This summer, members of the collaborative south Puget Sound oyster project came together and planted several hundred thousand baby oysters at Kopachuck and Penrose Point State Parks. Combining forces with Pierce County, WDFW, Washington State Parks, and the KGI Watershed Council, the plantings were done over the course of several days.

This is the 3rd year in a row that plantings have been conducted at the parks, with project funding by CCA’s Building Conservation Trust (BCT). The BCT and CCA are also supporting an important study that will monitor plantings of native Olympia oysters at Penrose Point State Park to determine the potential success of a large-scale restoration project in the location. Researchers from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington - Tacoma are running the study.

Typically, these planting events attract 15-20 volunteers from CCA and the KGI Watershed Council. Due to the current health situation and restrictions, the 2020 seeding was conducted by Pierce County staffers, working alongside CCA volunteer Joe Slepski and other partner agency staff.

The carefully planned plantings were held on surveyed sections of beach. At the Kopachuck planting, crews planted 56 bags of “Spat on Cultch” across a surveyed section of the beach. With an average of 250 shells per bag and 12 baby pacific oyster on each shell this amounts to roughly 168,000 baby oysters planted in just one day.

Thank you again to the volunteers, our partners and staff who helped make this happen. A special thanks goes out to Joe Slepski of our SeaTac chapter and Jeff Barney of Pierce County for spearheading this important project. Without their leadership, these planting programs wouldn’t happen during these challenging times.
Reps & Businesses Respond To Gillnet Reform Changes

A bi-partisan collection of more than three dozen legislators from both the Washington state House of Representatives and Washington state Senate signed on to letters voicing their concern over proposed changes to the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620) that would undo efforts to enhance the conservation and selectivity of Columbia River salmon fisheries. Legislators noted that adopting the proposed changes will elicit opposition to any fee increase legislation, which could have serious implications for WDFW’s 2021-2023 operating budget, especially as the state grapples with reduced revenues due to COVID-19.

Additionally, a coalition letter of over 100 organizations and businesses was delivered recently to the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission, expressing concerns about the proposed Columbia River changes. To read this letter, please visit www.ccawashington.org. If you know any of the businesses and organizations that are on this list, please thank them and do whatever you can to support them! There are businesses spanning from Puget Sound, to the coast, to SW Washington, to eastern Washington and beyond. We are all in this together.

A decision on the proposed policy changes will be made during the next virtual Commission meeting, with the Columbia River Policy on the agenda for Friday, September 11th at 1:30 P.M. No public testimony will be taken during the agenda item, but will instead be taken at 8:30 A.M.

We have serious concerns with proposed changes to the Commission’s Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620) that would undo efforts to enhance the conservation and selectivity of Columbia River salmon fisheries under the Oregon-Washington Columbia River reforms. The Commission’s recent actions to undermine the bi-state reforms by returning non-trivial gillnets to the mainstem lower Columbia River have been immensely unpopular with our constituents and comes as several salmon and steelhead populations are in steep decline. The actions have also cost the Department critical support from recreational anglers – a stakeholder group that is key to the long-term financial solvency of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Columbia River basin fisheries require careful, proactive management with 13 species of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and management for ESA-reared Chinook salmon and steelhead. The Commission’s recent actions to undermine the bi-state reforms by returning non-trivial gillnets to the mainstem lower Columbia River have been immensely unpopular with our constituents and comes as several salmon and steelhead populations are in steep decline. The actions have also cost the Department critical support from recreational anglers – a stakeholder group that is key to the long-term financial solvency of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Chairman Carpenter and Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Commission’s review of Columbia River Salmon Fishery Management Policy (C-3620). We strongly oppose the June 10, 2020 recommendation by the Commission’s Columbia River Workgroup to return non-trivial gillnets to the mainstem lower Columbia River for the first time since 2016 and even authorize gillnet fisheries before a run update can confirm that spring Chinook forecasts have materialized.

Spring Chinook. The CRW’s proposed “abundance-based matrix” would reduce recreational spring Chinook fishing opportunity – above and below Bonneville Dam – by an average of 13.5% and by as much as 25% compared to the State of Oregon’s rules. It would return gillnets and “tangle nets” to the mainstem Columbia River for the first time since 2016 and even authorize gillnet fisheries before a run update can confirm that spring Chinook forecasts have materialized.

