

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A PUBLICATION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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CCA Forms Portland Metro Chapter

John Zell

President, Portland Metro Chapter

The Portland Metro Chapter started with just three members stepping up to get the ball rolling in October 2007. By the end of the year a core group was in place and the chapter was approved by the Oregon state board in January 2008, making it the 6th chapter for Oregon.

Many of the chapter's members volunteered at the Portland Boat Show and the Sportsman's Show, and the first general membership meeting took place March 5th at Rose City Park United Methodist Church in northeast Portland. Chapter meetings take place the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.

Currently, membership stands at just over 100 members, but the potential for the area is high and PMC's leadership has vowed to give neighboring chapters a run for their money in terms of membership growth and fund raising. 

A New Era In Conservation

David Cummins

President, Coastal Conservation Association

The 30-year history of Coastal Conservation Association is dotted with memorable conservation victories followed by surges in membership and expansion. Whenever a game fish law or a net ban passes in one part of the country, anglers in another part take notice and immediately want to make the same things happen in their own waters.

What happens behind the scenes in building towards those defining moments is what CCA is all about, and it is that unique model that has allowed CCA to expand from a single state in 1977 to almost 100,000 members in 17 states and a presence on all three coasts in 2008.

Right now is another exciting time in the history of Coastal Conservation Association and one of the key reasons is the explosive growth of the CCA Oregon and Washington chapters. In almost two decades of work for CCA, I have never seen the rapid membership growth, chapter development and grassroots fundraising that have erupted in the Pacific Northwest over the past 12 months.


It was just in March of 2007 that the CCA National Board of Directors voted to approve the creation of CCA Washington and Oregon. As we approach the one-year anniversary of this latest expansion, I want to share with you my excitement over your exceptional organizational efforts so far.

With more than 4,000 members, multiple chapters with pending banquets, two growing state boards, an active regional Government Relations Committee, strong state officers,

a new Executive Director and so many other early accomplishments, it is easy to get excited. I have to believe this is the fastest start of any state in the history of CCA. Clearly the future is very bright for CCA and the marine resources of the Pacific Northwest.

Beyond the mere numbers, which are impressive enough all by themselves, the most inspiring aspect to the rocket launch of CCA in the Pacific Northwest is the passion of the Washington and Oregon members. In every trip I have made to the region, I never fail to be impressed by the look in every member's eyes. I have to imagine it is the same look that was in the eyes of the original 14 members who came together in a small tackle shop in Texas to stop the decline of redfish and launched GCCA. That same zeal to make a difference in the conservation of our resources is recognizable from Maine to Texas to Washington. It is an unmistakable sign that the fire is burning bright in the Pacific Northwest.

The road to fisheries conservation success is a long one and CCA in the Pacific Northwest is very effectively laying the groundwork to capture the next memorable conservation victory. Building the foundation is the longest, and most important, phase to any construction job and it is critical that a conservation group have the tenacity and longevity to achieve lasting conservation.

Through 30-plus years of activity, CCA has been fortunate to achieve much in the Gulf, Atlantic and even in global fisheries, and I know that this tradition in conservation will continue. But as I look to the future, it is exciting to imagine what will be accomplished in the Pacific Northwest and the tradition in conservation that your efforts will create. 



FROM THE GUT



Progress Means You

Gary Loomis
Chairman, CCA PNW

The year 2008 has gotten off to a great start for the Pacific Northwest chapters of CCA. We have more than 4,000 members and new chapters continue to form in both Oregon and

Washington, with calls coming in each week from people who are interested in starting a chapter in their area.

CCA had booths at the recent sportsman shows and boat shows in both Oregon and Washington, and hundreds of new members signed up at these events, while current members stopped by to express their support. We developed a host of materials for these events, including flyers, rack brochures, posters and other items that communicate our message.

Many CCA volunteers throughout Oregon and Washington showed up for the allocation hearings in each state, making our presence known to committee members. Our Oregon and Washington government relations committees are developing relationships with elected officials and policy makers, and CCA national gave us the green light to form a regional government relations committee. This group will create a structure for common issues that impact both Oregon and Washington and develop CCA positions on regional issues. You will hear more about the regional government relations committee in our next newsletter.


