

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**President’s Message Redux**

*I wrote this in August in an attempt to counteract the lack of enthusiasm for selling Raffle Tickets.*

*Of our 200+ members about 25% have bought \$20 or more, which leaves 75% who are expecting someone else to do their part. Well guess what, someone else didn’t show-up. Please send the Chapter \$20, or bring \$20 to the 1/7 meeting.*

It is that dreaded time of year when we launch the Association Raffle Ticket Campaign and try to make salesmen out of each and every one of you, a role you should find easy given our reputation and good work we do every year. Most of you reluctantly take some tickets (the minimum amount), toss them on your desk or dresser and forget about them until we call for them to be returned. The net result is a few ticket sold, except for Art who sells a boat load of tickets.

This year we are taking a different approach at the Sandy Chapter. We aren’t going to ask you to sell a single ticket. If you want to sell tickets we will give you as many as you can sell. What we are asking each of you to become is a buyer. Not the buyer of \$100 worth or even \$50 in Tickets. We simply want you to buy \$20 worth of either 25 Trip Tickets or 5 Boat Tickets. \$20 and you don’t have to feel embarrassed that they

are still on your dresser, you’ll have more room on your desk and we won’t ask you again.

Throughout this issue of the newsletter are some items you can get for \$20 (approximately). Find 11 and receive a door prize ticket.

**The Numbers:**

There are 3,500 Boat Tickets, if you have 5 your odds are 1 in 700

There are 20,000 Trip Tickets, if you have 25 your odds are 1 in 800

There are 1,600 Steelheaders, if every Steelheader bought \$20 worth of Tickets, we would be sold out.

There are 220 Sandy Chapter Members, if you all buy \$20 worth, we’ll raise \$4,400 and beat Art

If you do your part (buy \$20 in Tickets) we’ll beat Art.

- Buy your tickets at the membership meeting
- Send a check payable to ANWS with your phone # to Doug Briggs, 1493 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060

Doug Briggs

**President’s Message**

The Sandy River Chapter began a new program in September where we are approved by the state court to provide opportunities where select people are allowed to perform Community Service thru Steelheaders. Thoroughly vetted with the court administrator by Larry Palmer & Doug

Briggs the program provides an opportunity for Community Service to be performed at Steelheader Events. Future applicants will make a written request and be interviewed for Board approval.

The initial participant is a nice young man named Robert Crayton, with a DUI and the need for 100 hours of Community Service. He has performed about 50% of his hours on worthwhile Steelheader projects. We will provide other opportunities to Robert. When asked if we could mention his name, he said to ‘use my name because Steelheaders have changed my life for the better’. Robert Wisner records the hours, completes the surprisingly small amount of paperwork and makes him aware of other opportunities. The court was pleased with the lack of alcohol at our events, the outdoors environment & large amount of volunteer effort.

We were approached by legal council for another individual who may be required to perform a large amount of Community Service. Larry Palmer was quick to point out that we are going to be very selective in providing opportunities and that we are not condoning the illegal activity. We are simply providing a wholesome environment for completing court mandated Community Service.

Doug Briggs



## To Sandy River Steelheaders and Board:

On behalf of our speakers and audience Wednesday night, let me extend a well deserved congratulations and thank you to those dedicated and selfless volunteers who leant a hand in organizing and executing our activity. Parking cars in bitter cold, offloading and reloading a trailer full of chairs at 10:00pm, meeting microphone vendors midday at the building, and the many other important assignments required for this event were joyfully given by our members. I hesitate to name names because, candidly, I didn't recognize a few of the people exerting great assistance. Many, of course, were those same special people we see helping at every Chapter event. Thanks again. You did yourselves and your Chapter proud.

Kind regards,  
Brad Halverson  
503-201-6052  
orcabrad@comcast.net



“We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.” —  
Winston Churchill

## Recent donations to the Sandy River Chapter

Many of you are familiar with Art Israelson. To say that he's generous with his time and knowledge is an understatement. Art is currently cleaning out his garage, and found a treasure trove of rods and reels he used to use for fishing classes he conducted. He called me and offered to donate them to the chapter for our use in fishing classes.

