Following the release of a ten-year Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (PSCHMP), which could be best described as ill-conceived and severely lacking in real conservation value, CCA Washington took action by sending a letter to the Pacific Salmon Commission asking for reductions in the harvest of lower 48 states fish in Alaskan and Canadian fisheries. The Commission is currently negotiating a new ten-year Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement to present to the US and Canadian governments for ratification and implementation funding, with the present agreement set to expire at the end of 2018. CCA Washington is concerned about the large percentage of Pacific salmon originating in the lower 48 States – including stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) - that are intercepted in fisheries off the coast of southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

Puget Sound chinook abundance has decreased by over 60 percent since 1985 and over 40 percent since listing under the ESA. While the 1999 and 2009 Pacific Salmon Treaty agreements required reductions in southeast Alaska and British Columbia salmon fisheries to increase escapement of salmon originating in the lower 48 United States, most stocks of Puget Sound fall chinook salmon have not realized the expected harvest rate reductions.

Tribal and nontribal salmon fisheries in Washington, particularly Puget Sound, have experienced significant harvest rate reductions in recent years in an effort to conserve and recover wild salmon; yet key Washington salmon populations continue to fall short of escapement needs. Though more work remains to restore habitat productivity, hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in efforts to restore salmon habitat, modernize hatchery practices, and improve hydroelectric dam operations in Washington state by federal, state, tribal, and private entities.

The PSCHMP being proposed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Treaty Tribes calls for further reductions in allowable harvest rates in tribal and nontribal fisheries in Washington. This plan would likely result in widespread closures of many fisheries in Puget Sound, including mark-selective recreational fisheries targeting fin-clipped, hatchery reared salmon. Presently, well over half of the allowable harvest of key Washington salmon stocks occurs in Alaska and British Columbia, putting the recovery of Puget Sound salmon in serious peril.

CCA Washington believes that NOAA Fisheries and Southern US Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiators should pursue reductions in the interception of Washington salmon populations, by Alaskan and Canadian fisheries, to benefit the recovery of ESA-listed salmon populations in Washington state.
With the arrival of 2018, the full implementation of the bi-state Lower Columbia River Gillnet Reform Policy, as promised by the Commissions in both Washington and Oregon, is set to take place. Unfortunately, the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission’s infiltration by a gillnet advocate, who hijacked the policy from completing its four year transition, has created a situation where Oregon and Washington have differing policies in place. While both states continue to grapple with the inevitable, that non-selective gillnets do not belong in mixed stock fisheries, it would appear that WDFW and ODFW staff are looking for ways to bypass science and put non-selective gillnets ahead of salmon and steelhead conservation.

2017 presented a prime example of why we need to remove non-selective gillnets from mixed stock fisheries in the lower Columbia River. Extraordinarily low runs of wild steelhead (particularly the B-run) were a constraining stock during the summer and fall season, with popular recreational fisheries closed to help protect these ESA listed fish. As recreational anglers shouldered much of the conservation burden, non-selective gillnets were deployed over a 5-day season in Zones 4 & 5 in late August and early September.

Less than twenty observers were placed onboard gillnet boats to make simple observations about catch composition. One of the key items they observed was whether steelhead were dead or alive when they came aboard the vessel. Even if a fish was barely alive when it came aboard, then drifted away belly up, it would have been counted as a live fish! As many non-gillnetters and non-agency staff expected, after observers reported encounters with too many wild B-run steelhead, the gillnet fishery was closed prematurely.

As fisheries managers begin preparing for 2018 fishing seasons, we recently learned of a new proposal that appears to blatantly ignore science by using nothing more than observer data to significantly lower the overall mortality rate of steelhead caught in gillnets. If approved, this would be a significant reduction in the overall mortality rate for steelhead and will result in an increase in the number of dead steelhead – during a time when steelhead numbers are at, or near, record lows.

After doing some research, CCA discovered that current gillnet mortality rates are based on observer data that has been sporadically collected over the past 30 years. None of this information is
President’s Message: How CCA Works

As the President of CCA Washington, I get a lot of questions about the organization, and more specifically, how CCA actually works. In my experience, lots of folks think of CCA as an organization that takes requests from members and then magically gets them done. While I wish it was that easy, the truth is that CCA is a grassroots organization whose accomplishments are made through the sheer willpower and effort of its members. Let’s look at a few aspects of how CCA works.