Our executive director, Matt Kayser, has been traveling the I-5 corridor connecting with our chapters and helping to get our first round of banquets off to a rousing start. I've been making that same drive – traveling from Yakima to Pendleton – to talk to people about CCA and how we can be the catalyst for harvest reform.

All of this activity – and the enthusiastic response that we are receiving – means that our message is being heard, and that our mission could not come at a better time. It also means that the process is working, thanks in large part to each one of you.

CCA is a grass roots organization, and each one of our members literally provides the roots – the strength – behind our actions. By volunteering for shifts at the recent sportsman shows and boat shows you helped to educate and raise awareness of the crisis we face, and what CCA can do to resolve it. Showing up at the allocation hearings – and some of you testified – raised our profile and extended our message. Signing up new members, distributing flyers, helping with a banquet committee, attending a banquet and raising funds strengthens our organization each day.

Let me put this progress into context for you. We are CCA's fastest growing region. It typically takes new chapters two years to hire an executive director and grow to the size that we are today. We have done this in less than a year, and these results are due to you.

I've said several times that I can't do this alone, and because of your efforts and your dedication I never feel alone – even when I'm driving across the state at midnight on the way back from a CCA meeting. If I could personally thank each one of you I would, and I hope I get to do that one day. We are making tremendous progress and there is more to come. This is going to be an amazing year, and I'm glad that I have all of you beside me as we make this important journey. Get ready for a really great ride, because together we are going to make a very big difference. ☺



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CCA PNW
LEADERSHIP

OREGON

- Gary Loomis–Chairman
- John Stec–President (acting)
- Jim Bowen–Vice Chairman
- Stan Steele–Vice President
- Lynn Buerer–Treasurer (acting)
- Geana Tyler–Secretary
- John Stec–Acting Chair, Management
- Ivy B. Schlegel–Chair, Budget
- Stan Steele–Chair, Government Relations
- John Stec–Chair, Chapter Development
- Herb Good–Chair, Membership
- Vacant–Chair, Nominations
- Angela Hult, Bryan Edwards–
Co-chairs, Communications

WASHINGTON

- Gary Loomis–Chairman
- Matt Olson–President
- Jim Maxwell–Vice Chairman
- Glen Johnston & Bryan Irwin–
Vice Presidents
- Lynne Fletcher–Treasurer
- Carolyn Sork–Secretary
- Matt Olson–Chair, Management
- 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
Thank You For Your Testimony



Matthew Kayser
Executive Director – Pacific Northwest

On Friday, February 8, I had the chance–no, the honor–to witness the valuable testimony provided by many of our members during the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Commission Salmon Allocation Hearings. The passion and eloquence of our members and other like-minded individuals as they testified has ratified my sense of purpose. It has given me a heightened sense of confidence. Now, more than ever, I know that we will be successful in our mission. We will win the coming battles to save our imperiled marine resources.

There were so many members who testified, it is impossible for me to single anyone out, so I must simply thank you all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! But make no mistake:

Now is not the time to sit back and congratulate ourselves on a job well done. Now is the time when we as CCA members must become galvanized to act.

Our resources will not be saved by our words alone. Together, we need to focus on the road ahead, draw upon our collective resources, and put our fund-raising efforts into high gear. Over the next few months, each CCA chapter will hold its very first fund-raising banquet. This is where we all have the chance to put our collective monies where our mouths are. Without the funds we desperately need, there will be no war chest for us to dip into to hire effective regional lobbyists. Without that war chest, we will have no money to defend our victories in court.

So, I urge each of you to act now. Attend your local chapter's fund-raising banquet. Help on the organizing committees. Put your money where your mouth is! Your commitment to your cause will guarantee the success of CCA's mission here in the Northwest. I know you all will make a difference, and I personally thank each one of you. ☺

Regional Office Welcomes New Staff

A big welcome to Jennifer Reed!
After an extensive search for an administrative assistant to support our efforts in the Pacific Northwest, we have hired an outstanding person – Jennifer Reed.

Jennifer is a Vancouver, Washington resident who brings many years of experience in business administration, executive support and office management to our organization. Most importantly, Jennifer has fully embraced our mission and has been involved with

her community, serving as a volunteer and organizer for conservation and civic efforts.

