As conservationists and anglers, we care deeply about wild fish recovery, but also strongly support efforts to maintain and enhance hatchery production because we understand the social, economic, and conservation benefits that hatcheries can provide. The current environment of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings and anti-hatchery lawsuits present complex challenges to our hatcheries and fisheries. Since its founding a decade ago, CCA Washington has secured important victories at the state and federal levels for our salmon and steelhead hatcheries – important work that will continue.

First, we know that our hatcheries require a monetary investment. Many facilities are aging and have extensive deferred maintenance needs. Over the past five years, CCA Washington helped secure over $100 million in state capital budget funding for hatchery and fishway improvements. Beyond merely addressing deferred maintenance, this funding has also helped implement science-based broodstock and facility improvements that are critical to receiving federal ESA approvals needed to keep hatcheries open.

Second, merely maintaining current hatchery production isn’t enough – particularly after years of reductions. CCA Washington championed the inclusion of $12 million for the construction of a new state-of-the-art hatchery on the Deschutes River near Olympia. Since the Deschutes River has never had a native Chinook population, it provides an ideal location for a salmon hatchery that will contribute to fisheries throughout the sound. We’ve worked with the Squaxin Island Tribe, which supports sustainable fisheries, on this $30 million-plus construction project and are pushing for its swift completion.

In Southwest Washington, the Cowlitz River represents a tremendous opportunity to restore lost fishing opportunity. In 2013, CCA Washington led an effort to secure state funding to construct net pens on Mayfield Lake and produce smolts to increase Chinook production. More recently, CCA Washington has been working with WDFW and Tacoma Power - who fund hatchery mitigation programs on the Cowlitz – to ensure hatchery production requirements are met.

Third, at the federal level, CCA Washington has advocated for hatchery funding and the ESA... continued on page 10
Members of the CCA Pierce County chapter are in their second year of grassroots nutrient enhancement work in the Puyallup watershed and they’re making a major difference. Volunteers from the chapter have been working to distributing surplus salmon carcasses, as well as working with staff at the WDFW Voights Creek Hatchery to help spawn chinook and coho salmon. The entire volunteer program is a shining example of chapter members working with multiple stakeholders to improve their local watershed.

In 2017, chapter volunteers distributed over 4,000 surplus salmon carcasses into the upper Puyallup basin, providing valuable marine derived nutrients for the entire watershed. Nutrient enhancement is extremely important to help restore balance to our local ecosystems.

Historically, our Pacific Northwest streams were enriched with the marine derived nutrients produced by healthy salmon runs. Overharvest and habitat destruction dramatically curtailed these salmon returns in the early 20th century resulting in a serious lack of nutrients in our watersheds today. The nutrients feed juvenile fish, along with insects and animals, both in-stream and on the shore. These valuable nutrients even work their way into the soil benefitting the shrubs and trees that grow on the riverbanks.

Distributing carcasses is a serious team effort, with volunteers not only coordinating with WDFW hatchery personnel, but also working with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and Olympic Resource Management, to access the upper watershed. Nutrient enhancement projects are more effective when applied to the uppermost reaches of watersheds allowing river flows to naturally distribute nutrients downstream and throughout the basin. Volunteers have been distributing carcasses into the upper Puyallup basin on an almost weekly basis this fall.

Projects like this one on the Puyallup River have been undertaken by chapters throughout the state since CCA Washington was established in 2007. They are a great way for volunteers to get involved in their local watersheds.

If you’d like to get involved in the Puyallup River project or are interested in starting a similar program at your local CCA chapter, please contact us at info@ccapnw.org. Thank you again to our incredible Pierce County volunteers!
Baker Lake Sockeye Management at a Crossroads

With diminishing fishing opportunity across the northern Puget Sound region, the sockeye fishery on Baker Lake has become increasingly popular over the last several years. CCA Washington is committed to ensuring this genetically unique species of sockeye is conserved for future generations.

**Baker Lake Sockeye: An Overview**

The Baker River has two manmade dams built and operated by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). As part of their mitigation requirements, PSE employees operate and maintain facilities at the Baker River Project under the directives of WDFW and tribal co-managers. The facilities include floating surface collectors for juveniles, a fish hatchery, an upstream trap-and-haul facility, and a sockeye spawning beach.

During their migration back to their natal spawning grounds, all adult sockeye are trapped below Lower Baker Dam and transported upstream. Some are placed in the artificial spawning beaches, some are used for hatchery production, and others are released into Baker Lake to spawn naturally and to fuel the popular recreational fishery.

