One of the best ways to grow membership, increase awareness about CCA, and to have a great time is through our CCA Washington derby series. July marks the beginning of derby season for CCA Washington, with three events on the calendar this Summer. We will be hosting the Wenatchee Salmon Derby, the Summer Steelhead Challenge (Kalama), and the Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout, which offer three great events for you to participate in and win quality prizes. For online entries or more information, visit our derby series webpage at: www.ccawashington.org/derbies

Wenatchee Salmon Derby - July 20-21

The 7th Annual Wenatchee Salmon Derby is set for July 20-21 with multiple weigh-in stations and several thousands of dollars in prizes. The derby is held in honor of its founder, the late Pete Flohr. One of the premier fishing derbies in the Pacific Northwest, the CCA North Central Washington chapter does an incredible job organizing and hosting this event with anglers coming from across the region to participate. A solid run of Summer Chinook is predicted for the Columbia River this year, so fishing should be quite good in late July.

Summer Steelhead Challenge - July 27-29

Our 6th Annual Summer Steelhead Challenge is scheduled for July 27-29 with two weigh-in stations at the Port of Kalama and the Willow Grove boat launch in Longview. Big prizes, exciting angling on the Lower Columbia River and its tributaries, and prime tides await derby participants. The CCA Lower Columbia chapter has seen the derby grow over the years and we look forward to much better steelhead fishing in 2018.

Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout - July 27-29

The 3rd Annual Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout, hosted by the CCA North Sound chapter, is also scheduled for the July 27-29 weekend. Baker Lake offers incredible scenery while providing a family friendly fishery that doesn’t require a large boat or sophisticated fishing gear. The Sockeye Shootout is a wonderful opportunity to win prizes while fishing one of Washington’s best up and coming fisheries. Did we mention that Baker Lake sockeye are great eating fish too? This derby is limited to 100 entrants and we are already half way sold out, so get your tickets soon!
The Columbia River Basin Management Policy was implemented in 2013 with one of its primary goals to remove non-selective gillnets from the mainstem Columbia River. This four year plan was extended for two years in 2017 to only allow gillnets for Fall Chinook while WDFW continued to work on selective gear alternatives. In March, at the Commission meeting in Wenatchee, WDFW staff presented the first draft of their comprehensive review of the policy implementation. After briefly scanning the review prior to the meeting, it was both frustrating and easy to write testimony. Here is a small piece of my testimony;

“...while the Columbia River Basin Management Policy approved in 2013 is not perfect, the policy is not the problem. How it has, and more importantly how it hasn't been implemented is the problem. And quite frankly, it’s the same problem that’s existed for as long as I’ve been paying attention to NW fisheries issues.”

“Protect listed species through development of alternative harvest methods and reduction of harvest capacity”

“Establish sufficient SAFE areas to move gillnet harvest off the mainstem”

“Those all sound like statements straight out of the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy, right? Well, they came out of the “Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon” from 1995. 23 years ago, we were talking about developing alternative harvest methods, reducing the size of the commercial fleet, and getting gillnets off the river. All good ideas. All straightforward. And yet all still unaccomplished. At some point we all have to look in the mirror and say ‘why is that?’”

During policy implementation these are irrefutable facts;

- WDFW has spent around $10 million dollars testing different types of selective gear, and botched the long term mortality piece of the study. They now want to lower the gillnet mortality rate for steelhead based on non-scientifically gathered observations where a fish was noted to either be ‘dead’ or ‘alive’.

- The first item listed in the General Provisions section was to “aggressively pursue a gillnet license buyback program.” Staff admits in the review that they didn’t even attempt to explore that until late 2016 when they hired a consultant...who got nowhere because the industry stonewalled them. As of March 2018 there has been zero progress on this front.

- Staff is still calling 9” mesh gillnet a selective gear for steelhead during fall chinook seasons because “most steelhead pass through the large mesh and are not caught”. While technically not an incorrect statement at face value because WDFW defines the average size of a B run steelhead as 11-13 lbs., it is completely disingenuous. It ignores the fact that steelhead approximately 15 lbs. and larger (typical size of steelhead with 18”+ girth) that encounter 9” gillnets will be ensnared and caught. The state record is 35 lbs. Anything over 15 lbs. can’t get through. Selective, indeed.

Please remember CCA is not just something you write a check or go to a banquet once a year to ‘join’. CCA is a conduit for you to personally affect change in issues we all care deeply about. When you get a VoterVoice email, take the 30 seconds to respond. When there is a Commission meeting near you, try to attend. Even testify if you are comfortable. Do it for you. Do it for your kids. And most importantly, do it for the fish!
This April, members of the CCA Pierce County Chapter showed off their grassroots initiative by inviting local legislators to a morning of fishing on the Cowlitz River. Similar events have been coordinated by other chapters in the past, and they have all been extremely successful in making stronger connections with local elected officials. These legislative outreach events also help educate our legislators on the issues facing our fisheries by giving them a first-hand experience of what it’s like to be a recreational angler.

