“You can’t eat an entire elephant in one bite.” I’ve probably said that a thousand times now, but when it comes to changing our broken system of fisheries management, it’s just as true today as it was when I first got into fisheries advocacy over 25 years ago. I learned through my early interactions with WDFW and Federal fisheries managers that the only way we would see real change was to get political. We had to work with our elected officials to have any chance of removing gill nets, along with getting our hatcheries rebuilt and production levels increased. This past legislative session gives me hope that our message is resonating with legislators.

In Olympia, the Legislature held WDFW accountable for their outrageous decisions to reverse gillnetting reforms on the Columbia River and Willapa Bay, as well as a major reduction in Puget Sound sportfishing, partly due to poor negotiating by WDFW staff. Department requests for license fee increases, along with the renewal of the Columbia River Salmon & Steelhead Endorsement fee were denied by the Legislature. Instead, the Department will receive new general fund dollars to cover their needs over the next year, when they will come back hat in hand asking for more money again. Hatchery programs and facilities will see increases and upgrades with tens of millions of dollars allocated to them in the Capital budget. Overall, Legislators are really starting to understand the economic, conservation, and social benefits of recreational angling.

Sport fishing is serious business in here in Washington state, and I’m not just saying that as a rod manufacturer. The nearly one million recreational fishing license holders support tackle shops, boat dealers, marinas, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, guides & outfitters, and the ripple effect goes on! We, the sport anglers, spend over $1.2 billion each year in this state, and support over 16,000 jobs. Beyond that, recreational anglers pay 28 times the amount of money towards WDFW’s budget compared to commercial salmon licenses. That’s a FACT.

Conservation wise, it’s a complete no brainer. Recreational fishing is much more friendly to fish than... continued on page 2
gillnetting! Gill nets limit our ability to produce more hatchery fish in rivers, because they catch both wild and hatchery fish that are present. They are anything but selective. Anything that swims into a gill net has virtually no chance for survival! Recreational anglers can safely release wild fish to go spawn and keep the hatchery fish that are planted for harvest. If we’re serious about increasing hatchery production, we must prioritize recreational fishing and ban gillnetting.

Culturally, recreational fishing is a part of who we are in the Pacific Northwest. I can’t imagine my life without fishing in it, and I know that those reading this article feel the same. Recreational fishing is desperately needed for our future generations, and in the era of smartphones and video games, we need to be able to help the youth better connect with the outdoors.

We should be thankful that many of our legislators understand the important conservation, economic and social benefits of recreational fishing. The decision makers clearly do listen to their constituents, but we must continue to beat the drum and tell them that gillnetting needs to go, and hatchery production needs to be increased. Hopefully, WDFW will begin to realize that status quo operations can’t continue, and understand that the economic, conservation, and social benefits of recreational angling are important.

Finally, if you haven’t already, become a CCA member and join us in voicing your concern for the future of our fish and recreational angling. A united voice can affect positive change... www.ccawashington.org.

*This article also appeared in the June edition of The Reel News.*

**Federal Delegation Secures Increased Funds for Salmon**

Positive news came out of Washington D.C. in late May, as U.S. Representatives Jamie Herrera-Beutler and Derek Kilmer secured $30 million to implement the newly ratified Pacific Salmon Treaty and $25 million to support Mitchell Act hatchery activities, an over $4 million increase.

Funding, to the tune of $30 million, was secured to address the recommendations outlined in the Pacific Salmon Commission’s plan to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Signed by Canada and the United States in 1985, the Treaty provides a framework for the two countries to cooperatively manage Pacific salmon stocks focused on protecting and expanding spawning habitat, increasing hatchery production, and implementing conservation measures to prevent overfishing and maximize production. Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Chair Larry Carpenter recently sent a letter to Washington’s Federal Delegation requesting this funding, noting support from a broad spectrum of organizations, including CCA Washington.

Mitchell Act hatchery activities received $25 million in funding, which enable federal agencies to work with Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to operate hatcheries and fish passage facilities. This is an increase of around 20% over recent funding levels for the Mitchell Act hatchery programs. The goal of this funding increase is to improve declining salmon runs in the Columbia River System to maintain economically viable fisheries and provide prey for Southern Resident killer whales.

State Legislature Funds Hatchery Production

In April, the legislature wrapped up the 2019 legislative session with the passage of a 2019-2021 operating budget. Even without an increase to recreational fishing and hunting fees, WDFW received large funding increases for hatchery production and other activities to benefit Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW). However, much of the increased funding was only provided for one-year, which means WDFW will likely face another budget shortfall next year.

