon State Board of Directors

Working in tandem with the Bush Administration and other conservation groups, Coastal Conservation Association helped to secure another significant win for our marine resources, and CCA PNW Chairman Gary Loomis was present for this historic moment.

On October 20, President Bush signed an Executive Order establishing game fish status for red drum and striped bass. The Order is a landmark victory for recreational anglers who have fought for decades to restore and conserve these two coveted sport fish.

President Bush signed the order at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum surrounded by conservationists and anglers, including CCA Chairman Walter Fondren. The Executive Order instructs the Secretary of Commerce to put regulations in place establishing gamefish status for red drum and striped bass in federal waters, and encourages the states to take similar actions in state waters. Specifically, the Executive Order:

- Moves to prohibit the sale of striped bass and red drum caught in Federal waters.
- Promotes more accurate scientific records about fish population levels.
- Helps the Federal government work with State and local officials to find innovative ways to conserve these species for future generations.

There are many parallels between the plight of stripers and red drum and our salmon, steelhead and other Pacific Northwest fish. Like the salmon, stripers and red drum were once abundant in America’s waters, and they have been over-fished. And, like the Pacific Northwest, the effort to save these fish started with a small group of conservation-minded anglers who wouldn’t give up.

This victory can be duplicated in our region. CCA can help us to achieve it, but it will take each one of you to support this effort. ☺

Oregon Member Wins Guide Trip
B. Myers Names Newsletter

Congratulations to Bill Myers of the Portland Metro Chapter for his winning entry for the Name This Newsletter contest.

His was one of almost 500 suggestions sent in by CCA members. Several names were intentionally humorous or witty. Many reflected outrage at current commercial harvest practices. All were thoughtful and appreciated.

For Bill’s winning entry, The Ripple Effect, he wins a free guided trip for two with Oregon CCA’s Government Relations Chair, Stan Steele, and a tackle package donated by Sportsman’s Warehouse. Good job, Bill!
Where Did All the Salmon Go?

Gary Loomis
Chairman, CCA PNW

By now you might have heard that Alaska’s 2007 commercial salmon harvest was the largest in the state’s history. Kicker, 212 million fish were harvested, and on some days the commercial fleet quickly exceeded processing capacity. In fact, during the peak of the season processors imposed delivery limits and occasional buying stoppages during one full week.

Fishing guides up and down the Kenai and Nushagak rivers reported that it was the worst season ever for sport fishing. Days simply went by without a single strike, and even the final frontier of bountiful salmon fishing, was a bust.

For commercial fisherman, it was a banner year. Alaska’s statewide Sockeye harvest alone exceeded the state’s quota, 14 times higher than the preseason projection of 4 million, and the largest Alaska Sockeye catch in a decade. The Bristol Bay harvest of nearly 30 million fish was the largest in a decade and Sockeye catches for the rest of the state increased from 13 million in 2006 to 17 million in 2007.

While Sockeye and Pink salmon were harvested at record rates, other species had poor returns. The impact of commercial over-harvest is already reflected in the Alaskan returns for Chinook, Coho and Chum. The 2007 Chinook catch was described as “disappointing” by local experts, with a 2007 Chinook harvest of 496,000 fish, compared to the projected 785,000 fish. The preliminary statewide Chinook harvest total of 2.9 million fish was nearly 40 percent below preseason projections of 4.7 million fish. The 2007 Chum harvest of 15.5 million fish was also described as “disappointing” considering the 2007 projection for Chum was 24.7 million.

This year, a single question punctuated the salmon season, stretching from the Fraser River in Canada, to the Columbia River, the Puget Sound and the coastal rivers of Oregon and Washington: Where did all the salmon go?

Alaska reports the fourth largest commercial catch in the state’s history and the Pacific Northwest and Canada report one of the worst seasons in recent memory. It’s not coincidence – it’s cause and effect.