The native run of Baker River sockeye salmon is the only known sustaining population of sockeye salmon in the Skagit River basin and has been determined to be genetically distinct from other sockeye salmon. Before Lower Baker Dam was built in 1925 the fish had free access to the river and natural (pre-dammed) Baker Lake. The annual sockeye run at that time was estimated to be approximately 20,000 fish.

**Conservation Concerns**

Thanks in large part to PSE’s supplementation efforts, it is anticipated that this fishery has the potential to provide a healthy and vibrant sockeye run for years to come. Regrettably, unless management changes are properly implemented, much of the success of PSE’s program is at risk of being lost due to overharvest.

This year provides an excellent opportunity to reassess how the run can be managed in a manner that prioritizes conservation, hatchery needs, and is consistent with court-ordered harvest sharing. In 2017, preseason forecasts produced an estimated run size of nearly 50,000 sockeye, however the actual return was significantly less. As a result of the missed preseason forecast, approximately 50% of the entire Baker Lake sockeye run was harvested by the tribal community with the vast majority of these sockeye dying in non-selective gillnets.

In the spirit of conserving this unique and valuable sockeye run, CCA Washington is advocating for common-sense changes to the management of this fishery including:

- Creating a conservation buffer to the preseason forecast of at least 30% provides a logical approach that puts the resource first.
- Adjusting harvest guidelines mid-season is a common-sense approach that would allow co-managers to more effectively manage the fishery.
- Working toward balanced catch sharing is a common goal that demonstrates that our fisheries managers are willing to work together to maintain fisheries for future generations.

CCA Washington looks forward to working with fisheries managers to ensure this increasingly valuable sockeye run is conserved for future generations.
It’s Sportsmen’s Show Season

Be sure to visit us at the Washington Sportsmen’s Show this January 24-28th at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup. This will be our tenth year at the show, and we look forward to spreading the word about CCA with new marketing materials and some great gifts for members who sign up at the show.

As in past years, our booth will be located in the main Showplex building and we will have some great volunteers on hand to discuss CCA and our conservation efforts. If you’d like to sign up to work our booth for a 4 hour shift please contact us at 360-694-4300. CCA booth volunteers receive free admittance to the show that day. Be sure to visit www.thesportshows.com for discount coupons and remember that parking is free at the Washington Sportsmen’s Show.

Give the Gift of Membership

This holiday season, give the gift of conservation to your friends and family with a CCA membership. Whether you’re purchasing a membership for a spouse, child, or friend, adding members strengthens our advocacy efforts while providing a great gift for your loved ones. New Tide (youth) members receive our excellent Rising Tide newsletter, crafted specifically for young anglers. Standard members receive our bi-monthly award winning TIDE magazine, CCA decals, and a subscription to our quarterly Washington produced newsletter, the Ripple Effect.

Membership costs will be raised slightly to $35 for a standard membership in 2018, so get yours at the current rate of $30 today by filling out the membership form located on the back cover of the Ripple Effect. If you prefer to purchase your membership online, you can do so by visiting www.joincca.org.

CCA Washington on YouTube and Instagram

Responding to requests from our membership, CCA Washington has established a new YouTube channel along with a new Instagram page. The YouTube channel will be a great hub for members and non-members alike to learn more about CCA events and membership activities, and provides a valuable advocacy tool to share videos focusing on important issues in real time.

For those who enjoy photos and regular updates, the Instagram account (instagram.com/ccawash) is a must follow! Featuring staff and member submitted fishing and conservation photos, we anticipate this to be a great way to showcase CCA Washington. If you’re on either of these platforms, please follow us and don’t forget to “Like” our CCA Washington Facebook page (facebook.com/ccawash) for meeting alerts, advocacy news, fishing photos, and Facebook Live videos.
King of the Reach Derby Continues to Raise the Bar

For the fifth consecutive year, the CCA Tri Cities chapter has collaborated with WDFW and Grant PUD to help collect wild fall chinook broodstock for the Priest Rapids hatchery through their King of the Reach Derby. This year’s edition of the King of the Reach was one for the record books with 179 participants and nearly 500 wild fish caught for the hatchery broodstock program. Our 2017 “King of the Reach” winner, Justin Sprengel, turned in 37 wild fish during the derby this year.