Summer Chinook. The CRW’s proposed “abundance-based matrix” would reduce recreational summer Chinook fishing opportunity – above and below Bonneville Dam – by an average of 15% and by as much as 25% compared to the State of Oregon’s rules. It would return gillnets to the mainstem Columbia River for the first time since 2016, where they will be allowed to retain wild summer Chinook, which is not

WDFW’s Proposed Columbia River Fishery Policy C-3620

What Others Are Saying

35 Washington State Senators; P1 Washington State Representatives

*While the fundamental components of the reforms remain sound, WDFW has not implemented key aspects of the reforms, including pursuing a gillnet license buyback and correcting agency errors toward implementing alternative, selective commercial fishing gears.

100+ Sportfishing/Conservation Organizations and Businesses

*The CRW proposal cuts mark-selective recreational fisheries during both the spring and summer – January 1 through July 31 – and replaces them with mainstem gillnet fisheries that are either less selective (i.e., “tangle nets”) or completely non-selective. At a time when many stocks of Columbia River wild salmon, wild steelhead and sturgeon are seeing dramatic declines, the CRW proposal would reduce the selectivity of Columbia River fisheries, increase bycatch of non-target species like sturgeon, and expose ESA-listed salmon and steelhead to additional mortalities in mainstem gillnet fisheries.

*Instead of compromising on conservation and devolving Columbia River fisheries into conflict and
County Commissioners Speak Out

The respective Board of Commissioners from Chelan, Douglas, Franklin and Okanogan Counties have weighed in on the Columbia River gillnetting issue by sending letters expressing their concerns to the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission in the past few weeks.

Each of the counties letters were focused on the Commission’s policy proposal, championed by Commissioner Don McIsaac, to reduce recreational fishing in exchange for increased gillnetting to the lower mainstem Columbia River. Eastern Washington and Idaho communities rely on healthy salmon returns to fuel recreational fisheries that are vital to their economies. These fisheries, unlike lower Columbia River gill nets, can be implemented selectively, allowing for wild fish to be released while hatchery fish are harvested by anglers.

Banquets Go Virtual for 2020

At CCA Washington, we strive to protect and ensure the future health of our marine resources. We feel equally passionate about the health and safety of our members. Accordingly, we have canceled all remaining 2020 in-person banquets.

During these unprecedented times, our mission to protect and conserve marine resources continues, and we need your support more than ever. To help fund our efforts on behalf of conservation and recreational angling, we will be hosting one virtual auction per month through the end of the year (see schedule below).

September 17-22: Legacy of Conservation - featuring items from the Capitol City, Lewis County, Lower Columbia and Southwest Washington chapters

October 15-20: Mighty Columbia - featuring items from the Yakima, North Central Washington, Hells Canyon and Inland Empire chapters

November 19-24: Beat the Crowds Holiday Shopping sponsored by Batson Enterprises

December 10-15: Conserving the Future

These auctions will include high quality fishing and outdoor equipment, fishing adventures, destination trips, unique artwork, home goods, outdoor equipment, and much more. Please plan to register for these events and bid on some great items. If you would like to donate to one of these virtual banquets, please contact us directly at info@ccawashington.org or call 360-694-4300.

Chapter Hosts Online Seminars

In late July, the CCA North Central Washington chapter and Mack’s Lure teamed up to host two seminars, streamed live on Facebook from the Columbia River. The first seminar was focused on sockeye followed by a seminar on Chinook fishing in the upper Columbia. Guide Mike Roth of Team Takedown Guide Service and Bob Loomis of Mack’s Lure demonstrated techniques, shared rigging info, and answered viewer submitted questions during both events.

The seminars have been viewed over 7,000 times already, and we greatly appreciate our NCW members and the Mack’s Lure team for putting on such fun and interactive presentations for our members and supporters. With gathering restrictions in place, these online seminars help connect members and support fishing and conservation.
Managing Excessive Sea Lion Predation

Earlier this month, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approved an application allowing the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and partner agencies to expand a program to lethally remove sea lions preying on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River basin. This follows on the efforts of CCA and a coalition of organizations to help secure the bi-partisan passage of the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Act (S. 3119) in 2018. The bill was designed to help protect salmon and steelhead from excessive sea lion predation in the Columbia River basin.

The legislation amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), providing a more streamlined process to effectively address excessive sea lion predation where we know the problem is most acute, including a large stretch of the river below Bonneville Dam, in the Willamette River, and in other tributaries. Early results from a similar program on the Willamette River are promising, having seen a large increase in the number of ESA-threatened winter steelhead passing over Willamette Falls.