Multi-state overfishing has had poor returns. The impact of commercial over-harvest today the resource will be gone in four or five years. The most important thing we can do right now is to continue expanding CCA’s presence in the Pacific Northwest. We have quickly grown to more than 3,000 members in Oregon and Washington, an effective and persuasive number when it comes to legislators and policymakers. And, as the largest marine conservation organization in the country, CCA has the track record and the ability to wage a successful multi-state effort. However, the larger and louder we voice the better chance we have for success, and we need as many people as possible to join this cause. Please help us spread the word about this very important effort and encourage people to join CCA before we run out of time.

GUEST OPINION
Help CCA Grow in the Pacific Northwest
Roy Morris–Seiku, WA
abe@elyson.com  | 360.963.2442

What about CCA (Coastal Conservation Association)? Aren’t they gearing up to “save fish in the Northwest”? As I spock with Gary Loomis, I feel his passion, I know his passion. It is like tens of thousands of us who want to save Northwest fish. Gary has chosen CCA to champion this effort. Things need to change and Gary is trying and going on board as many CCA members in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) as it takes. Gary travels throughout the PNW offering seminars and signing up new members. Some of us are heading up substations, set up locations that watch for the seminars. Many of us have joined. And are….doing what? Imagine if each of us could on our own sign-up five new members? Check out the PNW CCA website, find seminars locations, and take the opportunity Join with us.

Overfishing has led to a decline in the Pacific Northwest’s salmon stocks.

Millions of fish that should be returning to our rivers and streams to spawn are being harvested in the ocean. We are allowing Alaska’s commercial fleet to harvest the majority of our region’s salmon, and our fisheries are suffering for it. Our wild fish never get to return home to spawn, and the hatchery fish that we produce and pay for never return home for our own commercial and sport fishermen to harvest. We are subsidizing commercial fisheries while our own fishing economy collapses. At this rate of commercial harvest, Alaska will collapse as well.

The events of the past few months underscore the dramatic need for immediate action. Without action this season, the future of our wild salmon stocks is in major jeopardy. It is a multi-state issue that affects all of us, and it is a major issue that affects all of the PNW. As we illustrate the complexity of this issue: the multi-state domain of our salmon and the far-reaching domino effect of over-harvest.

If we don’t take action today this resource will be gone in four or five years.

Hi. My name is Matthew Kayser, I’ve recently been given the privilege of being the Executive Director of CCA for the Pacific Northwest (CCA PNW). I am excited to have this opportunity to serve CCA on a daily basis. I have been bringing in new members and empowering new chapter officers. Banquet and chapter meetings have been gathering up donations and volunteers. Member upon member has taken it upon themselves to pay their fishing dues and family by the arm to lead them to CCA meetings and presentations. Most important of all: you have all taken it upon yourselves to give a handful of membership applications and take them into your communities to encourage other like-minded individuals to “Join CCA.”

Thanks to all your efforts, our ranks have swollen to over 3,000 members! Thanks to your drive and enthusiasm, you’ve established more than 10 active chapters throughout Oregon and Washington. But now it’s time to kick it into overdrive. CCA PNW has a goal of building a membership of 50,000 members strong. So, there is still a lot of work to be done. So keep handing out those membership applications at boat ramps, in stores, at church and at work. Keep talking to all your friends and family until they are members. Invite them to your next chapter meeting. Literally everyone you know will be glad to have a chance to JOIN CCA.

If you continue to bring in new members, if you get involved in your local chapter, your voice WILL be heard and it will make a difference. Join CCA PNW in every region that CCA has become organized, we have made real changes. Take the lead of your chapter in resulting in more fish, better fish, better fisheries management practices and better habitat. The list is long and getting longer.

New VDUU have a chance to be part of the success CCA will have here in the Pacific Northwest. Your growing CCA voice and our strong CCA grassroots organization will change the fate of our precious marine life here in the Pacific Northwest. I am thrilled to be part of it! I am thrilled to make a difference. Join us. JOIN CCA. Make a difference.
Washington Chapter News

Working Hard to Change the Trend

Matt Olson
President, CCA Washington

It is hard for me to believe that it has already been one year since I sat in front of Gary Loomis and he asked me to join CCA and help him save the Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead from becoming extinct. I, along with many others, have set aside our family duties, job responsibilities and hobbies in order to make a difference in our cause. We so firmly believe that this is our last chance to save a large number of our remaining runs that we will diligently continue the effort until we have results. I always add other fisheries to our salmon and steelhead discussions because I spent many hours fishing for sturgeon with my father on our great Columbia River.