Anglers from all over, including the lower Columbia, Montana, Idaho, and even New York traveled to fish in the event and enjoyed some beautiful late October weather. All together, derby participants collected and transported 485 adult fall chinook to Priest Rapids Hatchery for broodstock. This is the second highest number of fish collected in King of the Reach derby history. If you figure in hatchery fish landed, almost 600 fish were caught this year.

According to WDFW, there were just 7 wild fish mortalities during the event which equates to a 1.4% immediate mortality rate. This is further evidence of the selectivity of recreational fishing.

We had some special guests participate this year, including Raquel Crosier of WDFW, US Congressman Dan Newhouse and his son, and State Representative Tom Dent and his son. This continues to be a premier event for CCA Washington and we look forward to expanding the derby in 2018 with more prizes, more participants, and another quality fishing experience. We hope you will join us in “fishing for the future.”

Many thanks are owed to Grant PUD and WDFW staff for their work in putting the event on, along with our sponsors at Ranch & Home, Sportsman’s Warehouse, Griggs, Rider’s Sausage, Kill-R-Lures & Pro-Troll for providing many of the prizes for the derby. Finally, a big thanks is owed to the derby committee and our derby volunteers, led by derby chairman Rich Coleman and our White Bluffs check-in station manager Bill Brasker.

See a special photo essay on the derby on pages 6-7.
The 2017 King of the Reach Live Capture Derby was the largest CCA Washington hosted derby on record with 179 anglers participating. With nearly 500 wild chinook caught for use in the Priest Rapids Hatchery program, the derby is helping improve hatchery stocks and create a stronger fishery in the future. Here are some of our favorite photos from this year’s derby.

A perfect sunrise greeted anglers launching at Vernita on Sunday.

State Rep Tom Dent of Moses Lake had a great day of fishing with his son and CCA Tri Cities member Lloyd Zinsli.

These young anglers reeled in some monster salmon at the derby.
Sunset signaled the end of fishing on Friday afternoon, as boats came in to turn in their last fish at White Bluffs.

This angler had a very productive Saturday at the derby.

WDFW staff transfer chinook from boats to the hatchery truck.

CCA Tri Cities president Don McBride (left) and US Congressman Dan Newhouse were all smiles at the derby.
Willapa Bay Emergency Rule Faces Legal Action

By Tim Hamilton

The Twin Harbors Fish & Wildlife Advocacy filed a petition in Thurston County Court on October 18th challenging a recent decision by WDFW to impose an emergency rule to the fall commercial fishing season in Willapa Bay.

The Emergency Rule adopted by the Department on September 29, 2017 effectively suspended the requirement that chum salmon captured in a gillnet had to be placed into a recovery box prior to release. The action quickly became known as the “Willapa Chum Chuck.”

First, the petition alleges that WDFW did not have any evidence or analysis showing a need to “chuck” chum in order to adequately treat chinook in the recovery boxes. To the contrary, chinook, coho, and especially chum have come in far below this year’s preseason forecast.

Secondly, the mortality rate used by the Department in its modeling is 59% when using a recovery box. WDFW staff confirmed it continued to use the same mortality rate for chum that were not treated in a recovery box. The petition challenges the notion that the use of recovery boxes has zero impact on mortality.

Thirdly, the petition contests the notion that the health, safety, or general welfare of the public is at risk by the usage of recovery boxes. WDFW claims that this Emergency Rule “... is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare.” The likely result of having more dead chum salmon discarded into the bay certainly does not help preserve public health, safety, or general welfare in any way, shape, or form.

Finally, the Advocacy petition alleges WDFW does not have the legislative authority to decide which species to “prioritize” and which species to “chuck” as a means to allow additional harvest opportunities.

Shortly after the petition was filed, WDFW rescinded the “Chum Chuck” emergency rule. The petition is still moving forward.
Wild Steelhead Gillnet Dump Under Investigation

In early September, with wet gillnet boats in the parking lot, a CCA Oregon member launched his boat at the John Day boat ramp outside of Astoria, Oregon. He noticed a dead steelhead along the muddy river bank with clear gillnet marks along its body. As he motored away from the ramp, he noticed several other dead wild steelhead near the surface of the water. Oregon State Police were alerted and they collected the dead steelhead and opened an investigation. The case is now in the hands of the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office, and CCA Oregon has submitted a letter urging prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

Steelhead returns to the Columbia River basin were down significantly in 2017. Ultimately, the commercial gillnet fishery, which targets fall Chinook salmon, was cut short when the commercial fishery encountered too many steelhead in mid-September. The fish found dumped are not believed to have been considered as part of the encounter quota that shut down the gillnet fishery, which is frustrating to anglers and conservationists alike.

