

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A PUBLICATION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Oregon Member Wins Guide Trip

B. Myers Names Newsletter

Congratulations to Bill Myers of the Portland Metro Chapter for his winning entry for the Name This Newsletter contest.

His was one of almost 500 suggestions sent in by CCA members. Several names were intentionally humorous or witty. Many reflected outrage at current commercial harvest practices. All were thoughtful and appreciated.

For Bill's winning entry, *The Ripple Effect*, he wins a free guided trip for two with Oregon CCA's Government Relations Chair, Stan Steele, and a tackle package donated by Sportsman's Warehouse. Good job, Bill!

Executive Order a Significant Win for CCA

Angela Hult

Oregon State Board of Directors

Working in tandem with the Bush Administration and other conservation groups, Coastal Conservation Association helped to secure another significant win for our marine resources, and CCA PNW Chairman Gary Loomis was present for this historic moment.

On October 20, President Bush signed an Executive Order establishing game fish status for red drum and striped bass. The Order is a landmark victory for recreational anglers who have fought for decades to restore and conserve these two coveted sport fish.

President Bush signed the order at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum surrounded by conservationists and anglers, including CCA Chairman Walter Fondren. The Executive Order instructs the Secretary of Commerce to put regulations in place establishing gamefish status for red drum and striped bass in federal waters, and encourages the

states to take similar actions in state waters. Specifically, the Executive Order:

- Moves to prohibit the sale of striped bass and red drum caught in Federal waters.
- Promotes more accurate scientific records about fish population levels.
- Helps the Federal government work with State and local officials to find innovative ways to conserve these species for future generations.

There are many parallels between the plight of stripers and red drum and our salmon, steelhead and other Pacific Northwest fish. Like the salmon, stripers and red drum were once abundant in America's waters, and they have been over-fished. And, like the Pacific Northwest, the effort to save these fish started with a small group of conservation-minded anglers who wouldn't give up.

This victory can be duplicated in our region. CCA can help us to achieve it, but it will take each one of you to support this effort. 🐟



President George W. Bush Signs an Executive Order establishing game fish status for striped bass and red drum. CCA's significant efforts led to this landmark victory for marine conservation.

FROM THE GUT



Where Did All the Salmon Go?

Gary Loomis
Chairman, CCA PNW

By now you might have heard that Alaska’s 2007 commercial salmon harvest was the fourth largest in the state’s history. About 212 million fish were harvested, and on some days the commercial fleet quickly exceeded processors’ capacity. In fact, during the peak of the season processors imposed delivery limits and occasional buying stoppages during one full week. Fishing guides up and down the Kenai and Nushigak rivers reported that it was the worst season ever for sport fishing. Days would go by without a single bite. Alaska, the final frontier of bountiful salmon fishing, was a bust.

For commercial fishermen, it was a banner year. Alaska’s statewide Sockeye harvest totaled just over 47 million fish, substantially higher than the preseason projection of 40 million, and the largest Alaska Sockeye catch in a decade. The Bristol Bay harvest of nearly 30 million fish was the largest in a decade and Sockeye catches for the rest of the state increased from 13 million in 2006 to 17 million in 2007.

While Sockeye and Pink salmon were harvested at record rates, other species had poor returns. The impact of commercial over-harvest is already reflected in the

Alaskan returns for Chinook, Coho and Chum. The 2007 Chinook catch was described as “disappointing” by local experts, with a 2007 Chinook harvest of 499,000 fish, compared to the projected 789,000 fish. The preliminary statewide Coho harvest total of 2.9 million fish was nearly 40 percent below preseason projections of 4.7 million fish. The 2007 Chum harvest of 15.5 million fish was also described as “disappointing” considering the 2007 projection for Chum was 24.7 million.

This year, a single question punctuated the fall salmon season, stretching from the Fraser River in Canada, to the Columbia River, the Puget Sound and the coastal rivers of Oregon and Washington: Where did all the salmon go?