WDFW, along with Oregon, Idaho, and six regional tribes, submitted their application for a sea lion removal permit to NMFS in June 2019. The new permit allows removals to take place on a portion of the Columbia River mainstem between the Interstate-205 bridge and McNary Dam, as well as any Columbia River tributary that includes spawning habitat of ESA-listed salmon or steelhead.

Though managers have carried out limited lethal removals of California sea lions on the Columbia River for years, the new permit represents the first time Steller sea lions may also be removed. Populations of both California and Steller sea lions are robust, showing steady growth in the years after the MMPA was enacted.

While having to lethally remove sea lions is not ideal, the excessive levels of predation on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead have forced fisheries managers to act. The granting of the permit is another step in the right direction for imperiled Columbia River salmon and steelhead, and we thank our members and elected officials for their support of S. 3119 and efforts to reduce predation on threatened fish.

Phone: (509) 735-2106
Email: info@bogert-mfg.com
www.unclenormsmarineproducts.com
King of the Reach Boat Entry Sells Out in Minutes

It’s back! The 2020 CCA King of the Reach Live Capture Tournament is coming up, with the derby scheduled for October 23-25 on the Hanford Reach portion of the Columbia River. There are several changes to the derby for 2020, including fewer boats allowed, and a limit on the number of anglers fishing on each vessel. Tickets went on sale on August 31 at Noon and were sold out in just under 10 minutes! Angler only tickets, for those fishing on registered boats are still available.

Restrictions on gathering sizes and current health precautions were considered by our derby committee and derby partners Grant PUD and WDFW. We are able to accept 75 boat entries into this year’s derby with a maximum of 4 people per boat. Anglers will be required to wear face coverings during the event and while on shore when social distancing is not possible. In addition, we will not be serving food and drinks, and instead of hosting an in-person awards ceremony, we will notify awards winners after the derby concludes.

To reduce interactions, there will be no on-site registration this year, so anglers must pre-register online by October 15, if they wish to fish in the derby. Derby anglers will be required to complete a pre-event WDFW required checklist including watching a Covid-19 safety video, and submit daily Covid-19 self-attestation forms, along with confirming their daily participation via text. While there are more tasks to complete for derby participants due to these Covid-19 protocols, the fishing and derby itself should be outstanding.

With a large section of river to fish, three fish drop-off sites, and a run expected to number in the 90,000 range on the Hanford Reach, the 2020 King of the Reach derby will be as exciting as ever. Last year, just over 400 anglers caught and delivered approximately 1600 live, wild chinook salmon to be used for hatchery broodstock at the Priest Rapids Hatchery. Implementing wild chinook genetics into the hatchery stock is very important as it produces stronger and more resilient hatchery fish for future seasons.

Considering the fact that many derbies around the state have been forced to cancel their 2020 events, we are thankful that we’re able to host the King of the Reach derby this year. Our derby committee has been working hard to ensure a fun, safe, and rewarding derby for participants. We appreciate everyone’s understanding of the temporary requirements in-place.

Visit www.ccawashington.org/kingofthereach for registration and more information.
King of the Reach Photo Gallery

Check out a few of our favorite photos from past editions of the most unique fishing derby in the world, the CCA King of the Reach Live Capture derby. For nearly a decade now, volunteers have hit the water to catch wild chinook for the Priest Rapids hatchery program. Thank you to the hundreds of anglers that have participated over the years, and we look forward to a great derby in 2020!
Popular Everett Coho Derby Will Take Place

By Jenny Hatch, Bayside Marine

In years past, September was the time to amp up for one of the biggest fishing derbies of the year, the Everett Coho Derby. Traditionally, the annual Everett Coho Derby is known to bring a huge crowd of participants including fishermen and sponsors.

As many readers may know, the Everett Coho Derby is a fishing competition on Puget Sound. Coho salmon caught by entrants are judged by weight. The angler who catches the heaviest fish takes home a large cash prize during an awards ceremony. There are more cash prizes, plus donated goods prizes from sponsors. Prize winners traditionally give acceptance speeches, as bystanders mingle with friends and enjoy hot dogs from the BBQ. The Everett Coho Derby sells on average 2,000 adult tickets and gives away 270 participation tickets to kids for free each year.

Things are going to look a little different for this September of 2020. Even with COVID-19 still present in our lives, the organizers of the Everett Coho Derby decided that the derby must go on, but with a few changes. Most importantly, the weigh-in and prize ceremony will not be held in a traditional sense. Instead, there will be a new “social distancing” weigh-in protocol, including face masks and sanitizer for all volunteers.