Thanks to efforts from CCA, along with a broad spectrum of other organizations, the legislature provided $15 million for increased salmon hatchery production throughout the state. In addition, WDFW received $58 million in capital budget funding which includes tens of millions of dollars that will be used for much needed hatchery infrastructure improvements. CCA Washington have always been strong supporters of hatcheries, and we will continue to work to secure funding for hatchery facilities and production.

While we still have much work to be done, this legislative session provided a great opportunity to educate key decision makers on the importance of recreational fishing and the many, many shortcomings of fisheries management and policy decisions in this state.

CCA appreciates the incredible efforts on behalf of recreational anglers and conservationists by leaders in the Senate and House, including Sens. Kevin Van De Wege (D-Sequim), Jesse Salomon (D-Shoreline), Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island), Ann Rivers (R-La Center), Lynda Wilson (R-Vancouver), Marco Liias (D-Mukilteo), John Braun (R-Centralia), Jim Honeyford (R-Sunnyside) and Reps. Pat Sullivan (D-Covington), Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), Joe Fitzgibbon (D-Burien) Gerry Pollet (D-Seattle), and Drew Stokesbary (R-Auburn). T

Most importantly, a big THANK YOU to CCA members and concerned anglers from across the state who wrote, called, and met with their legislators. It will be important that you stay engaged. With good weather already here, invite them out for a fun day of fishing over the coming months! 🐟
More Attacks on Conservation

In April, the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission voted to weaken protections on wild Chinook in Willapa Bay and allow more non-tribal commercial gillnetting. WDFW is also proposing to restore non-tribal commercial gillnetting to the northern 2T and 2U fishing areas during the summer - in direct conflict with the intent of the Willapa Bay Policy to manage recreational fisheries as the priority in those areas!

Instead of rewarding mark-selective fisheries, which are the key to maintaining and increasing hatchery production, WDFW instead wants to pad the profits of the commercial gill net industry. This lies in stark contrast with the original Willapa Bay Policy, which was successfully defended in court against lawsuits by the Willapa gillnetting industry.

California Drift Gill Net Ban Legislation

Indiscriminate drift gill nets are in the spotlight in Washington D.C. as Federal Legislation has been introduced that would transition the small swordfish drift net fishery in California to more selective gear. The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (S. 906/H.R. 1979) would align federal law with California law that has recently been passed and signed by the governor.

Drift gill nets are an out-of-date fishing method that is already prohibited off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. California was the last state to allow oceanic drift gill nets.

Large-mesh drift gill nets, often called “walls of death,” are mile-long nets that are notorious for producing excessive bycatch and waste of popular sportfish, marine mammals and sea turtles. Often half the catch is discarded dead as unwanted, prohibited or protected species. That bycatch ratio is similar to the summer Chinook gill net fishery on the lower Columbia River. Regrettably, our fisheries managers and gill net supporters in the political realm have stalled attempts at in-river gill net reform in Washington state.

CCA Members Win World Championship

In April, a team comprised of CCA Washington members won the 2019 Costa Offshore World Championship angling tournament in Costa Rica. This exclusive tournament is only open to winners of select saltwater tournaments around the world, with the CCA members earning their entry as champions of the 2018 Oregon Tuna Classic.

The team had limited billfish experience entering the tournament, but that didn’t deter them from taking home the first-place trophy. Team members Matt Olson, Matt Rowland, Stan Brogdon, Dan Sullivan, and Erik Jutila combined to catch and release 29 billfish over the four-day tournament.
All reports from the recreational community were that this year’s North of Falcon season setting process was “by far the worst performance and result ever.” Most surprising perhaps was WDFW’s willingness to further cripple the $6.9 billion recreational boating and fishing industry by agreeing to drastically constrain very popular mark selective fisheries in Puget Sound. In total, WDFW agreed to cut nearly twelve months’ worth of mark selective fishing opportunities in various areas of Puget Sound for the 2019-20 season.

A primary cause of this year’s disastrous outcomes was WDFW’s agreement with the Puget Sound Tribes on the management objectives of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan from December 2017. CCA Washington, along with several other conservation and recreational groups, alerted WDFW over a year ago that agreement to certain elements of that Plan would lead to drastic curtailment of sport fishing opportunity. Without strong leadership from WDFW, we predicted that arbitrary closures to, or restrictions on, important sport fishing seasons would occur.

WDFW has cut nearly twelve months of mark selective fishing opportunities in various areas of Puget Sound for the 2019-20 salmon season.

For those of us who care about the future of our salmon, this latest blow by WDFW on recreational fishing is difficult to comprehend as these draconian closures are not essential to the conservation of wild Chinook. This disaster comes on the heels of WDFW’s recent decisions to reduce recreational fishing opportunity and conservation efforts on the Columbia River and Willapa Bay.