Alaska reports the fourth largest commercial catch in the state’s history and the Pacific Northwest and Canada report one of the worst seasons in recent memory. It’s not coincidence – it’s cause and effect.



Overharvest has led to a decline in the Pacific Northwest’s salmon stocks.

Millions of fish that should be returning to our rivers and streams to spawn are being harvested in the ocean. We are allowing Alaska’s commercial fleet to harvest the majority of our salmon, and our fisheries are suffering for it. Our wild fish never get to return home to spawn, and the hatchery fish that we produce and pay for never return home for our own commercial and sport fishermen to harvest. We are subsidizing commercial fishing in another state, while our own fishing economy collapses. At this rate of commercial harvest, Alaska will collapse as well.

The events of the past few months underscore the dramatic need for immediate harvest reform. These circumstances also illustrate the complexity of this issue: the

multi-state domain of our salmon and the far-reaching domino effect of over-harvest. If we don’t take action today the resource will be gone in four or five years.

The most important thing we can do right now is to continue expanding CCA’s presence in the Pacific Northwest. We have quickly grown to more than 3,000 members in Oregon and Washington, an effective and persuasive number when it comes to legislators and policymakers. And, as the largest marine conservation organization in the country, CCA has the track record and the ability to wage a successful multi-state effort. However, the larger and louder our voice the better chance we have for success, and we need as many people as possible to join this cause. Please help us to spread the word about this very important effort and encourage people to join CCA before we run out of time. ☹

GUEST OPINION
Help CCA Grow in the Pacific Northwest

Roy Morris—Sekiu, WA
able@olypen.com | 360.963.2442

What about CCA (Coastal Conservation Association)? Aren’t they gearing up to “save fish in the Northwest”? As I speak with Gary Loomis, I feel his passion. I know his passion. It is like tens of thousands of us who want to save Northwest fish. Gary has chosen CCA to champion this effort. Things need to change and Gary is trying to bring on board as many CCA members in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) as it takes. Gary travels throughout the PNW offering seminars and signing up new members. Some of us are helping set up locations and groups for the seminars. Many of us have joined. And are.....doing what? Imagine if each of us could-on our own-sign up five new members! Check out the PNW CCA website, find seminar locations, and take friends.

P.S. As gifts, buy friends and family CCA memberships!

We welcome you to send your guest editorials to editor@ccapnw.org

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- LYNNE FLETCHER—CHAIR, BUDGET
- RICK ANDERSEN—CHAIR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
- JIM BAIN—CHAIR, CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT (ACTING)
- CLANCY HOLT—CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP
- GARY JOHNSON—CHAIR, NOMINATIONS
- GLEN JOHNSTON—CHAIR, FUNDRAISING
- JOSEPH MADRANO—CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS



Director’s Corner

CCA Announces First PNW Executive Director



Matthew Kayser

look forward to the success we will have in conserving and protecting marine life here in the Pacific Northwest. This opportunity was made possible through the winning efforts of several key members in gathering donations to create a “Regional Fund” enabling CCA to hire an executive director, secure an office and equipment, and fire up the administrative machine to support our conservation efforts.

Having been a fishing guide for salmon, steelhead and trout, and a salesman in the retail and wholesale sporting goods industries, I know what’s compelling our members to band together to fight for salmon, steelhead and other marine life. My experience in commercial real estate and financial analysis has honed my skills to handle the day-to-day operations of running an office. Most importantly, as a lifelong conservationist, my understanding of the dire situation that much of our marine life now faces solidifies my commitment to our cause.

It is that commitment that will allow us all to forge ourselves into a strong weapon for the protection of marine life. Being a local boy, I was surprised to hear the fact that I was selected from a national pool of over 675 applicants. I think that’s less a testament to the strengths and skills that I bring to the organization than it is as a testament to the faith that the leaders of CCA PNW have placed in me. I know that I am a newcomer to CCA, but I am already fully committed and working very hard every day for you, our members, and things are moving very fast.