Jennifer started working in our Vancouver office in late January. She hit the ground running. On her first day, she received 33 cases of literature, had several unexpected guests drop in, and spent several hours supporting our Chairman, Gary Loomis, and his wife, Susan, in the coordination of membership activities. She will play a key role in helping us to move forward, and I encourage you to join me in extending a warm welcome to her. Welcome aboard, Jennifer! ☺

Welcome Mary Jane!
Mary Jane Olson is Washington Chapter President Matt Olson's mother. Recently retired from a career in office management, she is spending several days a week in our Vancouver office helping Jennifer with some day-to-day tasks and also helping set up the many systems necessary to run the office. THANKS MARY JANE! ☺



Volunteer Mary Jane Olson (Left) and Office Manager Jennifer Reed (Right) take a moment to pose for the camera. Say "Cheese!"

Oregon Chapter News

CCA PNW Members Look Ahead to Banquets

John Stec
Chair – Chapter Development & Membership Committee, CCA Oregon

In the last newsletter I spoke of the need for active membership participation in CCA local chapter events. Anyone who attended the recent Portland Boat Show, or the Portland Sportsmen's Show, got a "living lesson" in how volunteerism works to serve CCA.

At each show, CCA members flocked from local chapters to staff display tables, hang CCA banners, and meet and greet the general public. Members drove up from Salem, over from Tillamook, and around from all points in between. Members crossed the river from Washington to meet and greet with fellow Oregonian members. Our Executive Director, Matt Kayser, spent Wednesday morning pushing a shopping cart up and down the Sportsmen's Show

aisles, handing out CCA posters to anyone willing to display one. As a result, the famous red "meatball" was evident all over the show.

In the end a total of nearly 250 volunteer-hours were put into these two events. That's the equivalent of an entire month of eight-hour days! As a result of this enthusiastic effort, we added 320 new members to our ranks, and we're still counting. This shows just how important these public events are to our overall goals for organization growth.

I keep finding myself truly humbled by the dedication shown by our members. If I can make one more request, it would be for everyone to find just one more member from your chapter and get them involved in other aspects of CCA. Our banquet season is upon us and each chapter needs help in gathering donations for their own banquet. Donations need not be "fish" specific. A load

of topsoil, a hand-made quilt, an hour of free tax advice – all of these make good auction items in addition to the traditional outdoor-related contributions. Think beyond the big retailers. Don't overlook local business people who may be delighted to help CCA achieve its goals.

And finally, don't forget that as our local chapters get stronger and become better organized, we still have youth programs to invent, outreach efforts to organize in support of those who enforce the rules and regulations that govern our waterways, meetings and "fun" events to plan. In short, more membership is better only if we put all of that energy to work.

Thank you, everyone, on behalf of all CCA members in Oregon and Washington, for the good work done over the past several weeks. 🍷

Washington Chapter News

CCA's Success Powered by Volunteers

Matt Olson
Washington President

What a difference a year makes! It has been nearly 12 months since CCA expanded into the Pacific Northwest and thanks to all of you we have made a tremendous amount of progress. We continue to add members throughout Oregon and Washington at a brisk pace, making us the fastest-growing region within CCA.

Here's what that looks like: We have six chapters in Washington, with five more scheduled to be added this year. In Oregon, CCA has nine chapters with plans to add another six over the next few months. On the organizational side, we are moving deliberately and quickly to develop a strong infrastructure that will yield a successful, sustainable organization. All of our committees, which are completely volunteer-driven, deserve a hearty thank you from us for their tireless efforts.

At times, those efforts need to take a back seat to personal and professional

commitments, which take priority over our volunteer activities. Over the past few months we have had several very talented people step in, make an important contribution at the board or committee level, and then step aside as a result of other commitments. We have been fortunate to reap the benefit of their time and expertise, and we are equally lucky to have many capable and dedicated volunteers who have been able to step in and ensure that CCA continues to move forward.

With all of these chapters, there are plenty of opportunities for you to become involved in CCA. Remember, we are a grassroots organization, and each and every volunteer counts. Banquet season is approaching fast, and it's one of the key ways that we raise funds for the important advocacy work that will help us to achieve harvest reform. Please get involved with your local chapter's banquet and attend one or more events this year. Your participation plays a big part in CCA's overall success in this region, and every dollar raised brings us that much closer to achieving our goals.

