CCA Day at the Capitol Builds Connections with Legislators

The inaugural CCA Day at the Capitol was held in Olympia on February 11th, with CCA members and staff meeting with several legislators throughout the day. Gathering on the Legislative Campus in the morning, members quickly dispersed across the Capitol grounds to share their thoughts and concerns on the many issues that are plaguing our fisheries. The day was a success with members receiving encouraging messages from their Legislators, and plans are already underway for a much larger event in 2021.

This year’s Legislative Session began on January 13th and is scheduled to last just 60 days. CCA has been closely monitoring the status of WDFW’s budget request in the legislature and will be working to maintain hatchery production and sustain recreational fishing opportunity. While we have serious concerns about WDFW policy decisions, we have a long track record of working in the legislature in support of our key priorities.

Legislative outreach is a critical component of effective grassroots advocacy work, and the CCA Day at the Capitol was our latest focus to expand our outreach efforts. Participating members were asked to contact their Legislators ahead of the event and set up meetings with them at the Capitol. At the end of the day, members from chapters including Capitol City, Kitsap, Southwest Washington, Sno-King, and Twin Harbors, met with their Legislators during the event, with additional visits to Legislators already planned after the session ends.

One of the key themes heard from Legislators was their desire for more accountability at WDFW, and the need for implementation of several key policies that will benefit conservation and recreational fishing. Hearing those words from Legislators on both sides of the aisle provides proof that your message as a CCA member is making a strong impression in the House and Senate chambers.

Having a personal connection with your elected officials gives you an opportunity to help influence positive change for the future of our fisheries. It gives Legislators a better idea of who is sending them emails and Action Alerts. Regularly communicating with these officials also allows you to more effectively share your thoughts and opinions on issues, and it also creates a healthy dialogue that we need to help get our fisheries back on the right track.

For many members, it’s most convenient to meet with their Legislators when they’re back in their district. As an example, many members from Eastern Washington have held in-district meetings with their Legislators in the past few weeks. These in-district meetings...continued on page 10

CCA members Ed Wickersham (L) and Jim Malinowski (R) meet with Sen. Ann Rivers (R-18th District)
Spring Gillnetting May Return to Lower Columbia

The fight over gillnets on the lower mainstem Columbia River has continued this winter, with initial positive signals from Oregon conflicting with Washington's push for more mainstem netting. Following negotiations between the Directors of ODFW and WDFW, both states agreed to the possibility of a small mesh gillnet fishery on spring Chinook for the first time since 2016.

In January, it was reported that Oregon suspended its participation in the joint state Policy Review Committee (PRC). The PRC has been heavily biased by pro-gillnet Commissioners from both states, which led to a vote last February to recommend restoring year-round gillnetting to the mainstem Columbia River – an alarming recommendation that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission subsequently voted to adopt last March in Spokane. WDFW's leadership has acknowledged that the Spokane vote killed the agency's fee increase proposal and Columbia River endorsement reauthorization during the 2019 legislative session. That was unfortunate and entirely avoidable.

Despite their self-inflicted funding failures, some members of the Washington Commission have continued their efforts to push Oregon to match Washington's position of year-round mainstem gillnetting. During their January Commission meeting, comments were made by Commissioners (and PRC Members) Bob Kehoe and Donald McIsaac defending the policy that was adopted in Spokane. They urged WDFW Director Kelly Susewind to reduce the popular spring Chinook recreational fishery by pursuing mainstem small mesh gillnetting this year.

The recently agreed to 2020 season between ODFW and WDFW will see mainstem small mesh gillnetting permitted during the spring (based on run size and off-channel impacts), and a recreational allocation reduction to 75%, compared to the 80% share that had been previously agreed to. Because these small mesh gillnets are at least 50% less selective than rod and reel, the commercial net fishery will kill significantly more ESA-listed Spring Chinook for each hatchery fish harvested, eventually leading to more restrictions on hatchery production. Additionally, the small mesh nets, referred to as steelhead gillnets, will encounter and kill way more steelhead and other non-target species.