Now, more than ever, we need your help to improve the management of our fisheries. There is no better way than reaching out to your elected officials and letting them know how much you care about the conservation of our fisheries. You can easily contact your elected officials at http://leg.wa.gov/. They are waiting to hear from you!

For those of us who care about the future of our salmon, this latest blow by WDFW on recreational fishing is difficult to comprehend as these draconian closures are not essential to the conservation of wild Chinook. This disaster comes on the heels of WDFW’s recent decisions to reduce recreational fishing opportunity and conservation efforts on the Columbia River and Willapa Bay.
It’s summer derby season at CCA Washington, with two events scheduled in July, followed by the King of the Reach Live Capture Derby held in late October. We will be hosting the Summer Steelhead Challenge (Kalama), and the Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout (Concrete), which offer excellent opportunities to win prizes while renewing your CCA membership and supporting a great cause.

Our chapter derby committees, along with our generous sponsors and donors, are responsible for making these derbies happen, and we cannot thank them enough for the work they do! Here’s a sneak peek at this summer’s CCA Washington derbies:

Summer Steelhead Challenge  July 19-21

Organized by our CCA Lower Columbia chapter, the 7th Annual Summer Steelhead Challenge is scheduled for July 19-21, and will be capped off by a chapter BBQ and award ceremony held at the Port of Kalama. As in previous years, the derby offers exciting angling on the Lower Columbia River and its tributaries, along with excellent prizes across several different categories, including popular youth and ladies divisions.

The derby has evolved over the years, and now features two weigh-in stations (Port of Kalama & Willow Grove – Longview). Anglers are strongly encouraged to fish local tributaries during the derby, with many larger, prize-winning fish coming from the smaller tributary rivers over the past several years.
Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout  July 26-28

The 4th Annual Baker Lake Sockeye Shootout will be held during the July 26-28 weekend and is hosted by the CCA North Sound chapter. One of the most scenic places in the state, Baker Lake provides a memorable and family-friendly sockeye salmon fishery that doesn't require a big boat or sophisticated fishing gear.

The Sockeye Shootout is a prime 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 too? After receiving feedback from participants over the past few years, we have new restructured prize categories, with 1st place going to “Largest Fish” caught and a Scotty Electric Downrigger going to the “Average Fish” winner! This derby is limited to 100 entrants, so get your tickets soon!

King of the Reach  October 25-27

This year’s live capture broodstock derby is scheduled to be held during the weekend of October 25-27. More details to come, including revised prize structures. Derby tickets will go on sale in early September.

For online entries or more information, visit our derby webpage at www.ccawashington.org/derbies

BorX O Fire Is Like Candy To Steelhead

Get Your First Drift, Every Drift!

www.pautzke.com

We've taken all we've learned making legendary sunglasses and put that into a new line of expertly crafted frames. Introducing Costa Optical. Because not every moment of our lives takes place under the sun.

Visit our Dealer Locator at costadelmar.com to find an Optical retailer near you.
Transparency Needed: WDFW Sued Over Closed Meetings

This May, the Twin Harbors Fish & Wildlife Advocacy (THFWA), a nonprofit organization based in Grays Harbor, filed a legal challenge in Thurston County Superior Court to the procedures used by WDFW to set salmon seasons in Washington. The petition claims that this process violates the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

In a recent news release, the THFWA states “Fish runs are declining, conservation standards are left ignored, and ESA designation hangs over the state’s head as the Department continues to destroy the public’s confidence in the agency. Clearly, the Department is ‘in a state of denial’ and it will require intervention by the courts to protect the resource and the public’s interest.”

The lawsuit has taken steps forward over the past month, as the court granted two motions requested by THFWA. This means that the case is set to move forward and the NOF process will finally get the public review it so richly deserves. As of now, it appears that WDFW’s last ditch efforts to continue blocking the public from this important process will be unsuccessful.

CCA, along with many other organizations, have repeatedly raised objections about this broken process. It is unfortunate, but not surprising, that legal action is necessary in order to compel WDFW to address the concerns and complaints that have long been expressed by their constituents.

“We are eagerly awaiting the outcome of this process and are determining how we can best support THFWA in their quest to create a more open and transparent North of Falcon process,” said Nello Picinich, Executive Director of CCA Washington.
Downsizing: Mini & Kokanee Cut Plugs for Salmon

By Scott Kaul - Brad’s

Brad’s Super Baits and Cut Plugs have been a mainstay for salmon fishing, and combined with the 360-flasher craze, their versatility is expanding. As the trend to minimize presentations behind a 360 flasher expands, Brad’s Mini Cut Plugs and Kokanee Cut Plugs provide fishermen with what they want—a small presentation along with the added benefit of imparting a solid scent trail throughout the water column.