For information about upcoming banquets, please visit our web site at ccapnw.com.

I can't tell you how excited I am to be a part of this organization and to work with such a dedicated group of people. As a Washington native, I have spent my life fishing the waterways of the Pacific Northwest, and I have met many people who are passionate about the issue of harvest reform. Thanks to CCA, we now have the horsepower to harness that passion and to drive results.

Each day I am energized by the progress that we make, the dedication of those I meet and the opportunities we have at hand. I am proud to serve CCA and all of you as a volunteer, and I will work tirelessly to save our fisheries. I invite you to join me in changing the course of history by getting involved in your local chapter and signing up as many new members as you can. Soon, we will all celebrate the results of our efforts.

GUEST OPINION – Regaining Power In The Salmon Wars

Jim Bain
Washington CCA Member

POWER

There was a time in my life when circumstances took my power away. Many of my employees have also had curveballs thrown at them that took their personal power away. It doesn't happen suddenly, but rather over a period of time; one's power erodes like the bank of a river. Nobody really notices when it's happening, but suddenly one day one realizes he has become powerless. If this has happened to you, you know you didn't mean for it to. You certainly didn't plan on it. And you really have no idea how to turn it around.

The fish of the Pacific Northwest have lost their "power." They don't know how it happened. They certainly didn't plan on it. And they are amazingly flexible in their survival attempts to keep it together. But they are losing. And in the process, we as humans are losing. I can only imagine what life would be like if salmon and steelhead disappear. I can only imagine my

grandson, expected to be born about the time this newsletter is published, coming to me when he is in high school and writing a report on salmon – a "museum piece" report written with no actual physical experience. We can all share the blame because we allowed some entity to take our power away. I say "No!" to that future. Not on my watch!

WINDS OF CHANGE

I remember reading an excerpt from Barry Goldwater, talking about how when he was a boy, they could "walk across the backs of the salmon in the Yakima River." Huh?? I have only seen a handful of salmon there. I grew up with stories of my own father's family pitch forking salmon out of the creeks that flow into the Chehalis River. Those creeks' salmon runs are now just barely hanging on. I refuse to let the past dictate the future! And I urge you to step alongside and make a difference. It will cost you some time. It will cost you some energy. And it will cost you some money. But it will allow you to regain some of your power.

REGAINING OUR POWER

I have been in these "salmon wars" for over 20 years and never have I been so excited, optimistic, and energized. I can feel my power returning. And it's because I understand how the CCA model works. It makes sense and produces results. We need money and members to make real changes.

One thing that we know well in the Pacific Northwest is how to build a fishing club with grand stated purposes and plans. You probably know people who insist knowing what CCA's detailed plans are before risking \$25 to join. I felt the same way a year ago. But then I realized, "If we always do what we've always done, we'll always get what we've always gotten."

Let's regain our power. Let's do it for the fish. Let's do it for our kids and grandkids. And, let's do it for ourselves. Let's regain our power. 🍷

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

Contact Your Local CCA Chapters and Get Involved!

Oregon Chapters

CCA OREGON HEADQUARTERS

PO Box 2248
Gresham OR 97030

877-255-8772

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Ed Rabinowe, President

503-366-3565

erabinowe@juno.com

PO Box 246

Scappoose OR 97056

Meeting:

Second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm

The Village Inn

535 South Hwy., St. Helens, OR 97051

503-397-1490

Banquet: May 31, 2008

EMERALD EMPIRE - EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

Mark Seghetti

541-206-7694

thesteelheader@comcast.net

Meeting:

Thursday, March 13

Eagles Aeries Hall

1375 Irving Road

Eugene, OR

Banquet: April 26, 2008

HIGH DESERT - BEND

Gil Muhleman

541-419-7778

New Chapter: TBA

MOUNT HOOD - GRESHAM

Dan Christopher

503.880.4543

qualityfishing@comcast.net

Meeting:

Second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm

Flying Pie Pizza in Gresham

Banquet: June 11, 2008

NORTHEAST - PENDLETON

Scott Paul

(541)276-1951

goose_klr@hotmail.com

New Chapter: TBA

PORTLAND METRO

John Zell, President

503-282-9347 (after 7:00pm)

jzell@zephyr.net

MEETING:

First Wednesday of each Month - 7pm

Rose City Park United Methodist Church

5830 NE Alameda (58th & Sandy)

Portland, OR

TILLAMOOK

Jack Smith, President

(503)842-6313

asgs@oregoncoast.com

PO Box 628

Tillamook, OR 97141

Meeting: TBA

SALEM

Brian Canini, President

503-856-9596

bbc0798@comcast.net

Meeting: TBA

Parrish Middle School Library

"D" St at Capitol St NE

Salem, OR

BANQUET: May 31, 2008

TUALATIN VALLEY

Julie Claunch, President

503-848-6820

julie@cascadefiberarts.com

PO Box 230302

Tigard, OR 97281

Meeting:

3rd Monday of each month

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

20665 SW Blanton

Aloha, OR

Banquet: May 16, 2008

WILLAMETTE FALLS

Rick Atwood, President

503-829-3611

watershedboats@molalla.net

PO Box 220226

Milwaukie, OR 97269

Meeting: TBA

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

TRI-CITIES

Stan Brogdon, President

SBrogdon@semgrouplp.com

MEETING:

2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

Battelle Auditorium, Richland

BANQUET: Thursday, May 29th

Thank You... to all of the
volunteers who made CCA's presence
at the recent sportsman shows and
boat shows a great success!

**Read Gary Loomis'
Monthly CCA article in**

THE REEL NEWS.

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Oregon Government Relations Committee News

Letter to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Chair Rae and Commission Members:

I am Stan Steele, Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Coastal Conservation Association – Oregon state chapter. I am humbled by and appreciate the opportunity to represent the more than 4,000 Northwest citizens who have demonstrated their unwavering desire for conservation and recovery of our wild and native fish by joining the Coastal Conservation Association.

As a native Oregonian and fisherman, I recognize the complex biological, social and political challenges that you face when deciding the future management of our fish and wildlife resources.

Your decisions directly and indirectly affect species viability and have daily influences on the quality of life of the citizens you have been appointed to represent.

Oregonians have most often been the reasoned voice when seeking regional, national and international conservation of our natural resources. Salmon and their environment are at the very core of our Pacific Northwest heritage.

Salmon are our icon! You as commissioners are the voice of salmon and for salmon. Oregonians have given you that voice, we have entrusted you with the responsibility of ensuring enhanced wild salmon survival by minimizing the controllable risks.

Commissioners, you have accepted the responsibility to design and implement the difficult changes, changes that will ensure recovery of our listed stocks of salmon and steelhead! These fish need your most cautious and scientifically-based considerations when formulating policies and adopting administrative rule changes that will likely influence their survival as distinct population units.

Change is an emotional and difficult task. The scientific data is clear. If we don't change current salmon and steelhead harvest management practices, extinction of many Endangered Species Act listed stocks may well be imminent.

All Coastal Conservation Association members and I loathe the thought that these incredible fish were allowed to go extinct because individually we failed to become involved in an incredibly complex, confusing and bureaucratic process. We have pledged that we will not allow another wild salmon or steelhead stock to be added to the extinction list, not on our watch.


I have had personal contact with literally tens of thousands of outdoor recreationalists in my 25 year career as an Oregon State Police Fish and Game trooper and after my retirement I have continued to advocate for

responsible, conservation based fish and wildlife management through my participation in the Coastal Conservation Association, American Fisheries Society and as a member of the Alsea Watershed Enhancement Board.

The single most often repeated message from our constituents demand that the conservation needs of our marine and freshwater fisheries be considered first and foremost.

The scientific data is quite definitive on what harvest methods are selective and have the lowest percentage of mortality associated with their use when managing a mixed stock fishery. The fallacy of the current Columbia Basin recovery plan is the belief that we can allocate our way to recovery of protected stocks by allowing continued freshwater commercial harvest utilizing non-selective devices with extremely unreasonable release mortality in the mainstem Columbia River!

We believe only those harvest methods with the least amount of associated risk to the recovery of listed stocks of salmon and steelhead should be considered as selective harvest tools when designing any harvest regime for the Columbia Basin.

I again thank you for this opportunity to share the thoughts and concerns of thousands of Oregon salmon conservationists. 