After years of planting an ever-increasing number of hatchery spring Chinook funded by taxpayers, utilities, and sports anglers, the gillnet industry has harvested more spring Chinook in off-channel areas, like Oregon’s Young’s Bay, than recreational anglers have in the entire Columbia River. Despite this, WDFW Director Susewind pushed for a return of commercial small mesh gillnetting to the mainstem instead of increasing recreational fishing opportunity throughout the Columbia basin, or allowing additional spring Chinook to pass upriver.

The decision also flies in the face of concerns that were raised by Senator Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island, Committee Chair) and Senator Ann Rivers (R-La Center) when the agency appeared before a November Senate Ways Committee hearing to discuss its $26 million supplemental budget request to address their budget shortfalls. Fortunately, our elected officials are becoming increasingly aware of these important policy developments and we appreciate their efforts to reverse these alarming decisions.
By Nello Picinich, Executive Director CCA Washington

CCA was created in 1977, after drastic commercial overfishing along the Texas coast had decimated redfish and speckled trout populations. A group of 14 concerned recreational anglers gathered in a local tackle shop to create the Gulf Coast Conservation Association to turn the tide for conservation. A few years later, gill nets along the Texas coast were outlawed and both redfish and speckled trout were declared game fish.

This previously unimaginable victory launched a new era in marine resource management. The successful conservation movement got the attention of anglers across the country and nearly 30 years later, CCA chapters were established in almost every state along the Pacific, Gulf and Atlantic coasts. While the fish species are different, the challenges facing them are often the same on all coasts – destructive commercial gear, misguided management concepts and degraded habitat.

CCA has proven time and again that anglers are the best stewards of the marine environment. We work to protect not only the health, habitat and sustainability of our marine resources, but also the interests of recreational anglers and their access to the resources they cherish. With a growing, well-informed, and active membership, CCA continues the mission launched by those 14 visionary anglers so many years ago.

Presently, CCA chapters across the country are stepping up to promote conservation through habitat restoration, sound science-based management decisions and hatchery supplementation. We all know about the great work that CCA Washington is doing to help fund and promote responsible hatchery production in the state. Whether it be advocating for funding, enhancing genetics through broodstock collection, educating legislators on the value of hatcheries or standing up to the various anti-hatchery groups, CCA Washington has a solid track record of supporting hatcheries.

What you may not know is that many other CCA state chapters support hatchery supplementation. Along the gulf coast for example, CCA Texas has donated more than $1 million to support flounder research and stock enhancement projects. Just to our south, members of CCA California supported an effort to release several thousand juvenile halibut into Mission Bay in San Diego. When it comes to supporting hatchery supplementation, actions speak louder than words.

If you would like to learn more about how CCA, as both a national organization and as a state chapter here in Washington, are supporting hatcheries please visit us online at www.joincca.org and www.ccawashington.org.

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Volunteer Anglers Needed

The Idaho Department of Fish & Game is looking for angler assistance in their annual steelhead broodstock collection efforts on the South Fork Clearwater River. Angler broodstock collection began in early February, and is scheduled to continue until enough fish are collected or the first week of April, whichever comes first. IDFG relies on anglers to collect these fish and place them in the river in provided PVC tubes for hatchery staff to pick up.

The intent of the program is to develop a localized steelhead broodstock for the South Fork Clearwater River, with a goal of higher return rates to the South Fork. For more information, or to sign up for the program, please contact the IDFG Clearwater Regional offices at (208) 799-5010.

Columbia River Gillnet Economics

Did you know that the Columbia River Endorsement alone generates over $1.5 million for WDFW each year, which doesn't even account for the license fee revenue. By comparison, WDFW receives about $145,000 in annual revenue from the entire Columbia/Grays Harbor/Willapa gillnet fleet.

Over 200,000 anglers purchased the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement, while there are only nine gillnetters who land more than $20,000 of annual ex-vessel value in Columbia River salmon fisheries. The economics and the science paint a pretty clear picture... gillnets, both large and small mesh, do not belong in the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Magazine Discount for Members

Salmon & Steelhead Journal is offering a special subscription rate for CCA members. S& SJ is a trusted source for pertinent fishing news, tips, destination stories, advocacy articles, and much more. Instead of the standard rate of $24.95, CCA members pay just $14.95 for a one-year subscription.