We’ve established an office in downtown Vancouver, Washington and are fully operational right now. From this central office, we will provide support to all the chapters in Oregon and Washington. Feel free to stop in any time to say, “Hi.” I warn you though, don’t be surprised if I put you to work! Our main job is to make sure that your chapter officers and board of directors have the tools and the funds they need to be successful. We won’t be making policy, but we will be fully in support. We hope to become the hub around

Hi. My name is Matthew Kayser. I’ve recently been given the privilege of becoming the Executive Director of CCA for the Pacific Northwest (CCA PNW). I am excited to have this opportunity to serve CCA on a daily basis and

which the organization will rotate. From time to time, we’ll try being the engine too, but in reality, the engine is you. And so far, your engine is running very well. I’ll prove it!

It’s been less than a year since CCA was firmly established here in the Pacific Northwest with an initial membership of about 1,000 committed souls. Since then, Gary and Susan Loomis have been feverishly crisscrossing the region making their compelling presentations and gathering new members. Local chapter presidents have been bringing in new members and empowering new chapter officers. Banquet committee chairmen have been gathering up donations and volunteers. Member upon member has taken it upon themselves to grab their friends and family by the arm to lead them to CCA meetings and presentations. Most important of all: you have all taken it upon yourselves to grab a handful of membership applications and take them into your communities to encourage other like-minded individuals to “JOIN CCA.”

Thanks to all your efforts, our ranks have swollen to over 3,000 members! Thanks to your drive and enthusiasm, you’ve established more than 10 active chapters throughout Oregon and Washington. But now it’s time to kick it into overdrive. CCA PNW has a goal of being 50,000 members strong within a year. So, there is a still lot of work to be done. So keep handing out those membership applications at boat ramps, in stores, at church and at work. Keep talking to all your friends and family until they are members. Invite them to your next chapter meeting. Literally everyone you know will be glad to have a chance to JOIN CCA.

If you continue to bring in new members, if you regularly attend chapter meetings, if you get involved in your local chapter, your voice WILL be heard and it will make a difference. Don’t forget that in every region that CCA has become organized, we have made real changes. We’ve enabled our coastal waters to recover resulting in more fish, better fish, better fisheries management practices and better habitat. The list is long and getting longer.

Now YOU have a chance to be part of the success CCA will have here in the Pacific Northwest. Your growing CCA voice and our strong CCA grassroots organization will change the fate of our precious marine life here in the Pacific Northwest. I am thrilled to be part of it! I am thrilled to have the chance to make a difference. **Join with us. JOIN CCA. Make a difference.** ☹

Oregon Chapter News

Oregon Shows Membership and Chapter Growth

John Stec
Chair, Oregon Chapter Development

CCA Oregon members have a reason to feel good right now. Membership has grown at an astonishing compound rate of almost 60 percent monthly. We now have six fully organized local chapters: Willamette Falls, Tillamook, Columbia County, Tualatin Valley, Salem and Emerald Empire. Organizational efforts are well under way to form Portland Metro, Gresham and Hood River/Northeast Oregon Chapters. A Corvallis chapter will emerge after the first of the year and Southern Oregon members are beginning to prepare for a regional membership drive.

It's great to be off to a fast start and to have such tremendous initial growth. However, we must make sure that every member is fully aware that our huge potential will be fulfilled only if members are actively engaged in committee work at the state and local level.

The economist Pareto is famous for the law concluding, among other things, that 80 percent of the work gets done by 20 percent of the people. Let's apply that math to our chapters.

Say your chapter has 70 members. Then 20 percent of 70 yields 14 people to do the

work. This is about the size, including the four officers, of an average local Board. Now, let's say that local chapter business takes 1800 hours per year. That means Pareto's buddies will be putting in about 128 hours a year each – or about 2.5 hours per week.