Editor's note: The following letter was recently sent to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from Stan Steele, Chair of Oregon's Government Relations Committee.



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Washington Government Relations Committee News

Columbia River Gillnet Practices – Tales Of Enforcement

I enjoyed reading Ed Wickersham's article in the last issue of The Ripple Effect. I had the pleasure of working with Ed and his USFWS crew on numerous occasions throughout my 20-year career on the Columbia River with the Oregon State Patrol. I started on the Columbia in 1973 when a vacancy was created in Portland. No one especially cared for the river work so I jumped at it. I won't go into the gory details of learning the Columbia River at night with little experience, but the near misses now seem like distant memories.

The early 1970s was still a time of gillnet pirates on the lower river. They usually had faster boats than we and used them to their advantage. More often than not, we came across a gillnet, then heard a motor fire up and race off into the darkness. As we fine-tuned our operations, we learned to use the lights less and go slower, creeping along the shadows of the riverbank and using the lights of the towns to backlight the bad guys.

One spring night, another officer and I were creeping up the Oregon shore along Sauvie Island and we nearly ran into a set net hanging off the wing dam near Marshall Beach. We backed off and managed to hide our 23-foot patrol boat in the shadows on the beach and we waited. About 3 a.m. we heard a motor boat approaching from upriver. It went directly to the red light on the end of the wing dike and the poachers began pulling the net as we watched with night vision scopes. I fired up the patrol boat and as cautiously as possible, motored toward the netters. They never saw us until we bumped up against their boat and lit them up with 500,000 candlepower spotlights. Trooper Brown took their picture with a Polaroid and greeted them with, "Top of the mornin' to you boys. State Police!" We took their gear, 17 spring Chinook, and left them on shore with \$1500 tickets. A Portland judge found them guilty, fined them \$250 apiece, and returned their boat!

Another time during the spring Chinook season, I woke up with the strange feeling that

something was going down. I pulled on my uniform, kissed my wife goodbye, and headed down to Mayger. I drove into the upper fish station, which was a hub of activity at the time, and people started running. I jumped out and ran onto the dock just as one of the workers tossed some oversize sturgeon chunks into the river. Four people escaped into the brush and I detained the manager and an assistant. The dock was littered with under-sized and oversized sturgeon carcasses in various stages of butchering. One gillnet boat approached the dock, and as I looked down, I could see an oversized sturgeon in the stern of the boat. It was bent in a U shape from gunnel to gunnel well over 10 feet long. I told the captain to tie up and he replied, "(expletive deleted) you" and throttled off into the main river. Shortly, I saw a big splash as he returned the dead fish to the depths. Over 3500 pounds of illegal sturgeon were seized. An Astoria judge found the manager and his assistant guilty and gave them each a whopping \$250 fine! Bet they didn't buy illegal sturgeon again!

Nearly every night during the spring Chinook run we would drag the area around Mayger with grappling hooks and find at least one diver gillnet. These were always attached to the fish stations or one of the gillnetters' boathouses. The owners, turning their dogs out in the mornings, would usually find one of us hiding in the brush. Of course, they always denied any knowledge of the nets or who set them. One gillnetter started yelling at us while we were pulling an illegal net off the station. We asked him if it was his net, and if not, to be quiet.

During those years, we put an enormous amount of enforcement pressure on the river and its places of business. Custom canneries were targeted and cited, often for possession of gillnet-caught steelhead. Popular hotels were found in possession of undocumented spring Chinook. One custom cannery left the business after going to court numerous



Working to protect sportfish, like this chinook, requires hard work and dedication.

times and losing every case. They appealed one case on the grounds we were harassing them. The court ruled in favor of the State with the presiding judge stating, "If you choose to enter a pervasively regulated business, then you can only expect to be pervasively regulated." We were beginning to win!

There were also some light moments. One night, a net was found just below Celilo. We had just received a new Alumaweld sled with a 200 horsepower Mercury on the back. Several USFWS agents were there and we got word from shore that the perpetrators were on their way across the river. We could hear them but could not see them. So, when they pulled the net and started back, we blasted out of our hiding place at 5,000 RPM. The netters had a 14-foot boat with a 5 horsepower motor. After nearly running over them, we slowed to a crawl. They refused to stop, so Elliot reached out and grabbed their transom and hung on. Elliot, by the way, was a body builder. Needless to say, their boat was stopped by the long arm of the law!