The Structure of CCA
First off, CCA is a national organization based in Houston, Texas. CCA Washington is one of 18 state chapters that altogether have more than 120,000 members nationwide. While state chapters are run independently, CCA National provides advocacy support, membership clearinghouse duties, grant funding, habitat project support, communications tools, and a federal lobbyist. The national organization has paid staff, along with a volunteer Executive Board and a larger 100+ member Board of Directors. The only funds that go to CCA National are your annual membership dues, which help cover publication costs, grant projects, and expenses for CCA’s Regional Fishery Directors (RFD).

At the state level, CCA Washington is run by a Board of Directors composed of volunteers from throughout the state. CCA works on a committee system, and the Government Relations Committee (GRC) is the driving force behind our advocacy efforts. We also have a Membership Committee and a Communications Committee that dictate the initiatives for our staff. Chapters raise funds through their banquets to fuel our advocacy efforts and 100% of the funds raised at our banquets stay right here in Washington State!

Staff Support
CCA Washington has an Executive Director along with 3 Assistant Directors (ADs), an office manager, an RFD, and a lobbyist in Olympia. The staff and consultants take their direction from the state board and state level committees. Following the GRC’s policy directives, the RFD, lobbyist, and Executive Director help with advocacy strategy, coordination, and communications. The ADs, including a part-time Communications Director, support membership efforts, fundraising and banquets, and chapter support and development.

Volunteer Driven
The Executive Director does not tell members what CCA is going to work on. That direction comes from the volunteers by way of the Chairman of the Board, state Management Committee, and GRC. Our staff supports our volunteers in their advocacy, communications and fundraising efforts. But, our volunteers are the key to making things happen. The more people who are involved (including the GRC members, banquet committee members, etc), the more we can accomplish.

Think of CCA as a multiplier; the more effort you put in, the more you get out. CCA gives their members the professional tools, along with the backing of our membership to help solve conservation issues. If you haven’t already, I ask that you consider joining a chapter or statewide committee and help advance our cause.
Hatchery Funding Included in Capital Budget

The 2017-18 Capital Budget was approved in mid-January and WDFW received $74 million dollars in direct appropriations and grant authority. Nearly half of the funds ($35.2 million) will go to hatchery repairs and renovations across the state. Many of Washington’s hatchery facilities are in need of repairs and renovations to help improve hatchery operations, and ultimately our fisheries. We appreciate the Legislature’s willingness to invest in our statewide hatchery system.

CCA Washington has worked with the Legislature to secure well over $100 million in capital budget funding for hatchery upgrades and improvements, as well as fish passage projects, over the last several years. We believe that properly funded hatcheries are vital to the health of our fisheries, and that conservation hatchery programs can help recover depleted salmon populations throughout the state, as seen with the Snake River Fall Chinook hatchery programs.

WDFW Director Resigns

Dr. Jim Unsworth, the director of Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, resigned from his position effective February 7. Unsworth spent three years as the director of WDFW, after joining the agency from the Idaho Department of Fish & Game. The Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission named Joe Stohr, the deputy director of WDFW for over a decade, as the interim director. A search for a permanent director has begun, with the Commission being in charge of making the hire.

CCA looks forward to working with the next director on implementing common-sense conservation policies that promote and enhance our fisheries for future generations. We wish Dr. Unsworth all the best in his future endeavors.

Baker Lake Sockeye Harvest Concerns

With decreasing salmon fisheries in Puget Sound, the sockeye run at Baker Lake continues to be one of the few fisheries to be excited about in 2018. With another “large” run anticipated this year, we remain hopeful that better protocols will be utilized to ensure a more equitable balance in harvest sharing. While the goal is to balance harvest at 50/50, as you can see from the graph below, the non-tribal community received only one-quarter of the total harvest last year. CCA has presented several common-sense recommendations to WDFW that could be adopted for this fishery.

If you want to enjoy the Baker Lake fishery this summer, with a chance to win some fabulous prizes, plan to participate in the Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout taking place July 27-29. More details on this derby, along with our other exciting fishing event will be available in the near future.
Recreational halibut fishery management in Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, and N. California) has become a real hot button issue with anglers working together to achieve common goals. CCA member Dave Croonquist has been active in opening communications with other sport fishing groups, including Puget Sound Anglers, Oregon Coast Anglers, Oregon South Coast Anglers, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, and the Coastside Fishing Club.