On a recent trip to Drano Lake the key was matching the size of the bait with the time of day. “Let the amount of daylight determine the size of plug”, says Brad Schoenborn, founder of Brad’s Killer Fishing Gear. “At daybreak and early morning, the 3” Mini Cut Plug has been the ticket.” Popular colors include the Rotten Banana (MCP 124) and the Dusky #1 (MCP 46), but don’t overlook Pink Magic (MCP 24) or Sardine (MCP 10).

Mini Cut Plug Rigging
Use tandem #1/0 Brad’s red octopus hooks, spaced about a half-inch apart, tied to 18-36” of 30 pound mono, and set back with 4-5 6mm beads to extend hooks just past the butt (tail) of the lure (match the beads to the bait color).

“As the sun moves overhead, downsize your presentation,” says Chris Turvey from Columbia River Guide Service. “That’s when we switch over to Kokanee Cut Plugs.”

Key producers include the Mexican Hat (KCP 110), Topsy Turvey (KCP 112), Springer Zinger (KCP 111) and Sugar Mama (KCP 114), whereas old standbys such as the Hot Tamale (KCP 13), Dusky #1 (KCP 46), and Pink Magic (KCP 24) always seem to produce.

Kokanee Cut Plug Rigging
Use tandem #1 Brad’s red octopus hooks, tied a half-inch apart, on 24-30” of 25 pound mono. A quick rigging tip is to use a 6mm bead, bobber stop bead, and bobber stop fastened just behind the rear hook housing. “This works well on the short strikers—the bobber stop allows you to slide the hooks further back from the plug and get those finicky fish,” says Turvey.

Cut Plug Stuffing
“Let your imagination be your guide”, says Brad Schoenborn. “Start off with a firm, absorbent base like canned tuna in oil. But from there it’s a free for all. Popular scents include sardine, shrimp, prawn, herring, tuna, and sometimes a combination of all these.”

And don’t forget your bite stimulants! “You never want to tell the fish what they want”, says Turvey, “let them tell you.”

By Scott Kaul - Brad’s

Brad’s
KILLER FISHING GEAR
Introducing Killian Burris

In late March, CCA Washington welcomed Killian Burris to their staff as a new Assistant Director. A Washington native, Killian is a passionate angler and conservationist who is fulfilling a personal goal of his in working for CCA. Having a genuine appreciation for our fisheries in Washington state, he is another excellent advocate who will strive to support our volunteers in common-sense conservation efforts. Killian will be working with chapters across the state, helping coordinate banquets and derbies, while also aiding chapter development initiatives.

Get to know Killian through the short Q&A piece below:

What things are you looking forward to experiencing with your job at CCA?
I look forward to our banquets and derbies throughout the year. It’s exciting being able to get together with fellow fisherman and conservationists to have a good time, and to help raise money and awareness to protect the fish we all care so much about.

What is your most memorable fishing experience?
Winter steelhead fishing a coastal river out of my drift boat with the snow pouring down. Pulling plugs with 4” of snow on the drift boat was something I’ll never forget. There was so much snow on the ramp that we had to launch and lower the drift boat by hand. The best part though? Just after starting to fish, our plug rod buried and ten minutes later we landed a chrome steelhead.

In your free time, what do you enjoy doing?
I love to chase salmon and steelhead throughout the state of Washington with some of my best buddies, and I’m always looking for fish to catch and new places to explore.
Member Photo Spotlight

Check out these great catches by CCA Washington members, friends, and supporting guides. Submit your best high-resolution photos to info@ccawashington.org and we may share them in the next edition of the Ripple Effect!

New CCA Life Member Lisa Phipps with a gorgeous hatchery steelhead

It’s all smiles for CCA Life Member Justin Zakariassen, as he shows off a Columbia River springer caught with CCA Supporting Guide Bret Dickerson

Kerry Batson holds two Ling Cod caught with Life Member Mark Ostroot

CCA Supporting Guide Lael Johnson of Gyde Lyfe with a wild OP steelhead

John Rabey and Joe Durham supporting a kids’ fishing day in Elma

Contact Us

Washington Office
12013 NE 99th Street Suite 1680
Vancouver, WA 98682
877-255-8772
Comments or questions?
Please contact: info@ccawashington.org
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: ____________________________________________

- $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 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 ____________________________

Complete this form and send to:
Coastal Conservation Association
12013 NE 99th Street Suite 1680
Vancouver, WA 98682
Ph. 877-255-8772
Ph. 360-694-4300
www.ccawashington.org