All Tangled In The Nets On The Columbia

Threatened salmon are dying, sportfishing is crimped and an outdoor retail chain goes belly up.

Courtesy of The Oregonian

It stinks what passes for salmon harvest policy on the Columbia River. Everyone smells it -- lawmakers, gill-netters, sport fishermen, fish commissioners -- but all the Northwest has done is hold its collective nose.

Here's what's going on: Oregon and Washington still allow gill nets, the least selective way to fish, in the main stem of the Columbia River. The gill-netters can't help but catch and kill threatened species of salmon and steelhead. This incidental take of federally protected fish forces the curtailment of sportfishing, gutting a major Northwest industry. Guides, boat dealers and tackle manufacturers are hurting; just this week one of the region's largest retailers of fishing equipment, Joe's Sports, Outdoor & More, went out of business.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of hatchery salmon roll upriver, flooding into spawning areas and interfering with the recovery of the threatened wild species of salmon and steelhead.

All of this makes no sense, none, yet it keeps going on. The gill-netters, backed by the seafood processors and restaurants they supply, have spent decades now locked in a fierce dispute with sport fishermen over the relative share of fish that each side is allowed to harvest. This tug of war has so poisoned river policy that both sides cannot recognize that their stubborn stances are hurting them both, and damaging wild salmon.

There are better ways. Two proposals in the Oregon Legislature, if properly implemented, both would help wild salmon recovery by protecting threatened fish from nonselective harvest, and ramp up harvest of hatchery fish, reducing the competition in spawning areas.

One proposal, House Bill 2734, the so-called “SAFE for Salmon” plan, would move gill-netters into off-channel commercial fishing zones. The idea is to accelerate and expand the hatchery practice of taking salmon smolts to bays and side channels, where the young fish imprint and return as adult salmon. Gill-netters already are taking a substantial portion of their fish in these zones -- which are not frequented by wild salmon.

Both proposals count on the willingness of the gill-netters to cooperate. Both would help wild salmon recovery by protecting threatened fish from nonselective harvest, and ramp up harvest of hatchery fish, reducing the competition in spawning areas.

Lawmakers ought to approve them both and give fish managers the tools they need to better manage salmon on the Columbia.

Commercial gill-netters fear being pinned to the shallow bays of the river, and question whether the hatchery fish promised in the SAFE plan would truly be forthcoming. They also are reluctant to swap out their gill-net gear for costly seine nets or other equipment. Lawmakers should strengthen both bills to address their concerns.

There is room now, and always will be, for commercial salmon fishing on the Columbia River, if properly managed. Ultimately, though, gill-nets must be moved out of the main stem of the river. If it ever made sense to allow nonselective fishing on threatened salmon and steelhead, then kick everybody off the river while hatchery fish surge upstream, it doesn't any longer. All it does now is stink. ☺

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This newsletter is printed on recycled FSC™ certified paper and uses vegetable based inks.
Grassroots Involvement Is Key To CCA’s Success

Bryan Irwin
PNW Executive Director

It’s hard not to be impressed by the involvement of CCA Oregon and CCA Washington members in this legislative session. While I can’t say enough about the great work our impassioned volunteers on the Government Relations Committees do to promote our agenda, without our membership standing strong behind them much of our efforts would fall on deaf ears. CCA members sent literally thousands of messages to legislators and attended public hearings by the hundreds. The Pacific Northwest worked in a coordinated fashion to promote conservation and selective fishing reforms, but given the political landscape in each state we used very different tactics in achieving our goals. In Washington, we have a conservation-minded Fish and Wildlife Commission that is under attack by commercial fishing interests for allocating too few fish to the commercial gill nets. In Oregon, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has the opposite view, and we have taken the need for conservation and selective fishing reforms directly to the Legislature.

CCA Washington has successfully defended the Fish and Wildlife Commission from two separate bills. This legislation was expected by many to pass this session and the active involvement of CCA’s lobbyist and thousands of emails, phone calls and CCA member meetings with legislators turned the tide. This was especially noteworthy since both the House and Senate Committee Chairs were strong proponents of the legislation. This is a huge win and it is interesting to note that our CCA colleagues in Florida had the same attack on their commission a few years ago for similar reasons.

San Juan Propane Features CCA Logos

Next time you are traveling by ferry in the Anacortes area, keep an eye out for the San Juan Propane tanker proudly supporting CCA! This advertisement is raising awareness about CCA in the North Sound and has even been featured in a local magazine.
The Stuff of Legends - Or How I Will Remember My First Springer

Matt Olson  Washington CCA President

With the constant headlines about the current state of our economy, it's hard to not let this Pacific distrait from many other important issues. As a business owner, I share these concerns, but I know we have to adapt to a new environment.