“We’re all looking for more opportunity, a better season structure and improved economic situations for our coastal communities. During the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting in Portland earlier this year I quickly realized that the sport fishing community needs to be more engaged with this issue through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the IPHC meetings” said Croonquist.

For only the second time in 94 years, the IPHC Commissioners could not reach an agreement on the harvest levels for 2018. Compared to 2017 quotas, harvest in US waters was proposed to take a cut of 33%, with Area 2A facing the biggest cut of over 60%. Ultimately, the US Commissioners did not support the proposal because it did not equitably reduce cuts between the two countries.

With no agreement, the result is a continuation of the previous year’s quota. Nevertheless, for conservation reasons, the US delegation did impose cuts over the 2017 quota, with Area 2A seeing a reduction of approximately 10,000 pounds (which is very similar to the quota received by Area 2A in 2016.) Canada also made slight reductions to their allowable harvest quotas.

Halibut Bill Making Progress
On a different note, here in Washington, Senate Bill 6127 – “Improving the management of the state’s halibut fishery,” was introduced by Senator Van De Wege (Sequim) this session. This bill would take us one step closer to longer, more stable seasons by significantly improving data collection which would allow fisheries managers to better understand the actual number of halibut being harvested by the recreational community in Washington waters.

The bill establishes a halibut catch record card (CRC) for a fee of $5, with all funds directed toward management of the recreational halibut fishery. Under the current system, WDFW estimates there are potentially over 250,000 halibut anglers, which many believe leads to a significant over estimation of harvested halibut. With a standalone CRC it is anticipated that the actual number of anglers who purchase the card will be closer to 10,000. Additionally, collecting the catch data within a month or two after the season should help with real-time management decisions versus the current system of waiting as long as sixteen months for data collection and analysis.

SB 6127 passed out of the Senate on February 7 on a 32-12 vote. It later unanimously passed the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

“While the bill has been met with resistance from the coastal charter fleet, we remain hopeful that the bill will pass this legislative session. I would also like to thank Senator Van De Wege for his efforts and willingness to help us improve our recreational halibut fishery,” said Croonquist.
What do you get when you have a group of individuals who are not only passionate about fishing, but aim to educate and inspire others to get out on the water through social media platforms, instructional videos, and even feature films? Fishing Addicts NW of course! The Addicts, as they are known, and their Addicted brand of apparel, scents, and tackle, have become well established in the Pacific Northwest fishing scene, and their popularity continues to grow. With over 200,000 followers across several social media platforms, and a popular website, the Addicted crew is keeping plenty busy these days. We were fortunate to sit down with Marlin LeFever, one of the founders of Fishing Addicts NW, to discuss all things Addicted, conservation and advocacy issues, and how the Addicts are continually looking to spread their passion of fishing.

CCA: First off, tell us about how Fishing Addicts NW started?
Marlin: Four of my fishing buddies and I started Addicts back in 2009. Originally, Fishing Addicts NW was a webpage/forum for people to come together and talk about fishing. Over the years it’s grown from just a webpage to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, and an apparel and tackle company. The whole thing is rooted in our passion for fishing and sharing that excitement with others.

Describe Fishing Addicts NW and what they do today?
Our motto is “educate, entertain, and inspire” and that’s the basis for everything that we do. We produce content and videos to teach people how to fish, entertain with films like our new Addicted Alaska feature film, and inspire the next generation to fish. We want to show people that fishing is fun, fishing is cool, and it’s a great thing to do.

Addicted and Fishing Addicts? Why did you select those names for your company and Facebook group?
I don't know that I've shared this with many people, but my childhood was not exactly typical. My parents had some serious addiction issues, so I spent most of my childhood in and out of foster care. During the time that I did spend with my Dad, what stuck with me the most were the days fishing on a local lake. Fishing inspired me, and I stayed with it. Instead of the destructive addiction that my parents suffered through, my addiction is healthy and special. I’m addicted to fishing!
You guys are all-in on social media. What is it about these platforms that help make Addicts so successful vs. traditional media?
I think that social media has the advantage of being truly interactive for the user. It’s also extremely transparent and it’s easy for our followers to use and access. Our Facebook Live streams are a great example of that. They are super popular and often feature tips and tactics that are timely. We do those Wednesdays at 6:30pm and normally announce the topic and guests a few days in advance. It’s a great way for folks to directly ask us questions and get them answered in real time.