So, what if we defy Pareto and get 80 percent member involvement instead? Now we have 56 members who will each need to put in 32 hours a year. That works out to less than three-fourths of an hour per week! Here is what you can accomplish in one month with this small amount of time:

- Call five other members to encourage them to attend a chapter meeting
- Attend two, hour-long committee meetings a month
- Visit one local merchant to ask for their donation and support for CCA Oregon
- Fold and stuff seventy-five mailings

It's really that simple. So here's what you can do. Contact your chapter president, or any local board member. Sign up for a committee. Commit whatever time you can spare. Honor your commitment. Then, watch as CCA Oregon really comes to life! 📢

CCA Oregon Adopts Mission Statement

The purpose of CCA Oregon is to advise and educate the public on the conservation and protection of our marine and freshwater resources.

The objective of CCA Oregon is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.

Thousands Read Loomis' CCA PNW Monthly Column in *The Reel News*

In the July 2007 issue of The Reel News (TRN), CCA PNW Chairman Gary Loomis was introduced to more than 33,000 monthly readers in the Pacific Northwest. Since then, Gary's monthly contribution has become one of the most popular and well-read columns in the newsletter's 23 years of publication.

"Gary's contribution to fisheries conservation over the years has made him an icon among Northwest anglers and now with his relentless work for CCA, I think we're about to see some positive changes in our poorly managed fisheries," said Jim Goerg, Publisher and Editor. He continued, "As a member of CCA, we look forward to working even closer with Gary and the CCA PNW staff. This is an exciting time!"

Gary's column is available monthly and TRN can be found at most major sporting goods retail outlets or by subscription at www.thereelnews.com. 📢

Read Gary Loomis' Monthly CCA article in

THE REEL NEWS

Subscribe at www.thereelnews.com

Washington Chapter News

Working Hard to Change the Trend

Matt Olson
President, CCA Washington

It is hard for me to believe that it has already been one year since I sat in front of Gary Loomis and he asked me to join CCA and help him save the Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead from becoming extinct. I, along with many others, have set aside our family duties, job responsibilities and hobbies in order to make a difference in our cause. We so firmly believe that this is our last chance to save a large number of our remaining runs that we will diligently continue the effort until we have results. I always add other fisheries to our salmon and steelhead discussions because I spent many hours fishing for sturgeon with my father on our great Columbia River.

Just this past month there was an article in *The Columbian* newspaper explaining that the Lower Columbia sturgeon are on a downward trend. I have no doubt why: "commercials" are soaking their nets almost all year long. In addition to their intended catches, they are also netting many "incidentals." I could go on and on but what we need in the Pacific Northwest is members (votes!). Our government Relations Committees, in both Oregon and Washington, are working together non-stop to understand the landscape and the issues that are important to you, our members. In the next month, our Government Relations Committees will be presenting to our State Boards the issues that need to be addressed.

I am so impressed and proud to be part of such a great organization as CCA. Please continue to support CCA and attend your local chapter meetings, get involved, and help to expand and maintain our membership. Better still, volunteer to be part of a committee and become even more active. With all of us working together toward a common goal, working in a positive direction, we will ultimately succeed in putting a stop to the unselective over-harvesting of our resources! 📢

Why is it Taking So Long?

Mads Ledet
President, CCA Oregon

One thing is abundantly clear to me - there is a lot of anger and frustration out there in the sports fishing community.

"When is CCA going to start doing something?" is a common refrain I often hear.

The fact is that we are busy organizing and working on possible policies. I can't discuss the policies as they are all tentative, but I can tell you about our organizing.

By the time you read this article we will have up to five more local chapters in Oregon. Portland Central and Gresham are the two most likely to ask for approval in December. Pendleton and Corvallis probably will be up and running in early January. Florence is the next candidate after that.

The enthusiasm level is rising faster every month as is our membership; November

was our fastest-growing month. I think this means our message resonates with conservationists and sport fishermen. More and more people are realizing that time is of the essence if we are going to save our precious salmon.

I attended a Columbia County Chapter meeting Tuesday, Dec. 11. It was an electrifying experience. Not only has this chapter already grown from about 45 members to 106 in a single month, but at that meeting 27 new members were signed up. The room was packed, everyone was excited and it was fun. People volunteered for committees and, near the end, a hat was passed. People were challenged to put their money where their mouth was, and over \$500 was collected. All in all, this just makes me love this work more and more.