We have also had to adjust towards CCA's banquet season as we work hard to achieve our fund-raising goals. We have seen some of our sponsors and supporters – like outdoor retailer Joe's – fall into bankruptcy and closure, while others are reducing their inventories, workforce and promotions budgets, means more competition for the scarce dollars that remain.

While it might be tempting to lower our heats, reduce our expectations and blame it on the economy, my hope is that the current situation makes us more determined than ever to meet our fund-raising goals, and inspires some creativity and plain, old-fashioned elbow grease among us all.

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The Stuff of Legends - Or How I Will Remember My First Springer

I will never forget the first day of steelhead season. We were in the birchball and I knew that there would be plenty of steelhead. I had been steelhead fishing for a few years and was confident that I knew how to catch them. But when we arrived at the river, I was surprised.

The river was calm and clear, and the steelhead were not as active as I had expected. I started fishing with a streamer and a dry fly, but neither seemed to be working. I began to question my abilities and wondered if I would ever be able to catch a steelhead.

Then, as if on cue, a steelhead burst through the surface of the water, racing directly towards me. I quickly set the hook and began to reel. The steelhead fought hard, but eventually, I was able to land it. It was a beautiful moment, and I felt a sense of accomplishment.

Since that day, I have continued to fish for steelhead, and I have learned many valuable lessons. I have learned that patience and persistence are key to success, and that hard work and determination are essential to reaching your goals.

I have also learned that it is important to set realistic expectations and to be patient with yourself. I have come to understand that success in steelhead fishing is not always immediate, and that it takes time and effort to achieve.

Overall, I am grateful for the opportunities that steelhead fishing has provided me, and I look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come. As I sit by the river, watching the steelhead move in and out of the water, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that I am part of something greater than myself.
Eating the Elephant, One Bite at a Time

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) has been busy in a world of sqlite data, working with others to address the need for new marine reserves. It was a contentious process and no one knew quite what the outcome would be. At the conclusion, two sites were designated to become “Pilot Sites” for Marine Reserves. Four other sites will be further reviewed. This plan has a term of five years. During this legislative session HB 3013 was introduced to take away from coastal stakeholders the ability to have a say in the development of the OPAC recommendations for Marine Reserves in Oregon. This bill will supply temporary funding for development of work plans and a few years of operation. Permanent funding will need to be found and approved to move beyond these pilot sites and limited term. With the aid of our state lobbyist Shawn Miller, CCA Oregon’s Government Relations Committee has been working closely with the ODFW and the Coastal Caucus rewriting this legislation to be sure it includes science-based priorities for Marine Reserve periodic reviews, and that tag and license fees will not be part of the long term funding of these arbitrary, permanent, no fishing zones. As CCA works to protect access for recreational fishermen to all public waters we continue to use the following criteria:

- There is a clear indication that recreational fisheries are the cause of the specific conservation problem and that less-severe conservation measures, such as gear restrictions, passage limits, size restrictions, quotas, or closed seasons will not adequately address the targeted conservation problem.
- The closed-area regulation includes specific, measurable quantifiable to determine the benefit conservation of the closed area on the reduced stocks of fish and marine species.
- All affected standards including the precautionary principle for periodic review of the continued need for the closed area at least once every three years.
- The closed area is no larger than that which is currently supported by the best available science.
- Provision is made to re-open the closed area to recreational fishing whenever the targeted conservation problem no longer exists.
- It’s important to remember that CCA-OR has been working closely with other fish advocacy groups, sport fishing groups, and commercial fishing interests on this issue. This current bill lays some solid groundwork that will assure scientific goals, periodic reviews and sport license and tag fees from being used to operate permanent, arbitrary no fishing zones.

**HB 2579**

The CCA/Oregon bill HB 2579, as well as every other harvest reform bill, received a public hearing on Tuesday April 21, 2009 before the House committee on Sustainability and Economic Development. This committee is chaired by Rep. Tobias Reed. According to Rep. Reed, and the other committee members, they are, “looking at all the different possibilities and are committed to find a solution that ensures survival of the salmon, while simultaneously maintaining the fishing industry both commercial and sport!” He is hopeful that with continued collaboration we will find a solution that works for everyone.