I looked over the donated outfits. A couple of them were brand new, which I sat aside for use as door prizes in a big upcoming membership effort. The others were all serviceable and will go into our collection for later use. Even at the discounted 50% of value I assigned, they were worth several hundred dollars! We'll use them to keep up the good work Art.

One of the new rods is a fiberglass 8 ft fly rod. I'd guess it to be a 6-7 wt. Does anyone have a serviceable fly reel and line to pair it with?

One of the other new rods is a sweet looking yellow fiberglass ultra light spin rod from a custom rod maker. It needs a small spinning reel to pair with it. Check out those boxes full of gear in the garage, members and we'll set it up too.

Thanks Art for this generous donation!

By the way, if you want to help Art in moving around some items as he cleans out his garage he can be reached at 503-666-2599

Thanks, Larry Palmer



Did you know that you can see our “News” in 2 different places on our website? Yes... when you first get to the website the “Home Page” is displayed. In the middle of the page the latest “News” article is presented followed by the “Recent Events” portion of the calendar. You can also view all the news articles (current and past) by clicking on the “News” tab and choose “Recent” or “Archive”. Recent will show a list of news articles from the past year. “Archive” will show all them older than the current year. Click on the article you wish to see and you will be taken to the full news article. You can always return to the Home Page by clicking on the Home Page tab.

John Hydorn

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5:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday 'til Noon  
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## Sandy River Chapter Fishing Clinics

We needed to move the clinic date from Feb. 7 to Feb. 14th because many of our volunteers are involved in a big Sportsfishing show that weekend. The clinic will be held in the same location as before, Sam Cox Bldg. in Glenn Otto Park, Troutdale. clinic is from 9 AM- 3 PM, on Feb. 14th.

Please contact Mike Myrick at "MICHAEL C MYRICK"  
<mcmifishandivote@msn.com> if you wish to volunteer for the Boat Show and the Sportsmen's Show

Please contact Larry Palmer at palmerlarryd@yahoo.com if you wish to volunteer for the Feb. 14 clinic. There is no charge to chapter volunteers for the Feb. 14th clinic if they volunteer thru Larry and do some work at the clinic. Setup time is 8 AM that day.

Description for the Feb. 14 class is below

Spring Chinook are highly prized for their power, beauty and excellent table qualities. Typical size ranges from a low of about 10 lbs. to up to 30 lbs.

Many spring Chinook return to Portland area streams. They can be caught from shore, or by boat fishing methods. This clinic will cover some methods for both, as well as selection of the right size rod and reel, knots, bait preparation, and hook sharpening.

Specific techniques covered will include-

- Plunking
- Anchor fishing with Kwikfish/Flatfish
  - Trolling and rigging herring
  - Trolling spinners

Class is presented by members of the Sandy River Chapter of the NW Steelheaders. A one year introductory membership is included as part of the class fee.

The Sandy River Chapter will prepare a complimentary hotdog picnic-style lunch for all class members.

Come and learn how to catch one of these big shiny beauties!

Thanks

Larry Palmer

[http://www.odfwcalendar.com/?tribe\\_events=adult-spring-chinook-fishing-workshop](http://www.odfwcalendar.com/?tribe_events=adult-spring-chinook-fishing-workshop)  
The ODFW website shown lists the fishing clinic on February 14th as FULL.