Read some of the other articles in this newsletter to get a glimpse of what we are working on. Then hang on to your hat over the next few months.



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Contact your local CCA PNW Chapters and learn how to get involved with CCA!

Oregon Chapters

CCA OREGON HEADQUARTERS

Mads Ledet, President
PO Box 2248
Gresham OR 97030
877-255-8772

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Ed Rabinowe, President
503-366-3565
PO Box 246
Scappoose OR 97056

MEETING:

Last Thursday of each month, 7 pm
Warren Country Inn

EMERALD EMPIRE - EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

Mark Seghetti
541-744-2248

MEETING: TBA

Eagles Aeries Hall
1375 Irving Road
Eugene, OR

TILLAMOOK

Jack Smith, President
PO Box 628
Tillamook, OR 97141

MEETING:

January 18, 2008
Tillamook office of ODFW
4907 Third Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

SALEM

Brian Canini, President
503-856-9596

MEETING: TBA

Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library
585 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

TUALATIN VALLEY

Julie Claunch, President
503-848-6820
PO Box 230302
Tigard, OR 97281

MEETING:

3rd Monday of each odd month
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
20665 SW Blanton
Aloha, OR

WILLAMETTE FALLS

Rick Atwood, President
503-829-3611
PO Box 220226
Milwaukie, OR 97269

MEETING: TBA, January
Oregon City Elks

Washington Chapters

CCA WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS

Matt Olson, President
1006 W 11th St
Vancouver, WA 98660
877-255-8772
360-694-4300

Next State Board Meeting:

January 5, 9 am
Plenty Restaurant
200 W 4th Ave.
Olympia, WA 98501

SEATAC

Frank Eshpeter, President
seatac@ccapnw.org

MEETING:

3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 pm
Des Moines Masonic Hall
2208 S 223 St
Des Moines, WA 98198

BANQUET:

May 8, 2008

LEWIS COUNTY

Jeff Ashe, President
lewiscounty@ccapnw.org

MEETING:

1st Wednesday of the month, 7 pm
Power Sports Northwest
300 S Tower Avenue
Centralia, WA 98531
360-736-0166

BANQUET:

February 6, 2008
Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Centralia

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON (VANCOUVER)

Steve Koch, President
swwashington@ccapnw.org

MEETING:

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm
Camas Meadows Golf Club
4105 NW Camas Meadows Drive
360-833-2000 (for directions)

BANQUET:

June 3, 2008
5:30pm at Red Lion @ The Quay
Chairman, Glenn Johnston

SNO-KING

Rob Tobeck, President
snoking@ccapnw.org

MEETING:

4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm.
3 Rivers Marine, Woodinville

Fish Tales



CCA Washington board member Gary Johnson with a halibut from the Strait of Jaun de Fuca this spring. "You should have seen the one I lost...we never did! Great day. We also had three limits of prawns."

Gary is the Chairman for CCA's nominations committee. He is also on the board of the Puget Sound Anglers, Fidalgo Chapter, as the Chairman for Enhancement and Conservation.

A lifetime resident, he looks forward to giving back to the fisheries of the Pacific Northwest through CCA and PSA. His rallying cry is, "Get on the freight train and make a difference. Join CCA!"

Do you have a great fish story and photo to share? If so, we would love to share your "Fish Tale" with CCA PNW members. Please describe your catch in 200 words or less and include a high resolution digital color photo (.jpg or .tif file format). Remember to include your name and your chapter name. Stories might be edited for length. Please send stories and photos to editor@ccapnw.org.

COMMERCIAL FISHING FACT

The Bering Sea Aleutian Islands groundfish fleet catches huge numbers of Chinook and Chum salmon as bycatch. These dead salmon, many originating from Washington and Oregon waters, are discarded as waste. The Pollock fleet catches and destroys more and more of these valuable fish each year.