Whether this bill moves out of committee is up to Rep. Reed. At the same time Reed faces a handful of scenarios that could influence the final outcome:

- **Move HB 2579 (CCA’s Selective Harvest Bill) out of committee.**
- **Move HB 2734 (Safe 4 Salmon Bill) out of committee.**
- **Move both bills out of committee.**
- **Move some combination of the two bills out of committee.**
- **Move an entirely new bill that is made up by the committee.**
- **Move nothing at all, at which time harvest reform efforts would end for this legislative session.**

The committee chair also has at his discretion where the bill goes when it leaves his committee.

**HB 472**

CCA/ Oregon wrote a letter of support and testified for Senate Bill 472, introduced by Sen. Jason Atkinson and of great interest to our Medford based Rogue Valley chapter. This bill would direct the state fish and wildlife commission to further evaluate the hatch box program, pursuant to current Oregon state law, in an effort to determine if a decision should be made after consultation with local communities, STEP groups, NOAA fisheries, and conservation groups working with stakeholders related to the Rogue basin. This consultation must include, but not be limited to hatch box placement, monitoring, data collection, adult returns, and fishery contributions.

The bill has passed out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and is expected to move forward. ODFW has proposed three projects on the Rogue where access to native fish is currently non-existent or nonexistent. These projects will be used to re-introduce or jumpstart natural production. Another project has been proposed by the scientists at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. The design and intent of this bill is to allow volunteers—especially school children—to participate in this important work.

**HB 3013**

The Marine Reserve issue has taken many turns since the plan was first announced to make vast areas of the Oregon Territorial Sea a complex of permanent “no fishing zones” without any biological need for this restriction being offered.

As the 2009 legislative session began in January, CCA Washington embarked on a new path of advocacy. The team drafted a wild fish conservation bill to begin the transition to selective commercial fishing gear in Washington. One bill, HB 2266, started in the House of Representatives with strong support from sponsors, but arrived too late to go any further in the Natural Resources Committee. Nevertheless, our bill is “alive” for consideration by the Senate Committee on Agriculture to work to gain a hearing in the 2010 session. Events quickly pulled our focus from supporting our own bill to defeating another, SSB 5127, in a battle that would prove to be our biggest test of the session. This bill would have removed and essentially “neutralized,” as Sen. Jacobsen described it, the current Fish & Wildlife Commission, and replaced it with a body heavily laden with certain commercial fishing interests, SSB 5127 would have reduced the size, terms of office and authority of the Commission, while eliminating all the incumbent Commissioners. It’s important to remember that CCA-OR has already drafted a new bill, HB 2579 that would go to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The committee chair also has at his discretion where the bill goes when it leaves his committee. The committee chair also has at his discretion where the bill goes when it leaves his committee.

Senator Joe Zarelli (R-8) raised the obvious that the bill as amended would fail exceed the “scope and object” of the original bill. Unfortunately, SSB 5127 would reduce the size, terms of office and authority of the Commission, while eliminating all the incumbent Commissioners.

CCA Washington started by pressing the WDFW to hold workshops to increase public input into NOF. As a result, WDFW hosted several peer-NOF workshops in the Puget Sound region earlier in October 2008. Many CCA members were present and visible at each and every one of those meetings. They consistently delineated the more than specific objections the need for increased escapement of wild salmon and steelhead, and the need for selective harvest of excess hatchery fish. CCA Washington’s participation and conservation message played key roles in shaping this year’s WDFW negotiating position relative to the NOF allocations, not only harvest limits, but also highlighted the need to expand mark-selective fisheries in Puget Sound.

Subscribing to Save Salmon

Why just donate to CCA when you can donate and receive a subscription to Salmon & Steelhead Journal? Subscribe to Salmon & Steelhead Journal and all of the cost of your subscription will be donated to CCA to assist in the fight to save salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

Subscribing online:

www.salmonandsteelheadjournal.com/csa

CCA Washington News

CCA Washington Goes to Olympia

As the 2009 legislative session began in January, CCA Washington embarked on a new path of advocacy. The team drafted a wild fish conservation bill to begin the transition to selective commercial fishing gear in Washington. One bill, HB 2266, started in the House of Representatives with strong support from sponsors, but arrived too late to go any further in the Natural Resources Committee. Nevertheless, our bill is “alive” for consideration by the Senate Committee on Agriculture to work to gain a hearing in the 2010 session. Events quickly pulled our focus from supporting our own bill to defeating another, SSB 5127, in a battle that would prove to be our biggest test of the session. This bill would have removed and essentially “neutralized,” as Sen. Jacobsen described it, the current Fish & Wildlife Commission, and replaced it with a body heavily laden with certain commercial fishing interests, SSB 5127 would have reduced the size, terms of office and authority of the Commission, while eliminating all the incumbent Commissioners.