### 2015 JANUARY

- 7 Membership Meeting-- Pie Social  
Guest Speaker Larry McClintock  
Customizing spinner blades and  
Sledge Hammers
- 7-11 Portland Boat Show
- 14 Board Meeting
- 21-25 Washington Sportsmen's show  
Puyallup, Washington

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Membership Meeting  
Guest Speaker Bob Rees – ANWS  
Executive Director  
Winter Steelhead  
Rags – How to make &  
use them

- 4-8 NW Sportsmen's Show
- 11 Board Meeting
- 14 Springer fishing clinic see  
ODFW link below

### MARCH

- 4 Membership Meeting
  - 11 Board Meeting
- ### APRIL
- 1 Membership Meeting
  - 8 Board Meeting
  - 11 Salmon Quest -- sign up today

### MAY

- 6 Membership Meeting --Dinner/  
Auction
- 9 Fishing Clinic Summer Steel-  
head
- Contact Larry Palmer  
503-286-2093
- 13 Board Meeting
- 30 Sandy River Classic -- Sign  
up today

### JUNE

- 3 Membership Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

### JULY - AUGUST

No Membership Meeting



## Chapter Board Members

### President

Doug Briggs  
(503) 729-2023  
fish4doug@aol.com

### Senior Vice President

Scott Bowling  
(503) 253-6606  
fishwackers@gmail.com

### Vice President

Steve Rothenbucher  
(503) 257-0039  
srothenbucher@clear.net

### Secretary

Colonel Thomas  
(503) 666-5035  
cl357thomas@gmail.com

### Treasurer

John Hydorn  
(503) 255-0600  
johnhydorn@gmail.com

## Membership Meetings

### When:

First Wednesday of the month  
7:00 P.M. Sharp

***No meetings in  
July and August***

### Where

Sam Cox Building,  
Glenn Otto Park  
1102 E Columbia River Highway  
Troutdale, OR



## Committee Heads

### Special Events

Jeff Stoeger  
(503) 704-7920  
mjstoeger@msn.com

### Stream Projects

Robert Wisher  
(503) 780-8212  
rjwisherstix@gmail.com

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### Website, Design

Kerin Laurence  
(503) 643-3168  
kerindimeler@comcast.net

### Website Development

Victor Laurence  
(503) 998-3365  
victor@victorlaurence.com

## Chapter Directors

### Auctions

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(503) 653-4176  
officemanager@anws.com

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mcmifishandivote@msn.com

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### Newsletter Publisher

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### River Clean Up

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ras8529@frontier.com

### Sales

Brad Halverson  
(503) 201-6052  
orcabrad@comcast.net

### Special Projects

Larry Palmer  
(503) 286-2093  
palmerlarryd@yahoo.com



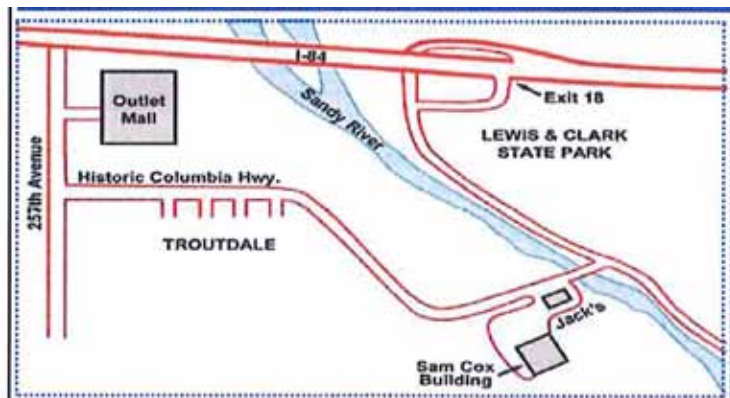
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Mark Anderson



**Our Members are our greatest asset to the Chapter.  
We welcome visitors to join the Sandy River Chapter,  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders.**



### **Sandy River Chapter Fishing Clinics**

**2/7/2015**

**5/9/2015**

**Contact**  
**Larry Palmer**  
**503-286-2093**  
**palmerlarryd@yahoo.com**

### **Need Help With Women's Fishing Clinic**

Our chapter has recently done three very successful fishing clinics in concert with ODFW and we are looking to have one with a special focus on women anglers.

I am willing to help plan and organize this event, but I want the involvement of the women anglers in our chapter in planning and conducting this event.

I'd say we will plan on the women's clinic happening after the new year, probably in the spring, giving us plenty of time to set its theme, find instructors and make a good plan.