To receive your $10 discount, visit www.salonandsteelheadjournal.com and use the special code “CCA” in the Promotional Code box at check-out.
Baker Lake Sockeye in the News Again

If you’ve been following Washington fisheries management issues recently, you’re well acquainted with Baker Lake sockeye and the subsequent management issues that have plagued the fishery over much of the past decade. Amid growing angler frustration, the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission heard testimony on Baker Lake sockeye management at the December Commission meeting in Bellingham. Even with positive dialogue at the meeting and subsequent signals from WDFW staff, it appears that reforms to Baker Lake management are no closer to becoming a reality.

Despite the ability to conduct a simple and run-size based harvest at the fish collection facility on the lower Baker River, WDFW and their tribal co-managers seem content with the current harvest management system. That means more harvest inequity between tribal and non-tribal fisheries, lack of in-season harvest management, and run projections (along with corresponding harvest quotas) that are consistently off the mark.

For example, in 2019 the preseason forecast for Baker Lake was 33,000 fish and the harvest quotas were based on this questionable number. Treaty fisherman subsequently caught their share in the river before the actual run return of 22,000 fish was determined. As a result, the Baker Lake sport fishery was negatively impacted with very few fish passed upstream for anglers to target, and the Puget Sound Energy-funded hatchery was in danger of not meeting its escapement goals.

The messaging from the conservation and recreational angling community has been clear; WDFW must prioritize policy management of Baker Lake sockeye prior to the upcoming North of Falcon negotiations. They also need to ensure that real changes occur in the harvest management and forecasting of the fishery. At the Commission meeting, CCA North Sound members were well represented, with powerful testimony shared by chapter president, Bob Cooper. With that said, no official policy decisions were made at the meeting.

Despite their efforts, and support among the broader angling community, WDFW seems leery of making Baker Lake sockeye management a priority at the North of Falcon negotiations which are presently underway. We noted after the Commission meeting that the real test of WDFW’s ability to adequately represent recreational Baker Lake sockeye anglers will be apparent this summer, when escapement and harvest data becomes available.

This is what we know for certain: 1) that WDFW acknowledges there is a harvest inequity issue; 2) WDFW is well aware of their constituent’s desire for much needed management changes; and 3) management tools exist to fix the problem. While we will not give up, it is now in the hands of WDFW, as a co-manager of the resource, to do the right thing.
Yakima Chapter Takes on “Lunker Lake”

Thanks to CCA Yakima chapter volunteers, hundreds of local kids and anglers were able to catch a fish at the Central Washington Sportsmen Show’s “Lunker Lake” trout pond. Nearly two dozen volunteers from CCA and Selah High School participated, with many working multiple shifts at the popular attraction.

Sporting CCA hats and smiles, chapter members were more than willing to lend a helping hand at the annual event, which is organized by Shuyler Productions.

With rainbow trout ranging from 12” to triploids weighing over three pounds, the action was constant! Rods were being rigged at a rapid pace, with volunteers doing their best to keep up. Thankfully, our excellent chapter members were more than up to the task!

Participating at events like the “Lunker Lake” pond and other kids fishing events are a great way to get involved in your local community. If you, or your chapter is interested in similar outreach opportunities, please contact us at info@ccawashington.org and we will try to get you connected with local programs.

Puget Sound Chinook Management Plan Update

At January’s WDFW Commission meeting, there was an update on the status of state/tribal negotiations over a 10-year Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan, which should be finalized soon. When the first draft of this controversial plan was released in 2017, some in the sport fishing community called for the removal of former WDFW Director Jim Unsworth because of the looming restrictions on recreational fishing. By all accounts, it appears that little has changed in the new plan.

The most controversial provision remains: a new exploitation rate limit on marked Stillaguamish hatchery Chinook. This exploitation rate will severely limit mark-selective recreational fisheries throughout the northern Puget Sound that target hatchery fish. WDFW had options to avoid this crippling new constraint, including utilizing a marking method other than fin-clipping, not marking the fish from this conservation hatchery program, or increasing production.

It also appears that no meaningful progress has been made to address another major constraining stock on recreational fisheries, mid-Hood Canal fall Chinook. While there is little hope for change in the short term, CCA remains committed to finding a long term solution on this important issue.

The Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan is likely to play into an already contentious 2020 North of Falcon process, with potentially draconian restrictions in-store for recreational fisheries in Puget Sound and elsewhere. There is no question that wild Puget Sound Chinook are in decline; however, drastic reductions of mark-selective recreational fisheries is not the answer.
“Tangle” Nets and Gillnets; One in the Same

For more than a decade, fisheries managers in Oregon and Washington have been lauding the “tangle” gillnet as a selective and fish-friendly commercial fishing gear, with an emphasis that “tangle” nets are not gillnets. But when you look at the facts, a “tangle” net is simply a small-mesh gillnet made from multifilament instead of monofilament strands. With exceptionally high rates of bycatch, and lacking any on-board monitoring, “tangle” gillnet fisheries, like the potential spring Chinook fishery authorized by ODFW and WDFW on the lower mainstem Columbia this year, are bad news for mixed stock fisheries and especially steelhead!

Here are the facts about “tangle” nets:

- “Tangle” gillnets were introduced to the lower Columbia River in the early 2000's.
- Developed as an alternative to large mesh gillnets, “tangle” gillnets produce extremely high rates of bycatch.
- In a 2002 study on the Columbia (Ashbrook et al), “tangle” gillnets had a bycatch ratio of more than 100% on non-target species. Other studies have demonstrated similar numbers, with large percentages of sturgeon and steelhead encountered.
- Steelhead, including ESA listed steelhead, have a high propensity for being gilled in “tangle” nets, with over 40% suffering this fate in a 2001 Columbia River study (Whisler). This has given “tangle” nets the nickname “the steelhead gillnet.”
- High rates of descaling, fin damage, body net marks, and marine mammal wounds have also been observed in “tangle” gillnets.
- “Tangle” gillnet studies were done using on-board recovery boxes to help revive bycatch before release into the river. This gave the researchers a best-case scenario to set mortality rates. Real life scenarios include no on-board observers during this fishery, despite past reports of non-operation of the recovery boxes, and longer than allowed soak times.
- Legally, without a special permit, gillnets are the only commercial fishing gear type allowed on the lower Columbia River. Yet WDFW is adamant that “tangle” nets are not gillnets yet again showing their bias toward the gillnet industry. But, if you follow WDFW’s logic, and no special permit is needed for a “tangle” net fishery, it then begs the question, are “tangle” nets legal?

2020 CCA BANQUET FUNDRAISERS

Don't miss out on your CCA chapter banquet in 2020! Fabulous food, exciting games, and loaded auctions make for an excellent evening in support of conservation and recreational angling in Washington state. All attendees receive their one-year CCA membership with their banquet ticket. To purchase your tickets online, visit ccawashington.org/banquets

Sea Tac (Kent) - March 14
Lewis County (Chehalis) - March 21
Kitsap (Bremerton) - March 28
Hells Canyon (Clarkston) - April 17
N. Central Wa. ( Wenatchee) - May 1
SW Washington (Vancouver) - May 8
Pierce County (Puyallup) - May 15
North Sound (Mt. Vernon) - May 16
N. Oly. Peninsula (Sequim) - May 20
Yakima (Selah) - May 29
Inland Empire (Spokane) - June 5
Sno King (Woodinville) - June 19
Donor Spotlight: PowerTech! Propellers

By Marcus Clements, PowerTech!

PowerTech! has been a proud member of the Coastal Conservation Association for many years now, and beginning in 2007 became an active sponsor in Louisiana, providing propellers for banquet auctions and STAR tournament boats. Since then, we’ve added CCA Florida, CCA Texas, and are now proud to announce that we’re jumping in with both feet with your chapter, CCA Washington.

Since you’re probably curious as to just how our banquet program works, we’ll give you a quick explanation. Every banquet will have a propeller on display, as well as a catalog, so you can read a bit more about our propellers, and a display banner. The display propeller is merely a display, since it would be highly unlikely that that one propeller would be appropriate for every single bidder’s application.