Meanwhile, Sen. Jacobsen took the worst parts of SSB 5127 and stuffed them into another bill, SHB 1778 dealing with Boards and Commissions. It then passed to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Once again, Senator Zarelli “scoped” the offending portions of the bill that would have undermined the Commission, and this time said that the member of the State Senate, agreed with him. The offending portions were removed and the Senate Ways & Means Committee then referred the bill to it’s next stop.

Nearly a year ago, CCA Washington set its sights on the 2009 North of Falcon (NOF) process. NOF is a series of “public” meetings where federal, state and tribal fishing officials to debate fishery alternatives and develop harvest management plans for Puget Sound, Coastal Washington and Columbia River fisheries. CCA Washington started by pressing the WDFW to hold workshops to increase public input into NOF. As a result, WDFW hosted several peer-NOF workshops in the Puget Sound region earlier in October 2008. Many CCA members were present and visible at each and every one of those meetings. They consistently delineated the more than specific objections the need for increased escapement of wild salmon and steelhead, and the need for selective harvest of excess hatchery fish.

As expected, allocations were hotly debated, as were harvest impacts on non-target species and weak wild stocks. The puzzle included federal and tribal fisheries management plans developed annual harvest management plans for Puget Sound, Coastal Washington and Columbia River fisheries.

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When I first started giving to CCA through payroll deduction, I was a little concerned that my donations might not be supporting CCA in Washington. I think redfiniks are important, but saving the salmon is the top priority. But, that fish I fished for is going to the fisherman, not the coffee shop, so I did a little research. It turned out that CCA has just one Federal Tax ID Number, \#94-1749842. And since the IRS says this is a group with community businesses who support our work. For instance, my chapter's banquet was sponsored by a local brewery who generously provided a large hall in their new building. Most of their members are Dropout volunteers. But the biggest thing was in line with their members' values.

At most banquets, Gary Loomis spread his magic throughout the night,-charming his fans with his infectious enthusiasm. The banquet's I attended were no exception. I had the honor of chatting with Gary to learn more about his vision for CCA in the Northwest. He got us all to agree with Gary's inspiration has spilled all of us to pull together to make these banquets a success. Volunteers worked months organizing and gathering donations and thorough planning made the events look seamless and easy. But I also came away with the feeling that everyone who attended and bought something was a volunteer. Because if we don't raise money, we can't accomplish our goals. We had a few good laughs as several good stories about our Northwest fishing were told after items. People wanted those fishing trips, goose and duck hunts, fishing records and they were seen well over 130 items at each banquets. There might have been as many as 200 people in those Good deals were everywhere. My wife and I did our best to support CCA by bidding on several items and taking a few good deals for the money I spent.

CCA is still young in the Pacific Northwest and relies heavily on volunteers and community supporters. But our chapter banquets are non-profit efforts. Otherwise, you would be raising funds. At the banquets I attended, it was not unusual to see middle aged men with cell phones and video games, "I had the honor of chatting with Gary to learn more about his vision for CCA in the Northwest. He got us all to agree with Gary's inspiration has spilled all of us to pull together to make these banquets a success. Volunteers worked months organizing and gathering donations and thorough planning made the events look seamless and easy. But I also came away with the feeling that everyone who attended and bought something was a volunteer. Because if we don't raise money, we can't accomplish our goals. We had a few good laughs as several good stories about our Northwest fishing were told after items. People wanted those fishing trips, goose and duck hunts, fishing records and they were seen well over 130 items at each banquets. There might have been as many as 200 people in those Good deals were everywhere. My wife and I did our best to support CCA by bidding on several items and taking a few good deals for the money I spent.

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Contact Your Local Coastal Conservation Association Chapter and Get Involved!

OREGON CHAPTERS

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Chapter Location: St. Helens
President: Ed Rubenow
Email: erubenow@comcast.net
Phone: 503-366-2565
Meeting Info:
- Every even month, 7pm
- St. Helens Inn
Banquet Date: March 20, 2009

ROGUE VALLEY CHAPTER
Chapter Location: Medford
President: Steve Nelson
Contact: steve887@gmail.com
Phone: 541-973-6225
Meeting Info:
- Every even month
- Black Bear Diner, Medford
- 6:00 PM
Banquet Date: September 25, 2009

SALEM
Chapter Location: Salem
President: Brian Canaan
Contact: bhc0798@comcast.net
Phone: 503-930-4566
Meeting Info:
- Parish Middle
- School Library
- “D” St. at Capitol St. NE
- Salem, OR
- 2nd Wednesday of odd months, 6:30 pm
- Siskiyou River Canyon Lodge
- 90 2nd Street
- Austin, WIA