There will be signs at the entry locations explaining the protocol to participants. All cash prizes will be mailed, and tangible prizes will be available for pickup at Everett Bayside Marine after the Derby comes to a close. Dates for the Derby are September 19th-20th.

Organizers of the derby said they would not be asking sponsors for any cash or prize donations. However, there were a few sponsors that could not turn away from the fishing community and asked how they could still participate in this great tradition. Thanks to these generous sponsors, a scaled back but still exciting Everett Coho Derby will be taking place. The Edmonds Coho Derby on September 12th will operate with similar expectations.

The entire fishing community is thrilled that the organizers of these events are working hard to keep us fishing and sticking to a tradition during these trying times! 🐟

If you are interested in participating in the derby or would like more information, please visit http://everettcohoderby.com
“C” Is For Clearwater

By Adam Hocking, Steel Dreams Guide Service

Here in the Pacific Northwest, when people refer to a river as “the Big C,” the Columbia comes to mind. But for Idaho anglers, it’s a different river that’s in our thoughts. The Clearwater River starts at the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers located at the town of Lowell, Idaho and runs 75 miles west until it meets the Snake River at the twin cities of Lewiston and Clarkston. The Clearwater River is, without a doubt, a steelhead fisherman’s dream.

When people talk about fishing the Clearwater, one species always comes up, big B-Run steelhead. Clearwater steelhead are special to anyone who has battled one. The Clearwater is on a very short list of rivers where an angler stands a real chance of catching a true trophy size steelhead of 20+ pounds, with an average fish weighing in the mid-teens. Steelhead from the Clearwater differ from the other rivers in Idaho in one major way, these fish spend an additional 1-2 years in the rich waters of the Pacific Ocean. With this extra time to eat and grow, Clearwater steelhead are typically two to three times larger than their A-Run cousins.

Bank fishing the Clearwater can be daunting at first with its deep pools, riffles, rocky rapids and large tail outs. There is so much good-looking water in such a big river! Where to start can be overwhelming. For this reason, most bank anglers concentrate their efforts near hatcheries or at mouths of the many tributaries. Most anglers float fish with jigs, beads, or shrimp under larger than normal slip floats, which allow for extremely long casts to reach distant slots. Early in the fall, fly fishing for steelhead is very popular on the Clearwater as well.

Fishing from a boat, whether a jet sled or drift boat, opens up a multitude of fishing techniques. The two most common are side-drifting and back-trolling. When side-drifting most anglers use salmon eggs, a pegged bead, or yarnie. For the back-trolling crowd, small plugs like Hot Shot 35’s, or my personal favorite a Maglip 3.5, work amazing, especially when winter time water temps drop into the 30’s. A sand shrimp or coon shrimp back-trolled behind a small jet diver or plug style diver is also very effective.

There are very few places on this planet that tug at my heart strings like the Clearwater and its big B-Run steelhead. If you love steelhead fishing or are just starting out, Idaho’s Clearwater River is one river you have to fish!

Adam, owner of Steel Dreams Guide Service, is a CCA Supporting Guide and board member of the Hells Canyon chapter. www.steeldreamsfishing.com

Adam Hocking, Steel Dreams Guide Service

By Adam Hocking, Steel Dreams Guide Service

Here in the Pacific Northwest, when people refer to a river as “the Big C,” the Columbia comes to mind. But for Idaho anglers, it’s a different river that’s in our thoughts. The Clearwater River starts at the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers located at the town of Lowell, Idaho and runs 75 miles west until it meets the Snake River at the twin cities of Lewiston and Clarkston. The Clearwater River is, without a doubt, a steelhead fisherman’s dream.

When people talk about fishing the Clearwater, one species always comes up, big B-Run steelhead. Clearwater steelhead are special to anyone who has battled one. The Clearwater is on a very short list of rivers where an angler stands a real chance of catching a true trophy size steelhead of 20+ pounds, with an average fish weighing in the mid-teens. Steelhead from the Clearwater differ from the other rivers in Idaho in one major way, these fish spend an additional 1-2 years in the rich waters of the Pacific Ocean. With this extra time to eat and grow, Clearwater steelhead are typically two to three times larger than their A-Run cousins.

Bank fishing the Clearwater can be daunting at first with its deep pools, riffles, rocky rapids and large tail outs. There is so much good-looking water in such a big river! Where to start can be overwhelming. For this reason, most bank anglers concentrate their efforts near hatcheries or at mouths of the many tributaries. Most anglers float fish with jigs, beads, or shrimp under larger than normal slip floats, which allow for extremely long casts to reach distant slots. Early in the fall, fly fishing for steelhead is very popular on the Clearwater as well.