I am so impressed and proud to be part of such a great organization as CCA. Please continue to support CCA and attend your local chapter meetings, get involved, and help to expand and maintain our membership. Better still, volunteer to be part of a committee and become even more active. With all of us working together toward a common goal, working in a positive direction, we will ultimately succeed in putting a stop to the unselective over-harvesting of our resources!

Thousands Read Loomis’ CCA PNW Monthly Column in The Reel News

In the July 2007 issue of The Reel News (TRN), CCA PNW Chairman Gary Loomis was introduced to more than 33,000 monthly readers in the Pacific Northwest. Since then, Gary’s monthly contribution has become one of the most popular and well-read columns in the newsletter’s 23 years of publication.

Gary’s contribution to fisheries conservation over the years has made him an icon among Northwest anglers and now with his relentless work for CCA, I think we’re about to see some positive changes in our poorly managed fisheries,” said Jim Goerg, Publisher and Editor. He continued, “As a member of CCA, we look forward to working even closer with Gary and the CCA PNW staff. This is an exciting time!”

Gary’s column is available monthly and TRN can be found at most major sporting goods retail outlets or by subscription at www.thereelnews.com.

Oregon Chapter News

Oregon Shows Membership and Chapter Growth

John Stee
Chair, Oregon Chapter Development

CCA Oregon members have a reason to feel good right now. Membership has grown at an astonishing compound rate of almost 60 percent monthly. We now have six fully organized local chapters: Williamette Falls, Tillamook, Columbia County, Tualatin Valley, Salem and Emerald Empire. Organizational efforts are well under way to form Portland Metro, Gresham and Hood River/Northeast Oregon Chapters. A Corvallis chapter will emerge after the first of the year and Southern Oregon members are beginning to prepare for a regional membership drive.

It’s great to be off to a fast start and to have such tremendous initial growth. However, we must make sure that every member is fully aware that our huge potential will be fulfilled only if members are actively engaged in committee work at the state and local level.

The economist Pareto is famous for the law concluding, among other things, that 80 percent of the work gets done by 20 percent of the people. Let’s apply that math to our chapters.

Say your chapter has 70 members. Then 20 percent of 70 yields 14 people to do the work. This is about the size, including the four officers, of an average local Board. Now, let’s say that local chapter business takes 1800 hours per year. That means Pareto’s buddies will be putting in about 128 hours a year each – or about 3.5 hours per week.

So, what if we defy Pareto and get 80 percent member involvement instead? Now we have 56 members who will each need to put in 32 hours a year. That works out to less than three-fourths of an hour per week! Here is what you can accomplish in one month with this small amount of time:

• Call five other members to encourage them to attend a chapter meeting
• Attend two, four-hour-committee meetings a month
• Visit one local merchant to ask for their donation and support for CCA Oregon
• Fold and stuff seventy-five mailings

It’s really that simple. So here’s what you can do. Contact your chapter president, or any local board member. Sign up for a committee. Commit whatever time you can spare. Honor your commitment. Then, watch as CCA Oregon really comes to life!

CCA Oregon Adopts Mission Statement

The purpose of CCA Oregon is to advise and educate the public on the conservation and protection of our marine and freshwater resources.

The objective of CCA Oregon is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.

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Why is it Taking So Long?

Madis Ledet
President, CCA Oregon

One thing is abundantly clear to me – there is a lot of anger and frustration out there in the sports fishing community.

“When is CCA going to start doing something?” is a common refrain I often hear.

The fact is that we are busy organizing and working on possible policies. I can’t discuss the policies as they are all tentative, but I can tell you about our organizing.