Instead, you will be bidding for a PowerTech! propeller certificate that is good for one PowerTech! propeller of your choice valued up to $760.00. The auction winner will receive this certificate and contact information to our factory, so you can speak with one of our technical staff to determine which one of our many propellers would be most appropriate for your application. This certificate gets you a propeller shipped to your door freight free, with no other charges, unless your application requires an aftermarket hardware kit, which you and the technician can discuss at the time of your analysis. This propeller not only includes our one-year warranty, but beyond that we offer certificate winners the same 30-day pitch exchange program as all our other PowerTech! family members.

Within the first 30 days, as long as the propeller is in like new condition with no dings, nicks, nor scratches, we will exchange this new PowerTech! propeller for a propeller of equal value and different pitch for $49.95. That way, you can get dialed-in to your liking and are not stuck with a propeller that doesn’t make you a happy PowerTech! family member.

Keep an eye out in future editions of this newsletter and via CCA Washington social media for propeller performance and application tips that will help get your vessel dialed in. We thank you very much for allowing us to join the CCA Washington family and we look forward to many years of working together in support of conservation and recreational angling.

By Marcus Clements, PowerTech!

Special Multi-Issue Rates Available!
For Information and Rates:
(360) 694-4300 or info@ccawashington.org
CCA Washington at 2020 Puyallup Sportsmen’s Show

The CCA booth at the 2020 Washington Sportsmen’s Show in Puyallup saw a major increase in membership sales and interactions over past years. With staffing provided by excellent volunteers from chapters across western Washington, show attendees were able to learn firsthand about CCA and how our members and advocacy efforts are making a difference.

In a continued effort to streamline and simplify the booth, we created new, impactful advocacy materials and combined them with an open concept layout that invites people into the booth and out of the crowded aisle. For the second year in a row, the CCA booth also offered free Swedish Fish candy to passersby’s, which was so popular it ran out before the show ended!

Aside from the new CCA advocacy material and open concept layout, we also hosted the Hatchery & Wild Coexist Campaign at our booth, with attendees excited to learn more about their efforts. Dave Schamp, the director of Hatchery & Wild and chairman of CCA Oregon, along with Don New came up from Oregon and helped staff the booth for a few days, promoting both CCA and Hatchery & Wild. We appreciate their efforts and presence at the show this year.

To help sell more memberships, we also tried a new reward program at the 2020 show. Thanks to generous supporters, we offered a special $20 Sportco Gift Card to the first 100 standard membership purchasers. The promotion helped drive traffic to the booth, with anglers responding enthusiastically to the program.

Thank you again to Sportco for their support of CCA Washington and the gift card program. And most importantly, thank you to our members, many of whom traveled great distances, to volunteer at the show. We look forward to another great show in 2021.
Do you have old fishing, boating, or outdoor gear that is gathering dust? Consider donating it to CCA Washington, and we will turn your old items into cash for the fish through our new “CCA Tackle Shack” Facebook Group and Marketplace page. Members have enjoyed the convenience of the program and utilizing online sales platforms has allowed us to maximize value on used items.

If you have gear that you'd like to donate, please contact the CCA Washington offices at 360-694-4300, or email us at info@ccawashington.org. CCA will arrange pickup/delivery of the items and will provide a donation receipt complete with our Federal Tax ID.

Desirable items include:
- Fishing gear including rods, reels, tackle boxes, tackle, tying materials, etc.
- Boating accessories, working outboard and electric motors, trailer accessories, safety gear, etc.
- Outdoor equipment with tents, cooking equipment, and lanterns being popular.
- Other popular items have included storage solutions, and towing accessories.

Cover Story Continued...

are very impactful, and they allow members to connect with their elected officials in a more comfortable environment.

Improving our advocacy and outreach efforts is always a priority for CCA Washington. Our 2020 CCA Day at the Capitol has given us an excellent framework for future outreach events, along with some lessons learned to make our next Day at the Capitol even more effective. We hope to expand the event in 2021 with more members and Legislative meetings.

For information on how to schedule a meeting with your legislator, or for meeting tips and talking points, please call us at 360-694-4300 or email us at info@ccawashington.org.
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!

Life Member Curtis King with a beautiful Hanford Reach fall Chinook

Ben Reynolds’ son reeled this rainbow trout in all by himself at “Lunker Lake”

Joe Adams shared this photo of his son with a nice Columbia River Chinook
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
- $20 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