	Chinook	Chum
1990-2001 Avg.	37,819	69,332
2002	36,385	81,470
2003	54,911	197,091
2004	62,493	465,650

Source: NOAA <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/analyses/BSAIsalmonbycatch205disc.pdf>

Oregon Government Relations Committee News

Silence Will Not Protect Our Marine Resources

Stan Steele

Chair, Oregon Government Relations Committee

While driving to a recent fall Chinook trip, I read a bumper sticker that gave me pause for thought. The sticker simply stated, "Your Silence Won't Protect You!"

I thought of how most recreational anglers have remained free from the politics of managing the fish they so dearly love. The political system and the vast array of federal and state management agencies, commissions, panels and sub-panels designed to recover salmon and steelhead are complex and confusing. The salmon bureaucracy is a huge five-hundred pound gorilla, both daunting and intimidating to the average recreational angler. As a result, the voices of most anglers have been silent from the debate about how to sustain and improve our fisheries.

Today, our prized salmon and steelhead fisheries are on the brink of extinction. In the face of this crisis, an important question for us all to ask is whether management decisions are directed toward the long-term conservation and enhancement of the affected resource, and if these decisions are serving the greater public good. Consider the following example:

In the summer of 2007, 10,000 wild Oregon Coastal Natural Coho (OCN) were allocated to the Oregon commercial troll fleet by the Pacific Marine Fisheries Management Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Wildlife Commissioners.

Much work went into the recovery of these salmon. Citizens have invested millions of tax dollars in OCNs – also known as wild Coho – and anglers have volunteered thousands of hours to aid in the recovery of these fish. Recreational anglers voluntarily gave up fishing opportunities while pledging the need and desire for a speedy recovery.

These efforts were launched more than 10 years ago, when Oregon initiated a recovery process to bring back salmon to the state's coast, culture and economy. The effort included work by state and federal agencies, local watershed councils, county and city officials, conservation organi-

zations, industry representatives, the National Marine Fisheries Service and most importantly, recreational anglers.

The result was the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan), Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan, Pacific Coast Salmon Plan and its amendments to name a few recovery documents. Recreational conservationists put their faith into implementing all aspects of wild Coho recovery. From involvement in projects such as habitat enhancement, the purchase of Oregon salmon license plates and the releasing of all wild unclipped Coho, ordinary citizens and anglers alike became part of the conservation effort. It has been 13 years since anglers were last permitted to set a hook for wild Coho on coastal streams, bays or ports.

Through many sacrifices and contributions, the numbers of wild Coho returning to their natal rivers to spawn were improving. Fisheries biologists were optimistic that recovery efforts were beginning to reverse decades of decline caused by commercial over-harvest, habitat degradation and poor hatchery management. Yet that optimism was guarded since the productivity of salmon runs vary from river to river and fluctuate year to year. Coastal river and bay recreational fisheries could be designed to allow adequate spawners' escapement and continued recovery, yet ocean harvest methods could not distinguish between healthy Coos River and weak Columbia River components of wild Coho. In other words, years of efforts to recover OCNs could be quickly decimated by the lack of conservation in the ocean.

The improved stock status of OCNs was not overlooked by the commercial fishing lobby or their representatives on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's Salmon Advisory Sub-panel who crafted the 2007 ocean commercial season on wild Coho. Wildlife commissioners voted unanimously to endorse the commercial harvest of 10,000 mixed-

stock OCNs as crafted by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in their spring 2007 meetings.

What the Oregon Wildlife Commissioners failed to recognize, the Governor's Natural Resources Office overlooked and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council ignored was a significant fact: Commercial ocean harvest of wild Coho would negatively impact conservation of listed Columbia River wild Coho and domains with weak components of OCNs. Managers became complacent in applying the standards of recovery developed by the numerous recovery plans taxpayers spent millions of dollars developing.

Oregon's salmon conservation efforts were derailed by a fisheries management system that weighs heavily toward commercial interests rather than managing the resource for the greater public good. To reverse this trend, we need to make everyone understand that depressed stocks will recover most efficiently by implementing selective harvest management.