By the time you read this article we will have up to five more local chapters in Oregon. Portland Central and Gresham are the two most likely to ask for approval in December. Pendleton and Corvallis proposals will still be up and running in early January. Florence is the next candidate after that.

The enthusiasm level is rising faster every month as is our membership. November was our fastest-growing month. I think this means our message resonates with conservationists and sport fisherman. More and more people are realizing that time is of the essence if we are going to save our precious salmon.

I attended a Columbia County Chapter meeting Tuesday, Dec. 11. It was an electrifying experience. Not only has this chapter already grown from about 45 members to 106 in a single month, but at that meeting 27 new members were signed up. The room was packed, everyone was excited and it was fun. People volunteered for committees and, near the end, a hat was passed. People were challenged to put their money where their mouth was, and over $500 was collected. All in all, this just makes me love this work more and more.

Read some of the other articles in this newsletter to get a glimpse of what we are working on. Then hang on to your hat over the next few months.

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**Fish Tales**

**Stan Steele**

Chinook and Oregon Natural Resources Committee Chairman.

While driving to a recent fall Chinook trip, I read a bumper sticker that gave me pause for thought, “The ocean simply stated, ‘Your Silence Won’t Protect You’.”

I thought of how much recreational anglers have remained silent from the policies managing the fish. They are so dearly loved. The political system and the vast array of federal and state management agencies, commissions, panels, and sub Panels designed to recover salmon and steelhead are complex and confusing. The salmon bureaucracy is a huge, five hundred pound gorilla, both daunting and intimidating to the average, recreational angler. As a result, the voices of most anglers have been silent from the debate about how to improve and improve our fisheries.

Today, our prized salmon and steelhead fisheries are on the brink of extinction. In the face of this crisis, the question is: Is whether management decisions are directed toward the long-term conservation and enhancement of the fish, or are these decisions serving the greater public concern? Consider the following example.

Gary is the Chairman for CCA’s nominations committee. He is on the board of the Puget Sound Anglers, Fit Fish Chapter, as the Chairman for Enhancement and Conservation.

A lifetime resident, he looks forward to giving back to the fisheries of the Pacific Northwest. Through CCA and FSA, his rallying cry is, “Get on the freight train and make a difference. Join CCA”.

Do you have a great fish story and photo to share? If so, we would love to share your “Fish Tale” with CCA PNW members. Please describe your catch in 200 words or less and include a high resolution digital color photo (jpg or tiff format). Remember to include your name and your chapter’s name. Stories might be edited for length. Please send stories and photos to editor@ccapnw.org.

**COMMERCIAL FISHING FACT**

The Bering Sea Aleutian Islands groundfish fleet catches hundreds of Chinook and Chum salmon as bycatch. These dead salmon, many originating from Washington and Oregon waters, are discarded as waste. The Pacific fleet catches and destroys more and more of these valuable fish each year.

The result of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan), Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan, Pacific Coastal Salmon Plan, and its amendments, is to name a few recovery documents: Recreational conservationists put their faith into implementing all aspects of wild Coho recovery. From involvement in projects such as hatchet enhancement, the purchase of Oregon salmon license plates and the releasing of all wild untagged Coho, ordinary citizens and anglers alike became part of the conservation effort. It has been 15 years since anglers were last permitted to set a hook for wild Coho in coastal streams, bays or ports.

Through many sacrifices and contributions, the numbers of wild Coho returning to their natal rivers to spawn were improving. Fisheries biologists were optimistic that recovery efforts were beginning to reverse decades of decline caused by habitat loss. In the face of this crisis, the question is: Is whether management decisions are directed toward the long-term conservation and enhancement of the fish, or are these decisions serving the greater public concern? Consider the following example.

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**Commercial Fishing Fact**

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The author makes the point that when you commit to management based on best available science, then you may have to sacrifice. It may be that you may have to give up some of your favorite activities in the short term to achieve your goals in the long term. Generally, a gillnet used in a river will not have webbing and information to fit a predetermined model and ignores the information that doesn’t fit. Proper resource management just doesn’t work that way.