Please contact me with your ideas on this subject and we'll get started. Best contact for me is by email.

Thanks  
Larry Palmer  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Sandy River Chapter  
503-286-2093 cell 503-7939225  
Email palmerlarryd@yahoo.com

Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.



### **Just a Reminder Turn in Your Volunteer Hours**



**HALF-TIME**  
**\$63,589.00**

Fiscal year for the chapter begins 1 July and ends 30 June. Here we are well into December; I believe we can consider with this in mind, we are at Half-Time and counting. With this also in mind it is not too soon to report any hours you may be sand-bagging.

During this time we have spent improving fish habitat in the rivers, picking up after those who can't, providing instructors and support personnel for fishing clinics, fish-a longs, getting our members certified as instructors for O.D.F.W. PROJECTS. The many hours spent on fund raising projects selling raffle tickets, collecting items for Auctions & Raffles, feeding smolts, fish tanks & eggs to schools, time spent publishing this newsletter; amongst many other things, the hair I've lost

in my efforts to collect and record these hours.

\$63,589 dollars represents the value of your VOLUNTEER HOURS, calculated at \$21.36 per hour that the O.D.F.W. will receive on your reported hours from the Federal Government. Through your effort the O.D.F.W. will be able to continue Stream Enhancement programs, Hatchery operations, etc, etc... We are now over 200 members strong, Ripley's Believe it or Not; would like this stat, these hours have been submitted from 10% of our membership. What if another 10% stepped forward during the next half, what kind of hours could we have to offer to benefit our passion?

PLEASE VOLUNTEER:  
JANUARY PORTLAND BOAT SHOW, FEBRUARY PORTLAND SPORTSMENS SHOW, SPRINGERS FISHING CLINIC, MARCH WOMENS FISHING CLINIC... ALL OF THESE WILL BENEFIT OUR CAUSE!

**Thank you,**  
**Robert Wisher**  
**503-780-8212**



# New Study Ups Sea Lion Toll

By  
Terry Sheely



Sea lions could be eating almost half the spring chinook that migrate into the lower Columbia River.

A new and more accurate federal study on spring chinook kills by sea lions and seals in the Lower Big C is offering convincing evidence that the toll on spring chinook is much worse than originally thought.

This study recorded the number of salmon that disappeared between Astoria River Mile 28 and Bonneville Dam at RM 146. In the past, kill estimates were based only on observations at Bonneville and were well short of the latest findings.

Lead researcher Dr. Michelle Wargo-Rub of the Seattle-based Northwest Fisheries Science Center is now reporting that predation on springers may be as high as 40 percent of the run! Preliminary research by NOAA Fisheries is showing steady increases in salmon mortality over the last five-years that appears attributable to seals and sea lions,

In a report to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council she revealed, "The average spring chinook salmon survival in 2014 at Bonneville Dam was just 55 percent, down from 69 percent in 2013 and 82 percent in 2012."

That translates to a pinniped predation factor of between 30 and 45 percent of the run, she said, adding, "NOAA Fisheries shows a steady increase in fish mortality over a five-year period that may be attributable to seals and sea lions." Those new figures are the result of a capture-tag-release project where arriving springers were implanted with transponder tags near Astoria and recounted at Bonneville Dam. A third or more of those tagged salmon disappeared somewhere in the 100 miles of river.

The new kill estimates are staggering and almost three times worse than what officials had thought. Past estimates of sea lion kills was based on visual reports from observers at Bonneville Dam, but the tagging project reveals growing evidence that much of the predation is taking place in the Astoria region when the fish funnel into the river. ODFW is now reporting that the number of sea lions documented at Astoria area haul-out sites has rocketed from 72 in 2011 to 616 this year. Even worse: In 2010 the number of pinnipeds spread out in the river from Fort Stevens to Bonneville was as high as 7,000, including 3,000 California and Steller

sea lions and 4,000 harbor seals. The seals are a resident species but sea lions are seasonal.

But just to survive those predators need to eat from 22,000 to 57,000 springers, according to marine biologists.