Fishing from a boat, whether a jet sled or drift boat, opens up a multitude of fishing techniques. The two most common are side-drifting and back-trolling. When side-drifting most anglers use salmon eggs, a pegged bead, or yarnie. For the back-trolling crowd, small plugs like Hot Shot 35’s, or my personal favorite a Maglip 3.5, work amazing, especially when winter time water temps drop into the 30’s. A sand shrimp or coon shrimp back-trolled behind a small jet diver or plug style diver is also very effective.

There are very few places on this planet that tug at my heart strings like the Clearwater and its big B-Run steelhead. If you love steelhead fishing or are just starting out, Idaho’s Clearwater River is one river you have to fish!

Adam, owner of Steel Dreams Guide Service, is a CCA Supporting Guide and board member of the Hells Canyon chapter. www.steeldreamsfishing.com
Ever notice how an angler’s collection of rods seems to increase with their experience level? There’s no single perfect rod for any fishing application, and the more you fish, the more you realize that dialing in your rods to the species, technique, and conditions will increase your fishing enjoyment and success.

For example, this time of year many salmon anglers are busy running downriggers out in the big pond. A good downrigger rod has a nice moderate bend so it can hold a large load of energy to be released when a fish pulls the rig off the clip, ensuring a good hookup. It also needs to have enough reserve power in the back end to battle feisty salmon that have no intention of being caught. On top of all that, the construction and material makeup needs to be engineered for extreme durability, in order to handle the kind of punishment inherent in this type of fishing.

Most anglers running downriggers have at least one story of running the wrong rod on a downrigger only to miss fish after fish, or worse, blow up a perfectly good jigging rod that wasn’t designed for the task. Batson Enterprises in Sequim, WA offers a Rainshadow RX4 rod blank called the BP1265F which has been taming big kings for over a decade. However, you probably wouldn’t enjoy drift fishing for summer steelhead in a small river with it. For that you’d be much better off with a shorter, less powerful, fast-tipped model like an RX7 REVHS86M.

To further match a rod to a specific fishing style many folks choose to build their own rods or have one custom built for them. Custom rods open up a whole new set of possibilities such as grip types and overall rod lengths tailored to your exact needs, custom colors and artwork, as well as an endless offering of ultra-high end components.

If you think about your favorite three fishing rods I’ll bet there are at least three things you’d change about those rods that would cause you less hassle and catch you more fish. Folks that fish a lot are frequently refining their techniques and exploring new ones. Their rods need to evolve as well. The perfect rods for your type of fishing are out there, and if you can’t find them off the shelf you can always have them custom built just the way you want. Give us a call and we’ll be happy to get you in touch with a custom builder that will set you up with “the one.” That is, until you need another one.
How To Pick the Right Scents for Fall Salmon

By Jason Brooks

If you have ever stood in the bait scents aisle of a sporting goods store, you might have thought to yourself “how do I decide on which one to use?” There are so many scents, along with different colors, and styles such as: gels, sauces, bait oils, water soluble oils, jelly’s and then there’s additives like Monster Bite, Slam-O-Powder, krill powder, tuna powder, UV enhancers and the list goes on. Each of these products have their own purpose to help you catch more fish. Here are a few things that might help you in deciding what to use, how to use it, and when to use it for fall salmon.

Sauces are becoming a popular scent product and are used the same way as gels. Both gels and sauces are thick and stick to lures. Anglers who like to throw hardware such as spoons and spinners should use sauces and gels as the don’t wash off easily. Plug anglers also often use sauces and gels as it will stick in the eyes of the hooks and eyelets as well as the bill which causes a scent trail to disperse as the plug wiggles. The main drawback of the gel or sauce is that you must wash your gear at the end of the day otherwise the products tend to gum up the lures and collect dirt and debris. A good soaking in some warm, soapy water at the end of the day helps keep your gear clean.

Water soluble oils are a lot like bait oils. Both work well when applied to baits however, water soluble also mixes in water. This creates a very effective scent trail that stays in the current with the gear. Soluble oils can also be put onto materials such as marabou and it won’t matt it down or affect how they work in water, which is why it is very popular to use when floating jigs. One thing to remember is that since it mixes with water it also washes out quickly so you must reapply after a few casts, which is where bait oils shine as they tend to stick to baits for a longer period.