Speaking of Facebook Live, you guys did a CCA episode and had us on to talk about advocacy issues last year. How was that episode and how are advocacy topics received?
To be honest, the CCA Facebook Live episode we did received a mixed reception. We had a lot of support from the Addicted community, but others were upset for various reasons. We may not all agree with every single thing an advocacy group does, but I don’t think anyone should be blind to the great overall work that groups like CCA do for the resource and sport fishermen.

What types of fisheries issues are most concerning to the Addicted community?
Hatcheries and fish production are definitely the hottest topic right now among our community. We’re concerned about being able to build angler participation if hatchery cuts continue. In my opinion, wild broodstock programs are crucial to the future of our fisheries, and I think they need to be used more in Washington. Participating in a broodstock program like the King of the Reach CCA Live Capture Derby was a great experience and an example of how wild broodstock programs can help fisheries.

Where do you see Fishing Addicts in five years?
We hope to grow our presence worldwide. We want to do more feature films, full length educational films, and continue to create great content for our online supporters.

Tell us how people can get involved in the Addicts community?
Follow and Like our social media pages. Our Facebook “Closed” group is a great way to directly engage with us. Be sure to comment on posts and share your photos at www.facebook.com/fishingaddctsnw
Legislative Updates: Bills to Watch in 2018

The Legislature convened in early January for the 2018 Session, which is expected to be a busy 60-day legislative session reserved for non-budget writing years. Following the results of a November special election in Senate District 45 (Redmond, Woodinville), Democrats now control the Senate, House of Representatives, and Governor’s office – resulting in some changes to committee chairmanships and the overall political environment. As the longest tenured recreational fishing membership organization with a lobbyist in Olympia, CCA Washington is working hard to advocate for common-sense conservation, recreational fisheries, and hatchery funding and improvements. Below are some of the key bills that CCA is watching this session.

HB 2417 – Increased salmon hatchery production, southern resident killer whales.
This legislation would appropriate $1.55 million in funding to produce an additional 10 million hatchery fish. The additional salmon would benefit southern resident killer whales along with commercial and recreational fisheries. Southern resident killer whale populations are ESA-listed and continue to decline – many experts believe they are malnourished due to a lack of available salmon in Puget Sound and on the coast. CCA supports the legislation, along with WDFW’s recommendation that specific hatcheries not be listed, so production increases can be targeted where they will most benefit orca whales, fisheries, and can be implemented under current ESA limitations. While HB 2417 died in appropriations, the CCA advocacy team and lobbyist are working on securing additional hatchery production funding in supplemental budgets.

HB 2626 / SB 6317 – Reduced guide license fees, increased non-resident commercial license fees.
CCA signed in support of both of these bills. These bills follow up on legislation from last session that significantly increased the license fees paid by food fish and game fish guides. The legislation seeks to provide modest relief from these fee increases and offer a combination price for the food fish guide and game fish guide licenses, since many guides have both. The legislation also seeks to increase non-resident commercial fishing license fees following a recent federal court decision affirming this practice.

SB 6127 – Improving the management of state’s recreational halibut fishery.
This legislation is sponsored by Senator Van De Wege (D-Sequim), the new chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The legislation would establish a $5 fee for a Halibut Catch Record Card, with the intent of better managing the resource and securing a longer and more predictable season for recreational anglers. CCA has long advocated for a longer (and safer) recreational halibut season through not only WDFW but also the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Read the article on page 5 to learn more about halibut management issues.
State Donor Spotlight: Leo Flasher

Likely the most unique flasher you’ve ever seen, the Leo Flasher is becoming a must have for northwest salmon and kokanee anglers. This dinner plate shaped flasher rotates at just .4 mph, delivering a hard thump that gives your bait extra action. That attribute makes it perfect for slow troll fisheries, including kokanee, saltwater salmon, and the Columbia River. Leo Flasher happens to also be the newest member of the CCA Washington state sponsor family, with the flashers available at each of our 18 chapter banquets this year.

As one of the more versatile flashers on the market, the Leo Flasher can be used as either a traditional inline spinning flasher or a dodger style 360-degree flasher. Simply adjusting the snap swivel between the two snap holes provides a totally different action.

The Leo Flasher, created by its namesake Leo Wilhelm and proudly made in the USA, is available in three sizes. The medium and large are most popular for salmon fishing and the small is ideal for kokanee. For Columbia River spring chinook, popular colors include green on chartreuse, chartreuse frost with silver, snakeskin pattern on chartreuse, and greenfrost on silver.