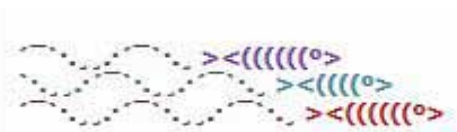
Even more troubling, in the four years since that pinniped count the number of predators is believed to have increased significantly, especially in the estuary.

"Even I have a hard time believing those numbers," Dr. Wargo-Rub told the NPCC. But she added, through 2013, estimates of fish mortality do appear to be accurate.

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Terry Sheely is the writer for the Columbia River Region of the Reel News and keeps readers informed of the events pertaining to this region.



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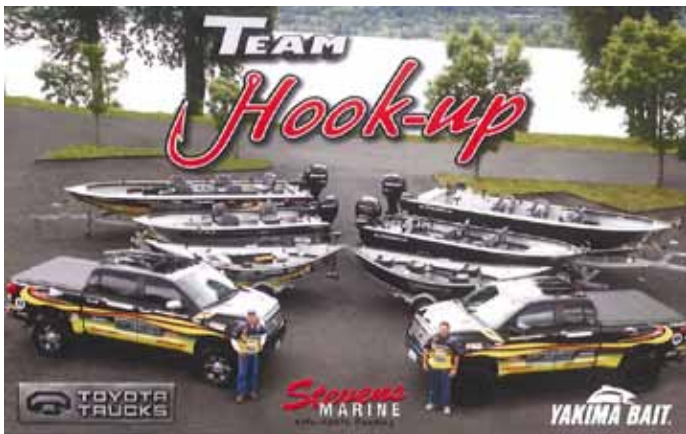
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### Fishing Schedule

December, January, February, March.....Winter Steelhead - Sturgeon - Walleye  
 March, April, May, June, July.....Spring & Summer Salmon - Steelhead - Sturgeon - Walleye  
 August, September, October, November.....Fall Salmon - Steelhead - Walleye



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Is this considered to be Ice Fishing?

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile # \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Angler 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile # \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Angler 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile # \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Team name \_\_\_\_\_

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You can also register by calling 503-653-4176 or online at  
[www.nwsteelheaders.org/events/SHOT](http://www.nwsteelheaders.org/events/SHOT)



## **“DamNation: ” A Documentary And Its Implications for Sport Fishing in the Northwest**

By  
Brad Halverson  
December, 2014

As sports anglers in Oregon, many (if not most) of our favorite watersheds are impacted by dams. Over 80,000 dams of 3' or greater currently exist in the US. Of that number about 2,540 produce hydro-power. Each is a barrier to wild fish reaching their historic spawning habitat. But, the period of dam building (1930's – 1970's) is past, and there is evidence we are entering the era of dam removal. The recent elimination of Marmot Dam on the Sandy; and the Gold Hill, Savage Rapids and Gold Ray dams on the Rogue River; as well as dam removal on the Elwha River in Washington state testify to this movement. This op/ed does not advocate the removal of all dams. But, we should be supporting

that conversation where economic, environmental, and cultural and safety costs outweigh the benefits of maintaining or retrofitting aging dams; keeping our focus on restoring habitat and river flows for fish and wildlife

Recently, the Save Our Wild Salmon coalition hosted a Portland screening of the award winning documentary, “DamNation,” inspired by biologist Matt Stoecker and funded by Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard. The coalition's motive is to augment grass roots momentum to remove the four Lower Snake River dams: Ice Harbor Dam; Lower Monumental Dam; Little Goose Dam and Lower Granite Dam. For those of us who enjoy sport fishing on the Columbia River, it seems prudent to support the removal of these four barriers to natural spawning.

It is appropriate for those of us in fish conservation associations to consider putting our brand and energy behind the goal of removing these four dams. The immense amount of high quality spawning habitat blocked by these structures represents a significant opportunity toward restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia/Snake basins. Records show that up to 30 million wild salmon and steelhead once returned to the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Today, a return of less than 10% of that total gives us cause for elation and shouts of “epic” returns; and those returns of course are now aided in large part by hatchery stock.