HIGH DESERT - BEND
Chapter Location: Bend
President: Ed Muhlenman
Phone: 541-419-7778
New Chapter: TBA

LINN BENTON CHAPTER
(ALBANY AND MOUNT RAINIER AREA)
Chapter Location: Albany
President: John Elke
Email: dlnr@icnetail.com
Phone: 541-529-7016
Meeting Info: TBA
Banquet Date: TBA

MOUNT HOOD - GRESHAM
Chapter Location: Gresham
President: Wade Radiko
Contact: Milfo@ccapnw.org
Phone: 971-222-5994
Meeting Info:
- Every even month
- 6:30 pm
- Gresham Golf Course
- September 16, 2009
Banquet Date: TBA

NORTHWEST LEADERSHIP

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON CHAPTERS

SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Established: September 2008
Chapter Location: Everett
President: Harry Coalter
Contact: hccwashington@ccapnw.org
Phone: (509) 531-6589
Meeting Info:
- Monthly – 2nd Tuesday, 7 pm
- Reynolds Marine, 1111 Craftman Way
- Everett, WA 98201
- May 14th, 2009

HELLES CHAPMAN
Established: January 2009
Chapter Location: Clackamas, WLA & Lebanon, ID
President: Nick Schumacher
Contact: nick@ccapnw.org
Phone: 503-951-0556
Meeting Info:
- 2nd Wednesday of odd months, 6:30 pm
- Black Bear Diner, Medford
- 90 2nd Street
- Austin, WA

NORTH SOUND
Established: April 2008
Chapter Location: Bellingham
President: Marcin Schumacher
Contact: mcwashington@ccapnw.org
Phone: (509) 531-6582
Meeting Info:
- Attend March Schumacher for meeting times & locations
- Alternate locations: Barket or Center & Mayor’s Center
- 2nd Thursday, 7pm
- Nanaimo’s Warehouse, Vancouver, Washington
- Monthly – Jan 2009

LOWE COLUMBIA
Established: September 2007
Chapter Location: Longview
President: Rick Estes
Contact: rvelces@yahoo.com
Phone: (360) 517-5798
Meeting Info:
- Monthly – 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm
- Mandarin Hotel, Longview
- May 23, 2009

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
Established: October 2007
Chapter Location: Vancouver
President: Jim Crawford
Contact: jimzdms@msn.com
Phone: 360-845-1800
Meeting Info:
- Monthly – 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm
- All Star Lanes Silverdale
- 10710 Silverdale Way
- Silverdale, WA
Banquet Date: April 11th, 2009

TRI-CITIES
Established: January 2008
Chapter Location: Richland
President: Stan Bregdon
Contact: sbregdon@chamber.org
Phone: (509) 531-1573
Meeting Info:
- Every Month
- 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
- O’Callaghan’s
- The Shells Inn, Richland
Banquet Date: March 27th, 2009

YAKIMA
Established: November 2007
Chapter Location: Yakima
President: Mike Hammond
Contact: mhammond@ty sec.org
Phone: (509) 542-1612
Meeting Info:
- Monthly – 4th Thurs., 7 pm
- Yakima Carpenter’s Hall, 507 S. 3rd, Yakima
Banquet Date: September 13th, 2009

CCA 2009 Summer/Fall Banquet Calendar

CCA Summer banquet season is nearly upon us! Please mark your calendar with the following important dates and plan to attend the banquet(s) in your area. Oregon and Washington banquets that will take place this Summer and Fall are listed in the chart below.

Washington Banquets ……. Banquet Date
Southwest Washington …….. June 6th
Oregon Banquets ………… Banquet Date
Emerald Empire ………… July 31st
Rogue Valley ………… September 25th
Portland Metro ………… October 16th
Coastal Conservation Association Membership Application

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
- $15 ASSOCIATE: Per each family member. All member privileges except TIDE. Send names.
- $200 SPONSOR: Bronze lapel pin, print, plus member gifts.
- $1,000 LIFE MEMBER: Life Member display piece, print, plus member gifts. Quarterly payment option available.
- $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.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Cash Enclosed
- Check or Money Order Enclosed
- Mastercard  □ Amex
- Visa  □ Discover

Credit Card # __________________________

Exp. Date __________________________

Signature _______________________________________

Associate Member Name _______________________________________

Complete this form and send to:
Coastal Conservation Association
1006 W. 11th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
Ph. 877-255-8772
Ph. 360-694-4300

JoinCCA.org  |  CCAPNW.org

An image of a surfer enjoying the waves in a small coastal stream.