Gillnet Practices continued from p8...

There is nothing that leads me to believe that illegal activity does not still occur. Nighttime gillnetting with little enforcement pressure is rife with opportunity. I asked this question of one of the biologists: "If you ran a large business where employees had access to thousands of dollars in cash, would you rely on a simple ticket filled out by one employee to document how much cash he had received?" Even at the state lottery, where tickets are handled every day, two or three people must document winning entries. Cash moved in casinos is attended by guards, several employees, and video surveillance. Yet we allow thousands of dollars' worth of fish to be harvested in the dead of night and require no more than a simple fish ticket filled out at the time of transfer. Often, these tickets are then verified with a phone call! And the gillnetters resent onboard observers!

I've witnessed illegal fish being taken ashore to waiting vehicles, tossed onto the decks of passing tugboats, sold to dockworkers for a few bucks at the Longview docks, and taken home to be grilled for dinner, sold to neighbors or given to friends. British Columbia studies of tangle net gear and all its specialized requirements emphasized that there had to be maximum enforcement to ensure regulations were followed by the operators. Rules are only as good as the enforcement. Without enforcement, regulations are useless and will often be broken.

There are a thousand stories of lawlessness on the Columbia River. Maybe someday, someone will write a book. In the meantime, officers from both states are spread too thin and work too hard. We owe it to them to make their job as easy as we can. Convenience for the fisherman should not translate into increased effort for the Fishery Officer. This is a public resource and needs to be managed as such. The outdated practice of gillnetting the Columbia at night has to stop.

Joe Schwab

OSP Fish and Wildlife Sergeant (ret.)
CCA Columbia County Chapter - Vice President and Government Relations Committee member

Fish Tales



I consider myself a very lucky man! Not only did I move from Seattle to Portland in time for some decent salmon and steelhead returns, but I stumbled upon a fishery on the Sandy River that spring and summer that was downright fantastic.

The friends I made that year (and a few more over the next couple) are still my best friends. The bonds made over those evenings fishing together remain strong. We were all newlyweds and over the years fishing together we've shared in our joys and frustrations of becoming fathers and having less and less time to fish!

On the occasions a few or all of us can get together over the years, it's more like a men's group therapy session than a fishing trip. In spite of that, we have caught lots of amazing fish, too! I'd love to have a recording of a typical evening's conversations.... Well, maybe I wouldn't! We do have lots of pictures, though.

Two of those friends are Bryan Edwards and Jon Bial. Thanks to them, I have seen and heard CCA coming to our area go from an idea, to recruitment and to the formation of CCA PNW! I appreciate the work that they and others have done. I am lucky to have them as friends and have an opportunity to get involved.

I don't like hearing or talking about 'the good old days' of PNW fishing. I'm sure you don't either. I am convinced that with the CCA PNW, working in cooperation with ALL pro-sport fishing and conservation groups, we will be living in them instead! ☺

Ed Fast is a Salmon and Steelhead guide, specializing in the Sandy River, near Portland and a board member of CCA Oregon's Mount Hood chapter and a member of the Sandy Chapter of the ANWS.

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.



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2008 North of Falcon Public Meeting Schedule - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year state, federal and tribal fishery managers gather to plan the Northwest's recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This series of public meetings, known as the North of Falcon process, involves federal, state, tribal and industry representatives and concerned citizens.

March 4
2008 Salmon Forecasts and Fishing Opportunities:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, General Administration Building Auditorium, 11th Avenue and Columbia Street on the Capitol Campus, Olympia

WDFW presents Puget Sound, coastal Washington and Columbia River salmon abundance forecasts. Fishery management objectives and preliminary fishing opportunities for 2008 are discussed.

March 5
Grays Harbor Fisheries Discussion:

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Montesano City Hall, 112 N. Main Street, Montesano

Public discussion of 2008 Grays Harbor salmon forecasts and fishing opportunities.

March 6
Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion:

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Raymond Elks Lodge, 326 Third Street, Raymond

Public discussion of 2008 Willapa Bay salmon forecasts and fishing opportunities.