The commercial over-harvest of wild Oregon Coho is one of many policy decisions made in the last 100 years that has led us down the road toward the extinction of Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead. Anglers and average citizens were often silent or unknowing when these decisions were being formulated and adopted. Through CCA, we have an opportunity to be heard and to reverse the course toward extinction. I hope that you will lend your voice and your efforts to this critically important cause. ☹



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Untangling the Myths About Selective Gillnetting

Ed Wickersham
Washington Government Relations Member

In the most recent edition of CCA's magazine, TIDE, is an excellent editorial titled, "Beware the Buffet." If you haven't already read it, make an extra effort to do so. That editorial does an excellent job of summarizing the management philosophy of our fish and wildlife agencies that have brought our salmon and steelhead to the brink of extinction.

In summary, what the editor is saying is that you must make a commitment to manage fish stocks on the basis of the best available science. CCA made that commitment when it began the long hard fight to recover various fish stocks that had been destroyed by harvest exploitation in the Gulf of Mexico and along the East Coast of the United States.

information to fit a predetermined model and ignores the information that doesn't fit. Proper resource management just doesn't work that way.

On a related note, just as there is certainly room for improvement in our local management philosophies, there is also a need to shed some light on the myth that gillnets are selective. In my years on the job as a fish and wildlife enforcement officer, I removed thousands of dead salmon, steelhead and sturgeon from gillnets. Some of our management agencies would like to have us believe that mesh size is the key to controlling what you catch. In other words, little mesh gets everything and big mesh lets smaller fish through.

The reality is that many fish, maybe the majority, simply get tangled in the mesh. Fish are bridled by getting mesh in their mouths, spinning and struggling and

Another aspect of how gillnets capture fish is the way they hang in the water. A gillnet has a float or "cork" line at the top and a lead line at the bottom. Generally, a gillnet used in a river will not have webbing



This fish suffered substantial infection from damage caused by the gillnet that ensnared his teeth. A struggling fish twisting in the webbing causes the gillnet to tighten up like a tourniquet.

as deep as one fished in the ocean. What I am describing is a basic floating gillnet. There are also "divers" that sink to the bottom. What most people don't understand about gillnets is that the web does not lay in a straight line and straight up and down. Instead, a gillnet when fishing best would remind you of an expensive window drapery. It lays in the water in a serpentine fashion under the cork line. The net then becomes what I call a three-dimensional threat to fish because as they swim into



the net, they are engulfed in mesh. If a fish is lucky enough to avoid the mesh in front, they encounter more mesh when they turn.

Continued on page 9

There is some relationship between mesh size and how effective it will be on certain sized fish, but it is certainly not selective. Gillnets commonly kill birds, marine mammals and all kinds of fish that are not lawfully supposed to be taken. That's why they should be called killnets.

I have heard commercial fishers minimize concerns over the potential for the incidental kill of steelhead by claiming that they are using "big mesh and they just swim right through." To get a better grasp on the realities of gillnets, it is necessary to understand exactly how gillnet mesh sizes are measured.

Gillnet is manufactured by knotting lines together at a predetermined distance and creating a mesh or web. To measure gillnet mesh size, you take those two knots on opposite corners of a mesh or square and you pull them in opposite directions until the box has become two parallel lines. The

distance from one knot to the other on opposite corners is the size of the mesh. When someone says they are fishing "big, 9-inch mesh," what you have is a mesh that is 4.5 inches in length on each side. That is essentially the largest mesh the commercial netters use for salmon fisheries on the Columbia River.

Now for those of us who have fished those waters, the question becomes how large a fish can get through a 4.5-inch mesh square? Draw a square that is 4.5 inches on each side on a piece of paper and then contemplate the salmon and steelhead you have handled in your life. Ask yourself how many could swim through that unscathed. The answer is obvious: Not many.

This is just one of the many myths that recreational anglers have to overcome to get to the root of the problem and save our fish. CCA is here in the Pacific Northwest to help expose and correct fallacies like these.