Utilizing additives in your bait can help to trigger a bite. Amino acids, nitrates, and sulfites are the most common but also krill powder, tuna powder and even freeze dried and powdered sand shrimp are often added to baits to entice the bite. Most of these are added to your choice of bait at the beginning of the day or even the night before.

This means you need to have a few containers with the additive of choice and a few without.

Ultra-violet light penetrates deeper into the water especially on cloudy, dark winter days. Adding a UV dye to your lure or bait will give it a brighter profile. Now that you know what each of these products are designed for, you can make a better decision when purchasing them. It may take a bit of the confusion out of what you may need for the days fishing. Or if you are like me, it means you will need a variety of products to use while chasing your favorite fish.
Versatility with the Leo Flasher

By Hugh Harris

If you could fish just one salmon flasher throughout the year, what would you choose? Ideally the perfect salmon flasher would effectively fish a variety of presentations, attract and entice a bite in most water conditions, and perform with low drag while trolling or fighting a fish. Fortunately, the Leo Flasher offers all these desired qualities.

It’s unique in that it can be fished inline or with a 360-degree wide roll at speeds ranging from 0.5 to 2.5mph. Locally designed and manufactured in Oregon, Leo Flashers consistently catch fish from the upper Columbia to coastal bays and in the ocean. Attracting and inciting fish to strike, its minimal drag and versatility in presentation make the Leo an attractive asset to salmon fishermen.

As a kayak fisherman I’m drawn to the ocean for an exhilarating adventure fighting aggressive fish in the untamed elements of Mother Nature. My Hobie kayak cuts through an oncoming wave and I push past the breakers of my surf launch before dropping a green label herring behind an inline Leo Flasher. Tufted Puffins and Common Murres dive for sand lance while my heart races with anticipation as silhouettes of bait balls stack on my electronics.

Several passes go unanswered, so I switch up my presentation. An anchovy size red label goes on the hooks and with a quick change my gear drops below the surface with that wide roll kick from the Leo. Rod in hand, slowly working the ledge of a shelf, I free spool line letting my presentation spin below it. The rod is almost ripped from my hands and what feels like a snag comes to life pulsing and stripping over a hundred feet of line. On the heels of this rodeo, with a lap full of chrome Chinook and sea lice, I’m able to catch my breath and reflect on the choices leading up to this moment of triumph and success.

It’s the days we’re forced to work harder for the bite that we test our own limitations and learn to adapt to the fish’s evolving nature. In these instances, creativity can turn a slow day into a lifelong memory of catching these trophy fish. As fishermen, we are only limited by our own ingenuity and the means of the tools we utilize in our pursuit. I encourage you to enhance your terminal gear with a Leo Flasher and explore the possibilities that arise.
Gear Review: Engel Dry Box Cooler

By Tyler Comeau, CCA Washington

Full editorial disclosure, Engel Coolers are the official cooler of CCA Washington. With that said, I’ve been an Engel dry box cooler owner since long before they sponsored CCA Washington, and this gear review is written from my firsthand experience of the cooler.

Engel dry box coolers are an interesting product. Gasketed and ruggedly built like a rafting grade dry box, they also offer solid, if not extreme, ice retention. They present a compromise between weight, functionality, and ice retention, and they are a must have for this angler.

Coming in models ranging from 8-30 QTs, they aren’t particularly large, but they provide perfect sizes for bait coolers, lunch boxes, beverage coolers, and even fish boxes for kokanee anglers like me. They also are available in a variety of colors, with Engel releasing new colors seemingly every year.

My 30 QT Engel dry box cooler went from being my car camping/day trip/tailgating cooler for its first five years of existence to my dedicated kokanee fish box just over a year ago. Engel makes excellent rod holders for these dry boxes, and I added two to my 30 QT model, making it a perfect rod storage and fish carrying solution. For a day of fishing, I bring along a 10# bag of ice and I’m set for a two or even three-person limit of kokanee.

The gasketed lid (hence the dry box designation), sturdy handle, and additional carrying strap are nice features too! I like that when the dry box is sealed with fish inside, I don’t need to worry about water or slime leaking out. It’s also easy to clean, with a simple hit of the hose and some non-ultra Lemon Joy keeping it fresh!
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!

CCA Life Member Troy Schmidt used Mack’s Lure products to catch this quality Baker Lake sockeye.

Opening day success for CCA member Chris Long and his wife as they landed an Area 9 hatchery King.

Jeff Hall is all smiles with his 46 pound Westport halibut. Jeff is a CCA Life Member from the Kitsap chapter.
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