March 9-14
Pacific Fishery Management Council:

Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA

The PFMC adopts a range of ocean fishery options, including catch quotas for sport and commercial fisheries.

March 12
Puget Sound Commercial Fisheries Discussion:

10:00 am - 12:00 noon, WDFW Mill Creek Office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek

Public discussion of management objectives and preliminary options for Puget Sound commercial fisheries.

March 12
Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Discussion:

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, WDFW Mill Creek Office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek

Public discussion of management objectives and preliminary options for Puget Sound marine and freshwater sport fisheries.

March 17
Columbia River Fisheries Discussion:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA

Public discussion of management objectives and preliminary options for Columbia River fall commercial and sport fisheries.

March 18
First North of Falcon Meeting:

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, General Administration Building Auditorium, 11th Avenue and Columbia Street on the Capitol Campus, Olympia

Discussion of management objectives and preliminary fishery proposals for Puget Sound, coastal Washington and Columbia River area sport and commercial fisheries.

March 28
Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay Fisheries Meeting:

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Avenue, Lacey

Public meeting to reach final agreement on 2008 sport and commercial salmon seasons for Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay.

March 31
Pacific Fishery Management Council public hearing:

7:00 p.m., Chateau Westport, 710 Hancock Street, Westport

Public hearing to receive comments on proposed ocean salmon fishery management options adopted by the council.

April 1
Second North of Falcon Meeting:

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Embassy Suites Hotel, 20610 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood

Public meeting to present results of state-tribal negotiations and analyses of preliminary fishery proposals. With public participation, preferred options are developed for Puget Sound and Columbia River area sport and commercial fisheries.

April 6-11
Final Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting:

Seattle Marriot Hotel, 3201 S. 176th Street, SeaTac

PFMC adopts final ocean fisheries regulations and state-tribal fishing plans are finalized for all inside area commercial and sport salmon fisheries.

Thank You Gary Loomis

Guest Editorial
Frank Eshpeter, President Washington State CCA SEA-TAC Chapter and South King County PSA

One Year Ago February 14th 2007, Gary Loomis was the main attraction at the South King County Puget Sound Anglers meeting in DesMoines Washington.

The packed room was riveted to Gary's great presentation. He opened by telling us about Fish First and what can be done with some hard work. Fish First's research and experience could only help us with the recovery and enhancement of our native salmon and steelhead runs. Gary's message that anyone can complain about what is or is not being done rang true with all of us. He made it clear that what needs to be done is to pull together and look for real solutions, not just more problems.

Then things got real exciting as Gary introduced the room to the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). If you haven't been paying attention to all the buzz since Gary began his roadshow with our chapter last year I'll fill you in on what he said. CCA is a non-profit organization comprised of, then, only 15 coastal state chapters (now 17 with WA and OR) spanning the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic seaboard (and now, of course, the PNW). CCA's strength is drawn from the tens of thousands of recreational anglers who make up its membership. From South Texas to the upper reaches of Maine, now to the PNW, CCA's grassroots influence is felt through state capitals, U.S. Congress and, most importantly, in the conservation and restoration of our marine resources

Gary was working with CCA to start a Pacific Northwest chapter that would give recreational fishermen the representation and big guns we have so long needed. For so many years, we have been working against each other while trying to get the same things accomplished. We usually failed, complaining about what should be done and by whom rather than actually taking action.

CCA told Gary, if he could recruit 1000 new PNW members by the end of March, they would take his campaign seriously and consider starting up in the PNW. I'm proud to say that at our South King County meeting one year ago, we had a large number of folks join, jump starting Gary's effort. It didn't take him long to gather more and he took over 1200 new memberships to CCA's National Board meeting the next month.

One year has passed since that fateful meeting. Gary has spoken at many PSA meetings and anywhere else he can find an interested audience. CCA is growing rapidly and is here to stay. There are now 14 chapters in Washington and Oregon with more in the works. They've hired a permanent Regional Executive Director and an office assistant. Soon, they'll hire a top-tier biologist and a lobbyist.

Every day, I hear or read something new and exciting about CCA. The word is out: CCA is open for business and it is truly amazing what can be done when someone has the passion to make a difference.


Thank You Gary Loomis, for your passion and your commitment! Now is the time for US to make a difference. ☺

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