If it is found that these steelhead were caught in the nearby “off-channel safe area” this should lead fisheries managers to, at a minimum, vigorously monitor these off-channel areas. Impacts of steelhead and other non-target species for off-channel fisheries should be properly accounted for as part of the Columbia River gillnet fishery. CCA will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for the removal of non-selective gillnets from our state waterways. Gillnets have proven, time and again, that they have no place in mixed stock fisheries.

Attend A Banquet In 2018

Don’t miss out on our upcoming spring 2018 CCA Washington banquet season. Featuring exciting games, raffles, and auctions along with great food, our banquets are the best way for you to renew your CCA membership. Tickets, reserved tables, and corporate tables for these events will be available online at www.cca-washington.org.

As one of the largest sources of membership for CCA, our banquets are very important to our advocacy efforts. To help your local banquet grow, consider joining the chapter banquet committee or donating an item or two. The committees do a great job each year, but can always use more help to make their banquets bigger and better. If you’re interested in joining your chapter’s banquet committee or would like to make a donation to the banquet, please contact us at 877-255-8772 or info@ccapnw.org for more information.

2018 CCA Washington Spring Banquet Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Everett</td>
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<td>Twin Harbors</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
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<td>Tri Cities</td>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Pasco</td>
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<td>Sea Tac</td>
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<td>Lewis County</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Chehalis</td>
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<td>Hells Canyon</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Clarkston</td>
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<td>North Central WA</td>
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<td>Wenatchee</td>
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<td>Kitsap</td>
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<td>Seattle</td>
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<td>Inland Empire</td>
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<td>N. Olympic Peninsula</td>
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<td>Yakima</td>
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Did You Know?

2017 was the first year that non-tribal gillnets were not permitted during the spring and summer Chinook fisheries on the lower mainstem Columbia River. The commercial community has been lobbying to resume their non-selective gillnet fisheries during the spring season, but new data has weakened their case. This past year, the non-tribal commercial industry benefitted tremendously well from the off-channel hatchery production in the lower river, which was a key component of the bi-state reforms.

Despite having no mainstem spring Chinook tanglenet fisheries this year, the non-tribal commercial sector’s harvest exceeded the recreational harvest by 30%. Once again, this is further proof that there is no need for non-selective gillnet fisheries on the lower mainstem Columbia River!

Cover Story Continued: CCA and Hatcheries

approvals needed to protect dozens cont... of hatchery programs from lawsuits filed by anti-hatchery activists. One of CCA Washington’s first efforts at the federal level involved helping secure a one-time infusion of federal funding for the Mitchell Act hatcheries on the Columbia River. CCA Washington was the first organization to call for federal action when an anti-hatchery lawsuit tried to shut down all Puget Sound early-winter steelhead production based solely on a procedural shortcoming.

Finally, in addition to our advocacy efforts, CCA Washington is also showing how selective recreational fishing can help sustain hatchery production. Our Tri-Cities Chapter’s unique “King of the Reach” live capture fishing derby helps improve the broodstock for upriver bright chinook hatcheries, ensuring better hatchery fish and recreational fisheries for the future. Meanwhile, our “Baker Lake Sockeye Shoutout” is creating excitement - and support - for an exceptional fishery that has been restored with a robust program operated by Puget Sound Energy.
Member Photo Spotlight

Check out these great catches by CCA Washington members and supporting guides. Submit your best photos to info@ccapnw.org to share in the next edition of the Ripple Effect. Chosen submissions will receive a new CCA hat.

CCA Lower Columbia member Donna Starnes with a lunker chinook

CCA N. Snohomish member Rick Godwin with a perfect wild steelhead

CCA Sea-Tac member John Rickert

Check out this coastal chinook for

CCA Sno-King member Sarah Dzuik with a hatchery Puget Sound coho

This chinook was landed by CCA SW Washington member Bill Comeau

Contact Us

Washington Office
11805 NE 99th Street Suite 1350
Vancouver, WA 98682
877-255-8772

Comments or questions?
Please contact: info@ccapnw.org
MEMBER INFORMATION

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$30 MEMBER: Membership card, window decal, 2 bumper stickers, TIDE magazine.

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$15 ASSOCIATE: Per each family member. All member privileges except TIDE. Send names.

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