Evidence of the federal government's inability to restore or even protect endangered populations of Columbia River salmon and steelhead over the past 20 years, even though expending over \$9 billion of public treasure, compels us to look to stakeholders themselves as the source of long term solutions. As sports anglers on the Columbia River, we are indeed stakeholders. During that span, three consecutive federal salmon plans have been deemed illegal in federal court. Judge James Redden invalidated these plans, but

now that he is retired, this recourse remains a wild card.

The four dams in question were completed in the 1970's to provide a slackwater navigation corridor; and a relatively minor block of power (about 5% of the total generated in the region), easily restored through conservation and alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and geothermal. In addition, they were not designed for flood control; and only one, Ice Harbor Dam, provides irrigation (to 13 farms), which could be drawn from a free flowing Snake River. Instead of sacrificing salmon for 148 miles of subsidized barge commerce, rail and truck alternatives offer efficient solutions and lower overall costs to exporters. According to the pamphlet: “Wild Salmon, Extinction or Restoration”, “The Columbia-Snake Basin is the most-dammed watershed on earth, with more than 200 large dams. Removing four costly and aging dams will restore salmon, create jobs, save money, and establish a clean energy blueprint for the future.”

We often hear that dams provide clean, green, renewable energy. But, another way to look at it is that hydropower dams are to water quality and those species dependent on clean water as coal fired power plants are to air quality and those species dependent on clean air.

The combined effects of long, slow moving reservoirs (which disorient the fish and make them easier prey) and deadly turbines (upgraded at enormous cost, and even then not a complete remedy to turbine mortality) kill approximately 5% of out migrating juveniles at each dam. Most stock in this basin must survive 4-8 dams on their trip to the ocean. So, for those facing all eight barriers, a mortality of 30+% from hydro alone is in their future. To mitigate this, the federal government implemented fish barging 20 years ago (as an experiment) that has subsequently morphed into their catch-all solution for protecting young salmon from the lethal effects of dam passage. Scientists state that breaching these four dams



provides the best biological option to restore these runs by:

1. Removing the outmigration mortality threat of the turbines;
2. Improving river habitat by increasing water temperatures and flow rates;
3. Mitigate predation threats to juveniles by speeding them on their way to the ocean (a journey that used to take two weeks now takes up to three months); and,
4. Eliminating the stress caused by removing these fish from the river and barging them around the dams. Computer models show with 80-99% certainty, that Snake River runs can be fully restored within 24 years of breaching these four dams. On the other hand, barging does nothing to impede the decline of fish runs, let alone restore them. 2% adult returns are needed to prevent extinction. 6% adult returns would assure recovery. Presently, 0.25% adult returns occur when barged as juveniles; and 0.36% occurs when they are left in the river to migrate over or through the dams. Both substantially below the extinction threshold.

#### ECONOMIC ANALYSIS:

Breaching has costs, of course. But, even using purely economic metrics, partial removal of these four dams (the dirt banks of the dams) makes sense. BPA spends over \$200 million per year on salmon recovery efforts that reveal a legacy of futility. That number comes closer to \$400

million per year when you account for forgone revenue due to spill. One-time removal costs are estimated at \$500-\$800 million. Replacing the foregone electricity generated by the dams is valued at \$150-\$300 million annually. And, a cost estimate of \$45 million to replace the barge traffic and irrigation. Against these costs are the above \$200-\$400 million annually in spill and mitigation savings; savings of \$34 million annually in maintenance and operations; and an upcoming \$420 million expense to service the turbines at these dams. In addition, sediment is adding substantially to the ongoing costs of operation of these four dams. And, managing dredging output has environmental consequences of its own.

But, the biggest economic benefit comes from sport and commercial fishermen that would be restored as the salmon/steelhead runs are restored. Past NSIA studies have demonstrated that anglers spend over \$600 million per year in the northwest. When hotel, motel, restaurant, and gas receipts are added, that total becomes an eye popping \$3 billion (that's with a B) per year.