On a related note, just as there is certainly room for improvement in our local management philosophies, there is also a need to shed some light on the myth that gillnets are selective. In my years on the job as a fish and wildlife enforcement officer, I removed thousands of dead salmon, steelhead and sturgeon from gillnets. Some of our management agencies would like to have us believe that mesh size is the key to controlling what you catch. In other words, little mesh gets everything and big mesh lets smaller fish through.

The reality is that many fish, maybe the majority, simply get tangled in the mesh. Fish are bridled by getting mesh in their mouths, spinning and struggling and as deep as one fished in the ocean. What I am describing is a basic floating gillnet. There are also “divers” that sink to the bottom. What most people don’t understand about gillnets is that the web does not lay in a straight line and straight up and down. Instead, a gillnet when fishing best would remind you of an expensive window drapery. It lays in the water in a serpentine fashion under the cork line. The net then becomes what I call a three-dimensional threat to fish because as they swim into the net, they are engulfed in mesh. If a fish is lucky enough to avoid the mesh in front, they encounter more mesh when they turn.

Another aspect of how gillnets capture fish is the way they hang in the water. A gillnet has a float or “cork” line at the top and a lead line at the bottom. Generally, a gillnet used in a river will not have webbing. If it is 18 pounds wet, wader steelhead photographed at the Kalama River hatchery. This fish escaped from a gillnet in February, a time when steelhead are caught in “large mesh” sturgeon nets. Note the net marks on his side and the damage done to his dorsal fin.

This fish suffered substantial infection from damage caused by the gillnet that ensnared his teeth. A struggling fish twisting in the webbing causes the gillnet to tighten up like a tourniquet. Damage caused by the gillnet that ensnared his side. That is essentially the largest mesh the commercial netters use for salmon fisheries on the Columbia River.

Summer 2007—Commercial gillnets choke the Duwamish River in Washington, just outside of downtown Seattle. The distance from one knot to the other on opposite corners is the size of the mesh. When someone says they are fishing “big, 9-inch mesh,” what you have is a mesh that is 4.5 inches in length on each side. That is essentially the largest mesh the commercial netters use for salmon fisheries on the Columbia River.

There is some relationship between mesh size and how effective it will be on certain sized fish, but it is certainly not selective. Gillnets commonly kill birds, marine mammals and all kinds of fish that are not lawfully supposed to be taken. That’s why they should be called killnets.

I have heard commercial fishers minimize concerns over the potential for the incidental kill of steelhead by claiming that they are using “big mesh” and they just swim right through. To get a better grasp on the realities of gillnets, it is necessary to understand exactly how gillnet mesh sizes are measured.

Gillnet is manufactured by knotting lines together at a predetermined distance and creating a mesh or web. To measure gillnet mesh size, you take those two knots on opposite corners of a mesh or square and you pull them in opposite directions until the box has become two parallel lines.

The answer is obvious: Not many. This is just one of the many myths that recreational anglers have to overcome to get to the root of the problem and save our fish. CCA is here in the Pacific Northwest to help expose and correct fallacies like these.

Supporters of CCA from the beginning!

The author makes the point that when you commit to management based on best available science, then you may have to sacrifice. It may be that you may have to give up some of your favorite activities in the short term to achieve your goals in the long term. What will not work are the methods practiced so far by our federal and state agencies that tend to pick and choose the ultimately becoming wrapped in the mesh. Remember gillnet webbing is extremely fine and it tangles on everything: fins, teeth, tails, gill plates, scutes, your clothing etc. Sturgeon, because of their sharp scutes, are especially susceptible to tangling in gillnets.