Councilwoman Pam Roach, Senator Phil Fortunato, Representative Morgan Irwin, 31st District PCO David Patrick, WDFW Legislative Liaison Raquel Crosier, and Representative JT Wilcox all joined CCA Pierce County members on the water, followed by a shore side BBQ. The BBQ was provided by CCA members Keith and Tina Artz and their boys, assisted by Chris Clearman.

The legislators joined several volunteer boat captains at the Blue Creek launch for a few hours of fishing for hatchery winter steelhead. Early April should offer quality steelhead fishing on the Cowlitz, but this year’s dismal run was a huge disappointment following steady declines in winter steelhead fishing opportunity over the past several years. This fact was not hidden from our guests, who managed to scratch out a nice hatchery steelhead before lunch. The fishing experience, and certainly the lack of fish, was sure to leave a mark with the legislators. Hopefully, events like these will give our decision makers a better understanding of the need for improved hatchery operations and a desire to help us increase fish production in the state.

It took a big team effort to help make this day of fishing possible. Captain Tom Browning (Browning’s Sport Fishing Adventure), JR Hall, Ted and Brenda Schuman (Winterrun Guide Service), and Mark Bush along with his deck hand Buck (Twisted Waters Guide Service) provided the boats, equipment, and fishing expertise. Thanks to everyone who helped, along with the elected officials who took time out of their personal lives to join this great group of CCA volunteers on the water.
CCA North Sound Helps Skagit River Cleanup

CCA North Sound members put their hands and boats to work while helping make a difference on the Skagit River in a series of cleanup events this past spring. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) staff and enforcement teamed up with CCA members, along with other volunteers, to help remove trash deposited along the Lower Skagit River in late March, followed by another cleanup day in April.

Steve Leckenby and Andrea Harrison, members of CCA’s North Sound chapter, spearheaded the cleanup program, with help from WDFW ecologist Wayne Watne. At the first cleanup day in March, volunteers helped bring in 23 boat loads of trash that had been washed out of homeless camps along the river by the high waters of winter. The April cleanup event yielded even more trash! Thanks to the city of Mount Vernon and Skagit County for their support of the clean up.

Helping to Improve the Cowlitz River

The CCA Lewis County chapter helped spread the word about Cowlitz River fisheries issues through an article in the The Chronicle newspaper. The article featured quotes from CCA Lewis County member Jack Tipping and CCA Washington state president Dale Scott. The recent decision by NOAA/NMFS approving the Plan to Abandon Volitional Upstream Fish Passage at the Tacoma Power hydroelectric facilities is discussed in detail in the article.

Several proposals to improve fisheries on the Cowlitz River from CCA, as outlined in a letter sent to WDFW this Spring, are also included in the article. We look forward to continuing to engage the public regarding the many issues that are affecting fisheries on the Cowlitz River. With dwindling opportunity on other regional rivers, the restoration of fishing opportunity on the Cowlitz would help ease pressure on these other waters while reviving one of the strongest sport fisheries in the Pacific Northwest.

Welcoming the new SoDo Chapter

The 18th CCA chapter in Washington state, the SoDo chapter, celebrated their founding with their inaugural banquet on April 21st at Georgetown Brewery in South Seattle. The banquet was a huge success, giving the chapter a strong base of members. The lower Duwamish River and Puget Sound itself are notable fisheries in the SoDo chapter area, and the chapter leadership team hopes to get involved in efforts to increase recreational fishing opportunities while protecting and enhancing Puget Sound’s vulnerable species.

Adding chapters in the Seattle area has gained importance over the years. The SoDo chapter will serve the Downtown Seattle community, along with neighborhoods surrounding West Seattle. Thousands of anglers live in the area and the chapter is looking forward to networking with as many of these anglers as possible in the coming year.
CCA Building Conservation Trust Supports Oyster Project

A new collaborative program utilizing oysters to help improve fisheries and water quality is coming to Puget Sound. The water quality decline in Puget Sound has been well documented over the past several decades, and oysters are seen as an integral part of the ecological solution to these water quality problems. Funded by the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA’s National Habitat Program, the program will feature CCA members working alongside the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and others to enhance oysters in South Puget Sound. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve habitat for juvenile salmonids along with native Olympia oysters.