A utility bill increase of \$1-5 per month per regional rate payer is anticipated to accommodate the removal of these four dams. A modest number that numerous polls show northwesterners are more than willing to pay to restore salmon runs.

But, ultimately, this should not

be an economic decision. We should not save salmon because economists tell us it is cost effective. Nor should we allow them to go extinct because they tell us it isn't. The reason to save salmon is because it's the right thing to do.

It is encouraging to witness the undeniable momentum behind river restoration beginning to take hold nationwide. It's not so much a movement as it is a generational shift in values from maximum natural resource extraction to sustainability and the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the health and life of our rivers.



"Earth and sky,  
woods and fields,  
lakes and rivers,  
the mountain and the sea,  
are excellent schoolmasters,  
and teach some of us more  
than we can ever learn from  
books."

Sir John Lubbock

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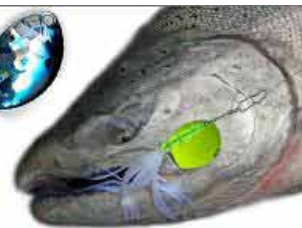
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Please do not forget to turn in your volunteer hours. It is important that these hours are recorded.

You can turn in the volunteer hours form at the monthly meeting to Robert Wisher or by e-mail: [rjwisherstix@gmail.com](mailto:rjwisherstix@gmail.com)

### Sandy River Chapter Volunteer Hour Report

Name:

Event:					Date:			Hours:	
Event:					Date:			Hours:	
Event:					Date:			Hours:	

Remember to include your travel time to and from the event. If you have any questions about your how to report your hours, contact the event coordinator. Turn this form in at the monthly meeting or by e-mail to Robert Wisher ([rjwisherstix@gmail.com](mailto:rjwisherstix@gmail.com)).

# **Hatchery & Wild Fish in the Clackamas Basin**

## **“Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc”**

By

Brad Halverson,  
Co-Resource Director  
Association of NW Steelheaders

On December 15, 2014 many from the sport fishing community were invited to partake in a research workshop in Estacada. Bob Rees, Ian Ferguson and myself attended on behalf of NW Steelheaders. Jack Glass, Forest Foxworthy and Jack Smith represented fishing guides. Bill Monroe from The Oregonian and Nick Amato from STS represented the publishing world. Two local fish biologists from ODFW and many other prominent individuals from the sport side of fishing in Oregon completed the approximately 30+ audience of invitees.

Readers, the project described by fellow fish biologists, Ian Courter from his private company Mount Hood Environmental, and Garth Wyatt from PGE, has the potential to change the entire conversation regarding the impact of hatchery stock on wild salmon and steelhead. Up to this point, the science, while mixed and contradictory, has come down heavily on the side of the negative genetic (reproductive capability) and spatial (competition) influence on wild strains by their hatchery counterparts, but this work has been largely void of proof that removing hatchery stock from basins actually rebuilds wild populations.

Carmen MacDonald, present last night, and a few others, our own Trey Carskadon among them, have initiated this different conversation. But, that's all it has been to date, a conversation. We may soon have a scientific study to support our contention that removing hatchery stock from basins

that have the capacity to carry both does nothing to restore wild runs. We have some empirical evidence already by looking at basins such as the Nisqually River in Washington state and our own Clackamas and Willamette Rivers. But, up to now, no hard science.

Courter and Wyatt began the discussion with background information on the parallel declines of hatchery plants (using data from Washington state rather than Oregon, but with the caveat they perform similarly) and paid angler licenses over the period 1990-present. We know there are many other variables such as license costs, discretionary income, Xbox, etc. that have had an influence in the overall decline in anglers. But, you cannot discount the effect a reduction in “catching” has had on the overall angling experience, and consequently numbers of anglers as well.

Hatchery impacts were defined as either (1) Genetic, commonly described as reproductive success; (2) Ecological, commonly referred to as competition for food and shelter; and increased predation due to providing an increased food source for predators; and (3) Facility, described as degraded water quality and fish passage due to the hatchery physical plant itself.