Leo himself prefers using a bumper leader between his swivel/leadline to the flasher of 16” and recommends 30-40# test for this section. From the flasher to his bait (Super Baits, Herring, and 3.5 spinners are ideal), a 24”-30” leader offers you the best action on your bait. A flasher release is not necessary on the Leo Flasher, as the flasher has a built-in eyehole that minimizes drag while fighting fish. That alone makes it more efficient than other traditional 360 flashers.

An active board member of the CCA Tri Cities chapter, Leo has supported CCA since its inception in the Pacific NW over ten years ago. Leo says that “The main reason I support CCA is because they provide a united voice for common-sense conservation. While there is still a lot of work to do, I’m proud to be a part of a group that has accomplished so much over the last ten years.”

Learn more at www.leosflashers.com.
Guides Corner: Seasonal Boat Prep 101 with Dan Fisher

Dan Fisher, a Clackacraft pro-staffer and owner of Fisher’s Guide Service in NW Oregon, gives us a rundown of the important things to dial in before you hit the water in your drift boat or sled. Dan likes to work off a checklist so he’s always prepared with the gear he needs in his ClackaMax drift boat.

**Safety First.** Always make sure you have an adequate first aid kit. You can go to your local tackle shop and buy a waterproof box and add everything you will need for under $30. Band-aids, gauze, iodine pads, surgical tape, emergency blanket, etc. I always have a well stocked first aid kit in my ClackaMax.

**Check your Trailer!** Check your tires regularly, grease your bearings, along with checking your lights to be sure your wiring works. Also, be sure to have a spare trailer tire.

**Never Skimp on Lifejackets.** I always like to make sure my type 1 jackets are still in good shape and not ripped, weathered or faded. If you use inflatables ensure they are still good and haven’t been discharged.

**Don’t Forget the Bilge.** One of the most important things I can recommend is a hand pump, battery operated bilge pump, or something adequate to bail out water. Water is extremely heavy, weighing nearly 8 pounds per gallon. If you take a big wave or get caught in a big rainstorm, get that water out!

**Double Check Your Anchor System.** Be sure to do a once over on your anchor rope and knots.

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**Continued... Columbia Reforms**

derived from studies, but rather observer data, most of which is collected at night. This is in stark comparison to the millions and millions of dollars that have been spent on extensive short-term and long-term mortality studies that were conducted for seines. It is also in contrast to the many millions of dollars that have been spent on determining mortality rates on recreational fisheries. The proposal being considered to lower steelhead bycatch mortality in gillnets leads one to believe that good science is being ignored in favor of political pandering.

While 2017 was successful in that gillnets were not used in the lower mainstem Columbia during the spring and summer, there is clearly much more work to be done. We remain hopeful that our Commissioners will favor conservation by following through with the promises made to the citizens of our state when the plan was initially developed. We cannot afford to yet again compromise the future of our fisheries. We owe it to future generations, and to our precious salmon and steelhead, to set politics aside and embrace common-sense conservation.
Member Photo Spotlight

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

CCA Yakima youth member Blaine Wilder with a Drano Lake chinook

CCA Yakima member Lauren Boyle shows off her Alaskan caught halibut

CCA Supporting Guide Dan Houfek displays his Columbia River chinook

CCA Yakima youth member Blaine Wilder with a Drano Lake chinook

CCA Yakima member Lauren Boyle shows off her Alaskan caught halibut

CCA Supporting Guide Dan Houfek displays his Columbia River chinook

Jonathan Tachell of the CCA Pierce County chapter with a wild steelhead

CCA NCW member Shawn Nickles with a big hatchery summer chinook

Alex Hernandez of the CCA Yakima chapter is hooked up with a lunker
MEMBER INFORMATION

Renewal Dues

New Membership

Name __________________________________________________________________________

Associate Member Name(s) (if applicable) _____________________________________________

Member ID# (if renewing) __________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________

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Gift Membership From: ____________________________________________________________

$35 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.

$500 PATRON: Silver lapel pin, print, plus member gifts.

$1,000 LIFE MEMBER: Life Member display piece, print, plus member gifts.

Quarterly payment option available.

$10 YOUTH: Rising Tide newsletter, three NEW TIDE logo decals, iron-on T-shirt

Complete this form and send to:

Coastal Conservation Association

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