Oysters play a vital role in the Puget Sound ecosystem, with their ability to help filter toxins and sediment from the water. In addition, oyster beds in the sound provide excellent habitat for juvenile salmonids and bait fish, making oysters equally important in salmon recovery efforts. With decreasing water quality in Puget Sound, oyster populations have been greatly diminished. It’s become clear that our help is needed to improve oyster and salmon habitat in the area.

CCA Sea-Tac chapter president Joe Slepski, along with CCA members Anil Srivastava and Larry Burnstad have formed a partnership with WDFW to plant Pacific oyster seed in optimal areas to increase recreational harvest opportunities and enhance salmon habitat. The oyster seed will be sponsored by CCA’s BCT and will be strategically planted in areas where they can be monitored to evaluate baseline conditions to help guide future programs. Initial plantings will occur at Kopachuck and Penrose Point State Parks. The oyster program will also feature an educational element to help citizens understand the importance of oysters in Puget Sound.

Approximately $20,000 in funds and support from the CCA BCT will be used to help make this oyster project a reality, and it is the latest in a line of impressive habitat enhancement programs that the BCT has helped support across the country. The BCT was created to provide vital funding for grassroots-driven projects that achieve one or more of five key objectives: Restore degraded habitats; Create new habitats; Advance the science of coastal habitat and marine fisheries conservation; Foster habitat stewardship; and Educate coastal communities on the value of conservation.

The benefits of oyster enhancement are abundantly clear; more oysters available for future harvest, cleaner water, and higher quality salmon habitat. We thank our CCA members who have spearheaded this initiative and look forward to working with WDFW and the BCT to help improve Puget Sound for salmon and oysters alike!
CCA Comes Through for Hatchery Funding

One of the things that sets CCA apart from other groups and fishing clubs is its active engagement in the legislative process through a paid lobbyist. Supported by the efforts of CCA’s advocacy team and lobbyist, the supplemental operating budget that passed in early March includes $837,000 in additional state funding to increase hatchery production of Chinook salmon throughout the Puget Sound, Coast, and Columbia River. This will provide additional salmon to benefit southern resident killer whales (orcas) and recreational fisheries. The budget requires WDFW to collaborate on the development of a plan to increase salmon production to meet the dietary needs of orca whales, while also complying with state and federal conservation requirements for salmon.

The supplemental capital budget includes $130,000 to conduct a comprehensive review identifying additional opportunities to increase hatchery production with a focus on the needs of orcas, including potential hatchery expansions. Again, the budget requires consistency with state and federal law, and salmon conservation requirements. This $130,000 is coupled with an additional $665,000 for hatchery infrastructure improvements to increase Chinook production.

In total, this is over $1.6 million to increase hatchery production and infrastructure. CCA Washington played a key role in securing this funding - from the emails sent by members, to the active involvement of our professional lobbyist in Olympia. Hatchery production and the continued evolution of hatchery practices (i.e. adaption of broodstock programs) play an important role in rebuilding fish runs and providing fishing opportunity for the public. The funding this year is in addition to over $100 million in hatchery funding that CCA has lobbied for in Washington state since our founding just 11 years ago.
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 CCA t-shirt.


Shannon Boyle, a member of the CCA Yakima chapter, showing off a prime Chinook salmon caught in Alaska with Pelican Inn Charters.

Shawn Seeger of the CCA Sea-Tac chapter put the hurt on a nice Largemouth Bass from Prineville Reservoir in Central Oregon.

Contact Us

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Comments or questions?
Please contact: info@ccawashingtonorg
MEMBER INFORMATION

Renewal Dues

Name __________________________________________________________________________

Associate Member Name(s) (if applicable) _____________________________________________

Member ID# (if renewing) __________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________

City /State _________________________________Zip _______________

Phone ____________________Email ________________________________________________

Gift Membership From: ____________________________________________________________

Quarterly payment option available.

- $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, plus member gifts.
- $500 PATRON: Silver lapel pin, plus member gifts.
- $1,000 LIFE MEMBER: Life Member display piece, print, plus member gifts.
- $10 YOUTH: Rising Tide newsletter, three NEW TIDE logo decals, iron-on t-shirt

Complete this form and send to:
Coastal Conservation Association
11805 NE 99th Street Suite 1350
Vancouver, WA 98682
Ph. 877-255-8772
Ph. 360-694-4300
www.ccawashington.org

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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MEMBER INFORMATION

Coastal Conservation Association Membership Application

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☐ Discover
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☐ Exp. Date _________________________
☐ Signature _________________________

Member ID# (if renewing)

Associate Member Name(s) (if applicable)

Name

Renewal Dues ☐ New Membership ☐