Ed Wickersham grew up in Clark County and attended Battle Ground High School. He served his country honorably in the U.S. Air Force and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Washington University. During his 30-year career, he worked as a Wildlife Agent for the Washington State Game Department in Bellingham, Washington; as a Foreign Fisheries Agent for National Marine Fisheries Service in Kodiak, Alaska; and as a Special Agent for United States Fish and Wildlife Service stationed in both Oregon and Washington, retiring in 2002. A substantial portion of his career was spent monitoring and enforcing state and federal laws as they apply to commercial fisheries in the Northwest and Alaska. He is a 20-year member and past president of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers. He and his wife Susan reside in Ridgefield, WA and have twin sons: Jeff is a Wildlife Officer stationed in Raymond, WA, with the Marine Division and Tim is a Captain in the Army flying "dustoff" on his third tour in Iraq. ☺



16 to 18 pound wild winter steelhead photographed at the Kalama River hatchery. This fish escaped from a gillnet in February, a time when steelhead are caught in "large mesh" sturgeon nets. Note the net marks on his side and the damage done to his dorsal fin.

The author makes the point that when you commit to management based on best available science, then you may have to sacrifice. It may be that you may have to give up some of your favorite activities in the short term to achieve your goals in the long term. What will not work are the methods practiced so far by our federal and state agencies that tend to pick and choose the

ultimately becoming wrapped in the mesh. Remember, gillnet webbing is extremely fine and it tangles on everything: fins, teeth, tails, gill plates, scutes, your clothing etc. Sturgeon, because of their sharp scutes, are especially susceptible to tangling in gillnets.



Summer 2007—Commercial gillnets choke the Duwamish River in Washington, just outside of downtown Seattle.

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CCA will have booths at O'Laughlin's Oregon and Washington Sportsmen's Shows and Boat Show. Please stop by to visit and learn more about your organization. Or, contact matt.kayser@ccapnw.org to volunteer your time at one of the shows. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING SHOWS

Portland Boat Show

January 5 - 13, 2008
Portland Expo Center
Motion Marine Booth

Washington Sportsmen's Show

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Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show

February 6 - 10, 2008
Portland Expo Center
Fish First Booth

Evergreen Sportsmen's Show

February 21 - 24, 2008
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Monroe, Washington

Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show

February 28 - March 2, 2008
Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center
Redmond, Oregon

CCA Pacific Northwest Opens Office

In less than one year, CCA Pacific Northwest has established a solid presence in the Pacific Northwest and raised enough funds to hire an executive director and to open an office. The CCA office is located in Vancouver, Washington.



Jack Smith and Gary Loomis Honored By Outdoor Life Magazine

Outdoor Life magazine named Jack Smith, President of the Tillamook, Oregon chapter and Gary Loomis, CCA PNW Chairman, as two of the publication's "Outdoor Life 25."

The magazine launched Outdoor Life 25, a new awards program to recognize the people changing the face of hunting and fishing, in its December/January 2008 issue. The issue hit newsstands in November and profiles the 25 leaders, innovators, conservationists and unsung heroes who have had a major, positive impact on outdoor sports.

The 25 honorees are grouped into four categories: leaders, who by their individual efforts and sheer strength of will have had a strong impact on the hunting and fishing scene; innovators, whose product breakthroughs make time spent in the outdoors more productive and enjoyable; conservationists, who work to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the outdoors; and unsung heroes, who in quiet but important ways are doing things great for the outdoor sports.

Jack Smith was recognized as an unsung hero for his quiet and diligent efforts over the years raising thousands of dollars and spending countless days working to improve salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest.

Gary Loomis was recognized as a leader for his innovative contributions to the sport fishing industry through G. Loomis, Inc., and for his commitment to the conservation of Pacific Northwest fisheries through his work with Fish First and CCA.

Outdoor Life will spotlight all of the honorees at a special reception held during the 2008 SHOT Show in Las Vegas. During the event, the publication will also single out the one person from the list of 25 whom readers believe to be most deserving of the Readers' Choice Award.




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