Continued on page 9
CCA PNW Will Have 2008 Sportsmen Show Booths

CCA will have booths at O’Laughlin’s Oregon and Washington Sportsmen’s Shows and Boat Show. Please stop by to visit and learn more about your organization. Or, contact matt.kayser@ccapnw.org to volunteer your time at one of the shows. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING SHOWS

Portland Boat Show
January 5 - 13, 2008
Portland Expo Center
Motion Marine Booth

Washington Sportsmen’s Show
January 23 - 27, 2008
Western Washington Fairgrounds
Puyallup, Washington

Pacific Northwest Sportsmen’s Show
February 6 - 10, 2008
Portland Expo Center
Fish First Booth

Evergreen Sportsmen’s Show
February 21 - 24, 2008
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Vancouver, Washington

Central Oregon Sportsmen’s Show
February 28 - March 2, 2008
Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center
Redmond, Oregon

CCA Pacific Northwest Opens Office

in less than one year, CCA Pacific Northwest has established a solid presence in the Pacific Northwest and raised enough funds to hire an executive director and to open an office. The CCA office is located in Vancouver, Washington.

 wards. Please stop by to visit and learn more about your organization. Or, contact matt.kayser@ccapnw.org to volunteer your time at one of the shows. Hope to see you there!

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Jack Smith and Gary Loomis
Honored By Outdoor Life Magazine

Outdoor Life magazine named Jack Smith, President of the Tillamook, Oregon chapter and Gary Loomis, CCA PNW Chairman, as two of the publication’s “Outdoor Life 25.”

The magazine launched Outdoor Life 25, a new awards program to recognize the people changing the face of hunting and fishing, in its December/January 2008 issue. The issue hit newsstands in November and profiles the 25 leaders, innovators, conservationists and unsung heroes who have had a major, positive impact on outdoor sports.

The 25 honorees are grouped into four categories: leaders, who by their individual efforts and sheer strength of will have had a strong impact on the hunting and fishing scene; innovators, whose product breakthroughs make time spent in the outdoors more productive and enjoyable; conservationists, who work to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the outdoors; and unsung heroes, who in quiet but important ways are doing things great for the outdoor sports.

Jack Smith was recognized as an unsung hero for his quiet and diligent efforts over the years raising thousands of dollars and spending countless days working to improve salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest.

Gary Loomis was recognized as a leader for his innovative contributions to the sport fishing industry through G. Loomis, Inc., and for his commitment to the conservation of Pacific Northwest fisheries through his work with Fish First and CCA.

Outdoor Life will spotlight all of the honorees at a special reception held during the 2008 SHOT Show in Las Vegas. During the event, the publication will also single out the one person from the list of 25 whom readers believe to be most deserving of the Readers’ Choice Award.
Coastal Conservation Association Membership Application

Complete this form and send to:

Coastal Conservation Association
6919 Portwest, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
Ph. 1-800-201-3474
Fax 713-626-5852

JoinCCA.org | CCAPNW.org

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MEMBER INFORMATION

❑ Renewal Dues
❑ New Membership

Name  ____________________________________________________

Associate Member Name(s) (if applicable)  ______________________________________________________

Member ID# (if renewing)  _______________________________________________________

Address  _______________________________________________________

City  ____________________________________________

State  _______________

Zip  _______________

Phone  _______________

Email  _______________________________________________________

Gift Membership From:  _______________________________________________________

❑ $25 MEMBER: Membership card, window decal, 2 bumper stickers, TIDE magazine.
❑ $100 MEMBER: All of the above plus CCA print of your choice
❑ $500 PATRON: Silver lapel pin, print, plus member gifts.
❑ $1,000 LIFE MEMBER: Life Member display piece, print, plus member gifts.
❑ $200 SPONSOR: Bronze Lapel pin print, plus member gifts.
❑ $300 ASSOCIATE: Per each family member. All member privileges except TIDE. Send name.
❑ $10 NEW TIDE: Rising Tide newsletter, three NEW TIDE logo decals, iron-on T-shirt transfer, redfish & speckled trout sticker. For members 17 and younger.

❑ Quarterly payment option available.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

❑ Cash Enclosed
❑ Check or Money Order Enclosed
❑ Mastercard
❑ Visa
❑ Discover
❑ American Express
❑ American Express (if applicable)
❑ Credit Card #  ___________________________
❑ Exp. Date  ______________________________
❑ Signature  ______________________________

Associate Member Name  _______________________________________

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Quarterly payment option available.

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