Next, they discussed changes to hatchery production since 2000. These reduced productions have been triggered by (1) Rising operating costs and shrinking budgets; (2) ESA listings, which then led to (3) Legal pressures and wild fish advocacy.

Those in the conversation on behalf of sport consumptive anglers have argued that policy (hatchery production) should not be influenced solely by science. And, indeed the ODFW mandate by law is to provide a consumptive fishing opportunity while being careful not to harm wild runs in the process. That is a value. So, values and resources also

inform policy, and historically value has trumped science when it comes to policy. However, ESA listings in the early 2000's were a game changer, by prioritizing science over all other policy influencers for hatchery policy decisions. Because the federal government has a mandate to protect all ESA listed species, “even if a hatchery program is sustaining a fishery and is supported by a local community, if that program is thought to be a threat to ESA-listed fish, the program may be targeted for reduction or elimination as a necessary element in the recovery process.” Certainly, wild fish advocates have used this concern as the thrust of most recent hatchery related litigation.

Those of you readers who happened to take any kind of prelaw or business law courses will remember the term: post hoc ergo propter hoc. It's a Latin term meaning “after this, therefore because of this.” A metaphor might be that the rooster crowed immediately prior to sunrise, therefore the rooster causes the sun to rise. It's a logical fallacy that since event Y followed event X, then event Y was caused by event X. It's a tempting error because chronological sequence looks to be integral to causality. This is the reasoning used by the Kathryn Kostow (ODFW biologist at the time) paper, which was highly influential in shutting down Clackamas River hatchery summer steelhead production in 2003.

By observing population data from the Clackamas basin, this research tracked valleys in wild winter steelhead returns to peaks of hatchery summer steelhead releases between 1973 and 1999. And, because one followed the other, post hoc ergo propter hoc, she placed the total causality on the competition from hatchery fish (since there was zero mixed spawning between species) for food and shelter. Early research conducted by Ian Courter and Garth Wyatt show simi-



lar peaks and valleys in other local watersheds during the same period. They will study for common effects between watersheds to assign causality to the right source or sources, such as meteorological conditions and ocean survival.

The Kostow study tracked productivity only (number of offspring produced from adult pairs) and ignored abundance. However, since 1999, the Clackamas River has been a wild river sanctuary, with no interference either genetically or spatially from hatchery stock. And, the returning adult numbers are revealing, and the thrust of this recent research: Pre hatchery North Fork winter steelhead adults were 1987. During summer steelhead passage (1973-1999) they fell to 1266. But, during the period of absence of hatchery releases (2000-present), they have fallen even further to 1096.

If you review the numbers for spring chinook on the NF during these periods, they divulge the substantive benefit supplementation can play in restoring a declining stock. Pre hatchery adults numbered 506. During supplementation they aver-

aged 2390/year, and after hatchery stock were excluded, again during the 14 year period from 2000 to present, they have maintained a healthy 2199/year.

For Courter and Wyatt, their research objectives will be to: "Quantify the influence of exclusion of hatchery fish on the winter steelhead abundance in the Upper Clackamas beyond that of regional factors (meteorological conditions and ocean survivability) that are common to lower Columbia River winter steelhead populations. In addition, where we have substantial histories of hatchery stock exclusion in other basins such as the Nisqually River, Upper Sandy River, Molalla, Nehalem and others, they will quantify the changes in abundance pre and post exclusion.

Your Association of NW Steelheaders will continue to monitor any and all programs, research, etc. that may impact our consumptive sport angling opportunities. You can do your part by staying informed, and staying engaged.

*Thank  
you*

## **Thanks for the hooks!**

Chapter member Art Israelson recently requested a donation of Eagle Claw brand fishing hooks from Mr. Tenny Mount, longtime head of the marketing group for Eagle Claw and Wright McGill products in this area. We plan to use the hooks in our ODFW fishing clinics and on a big upcoming membership renewal effort.

Mr. Mount generously donated a large quantity of Eagle Claws' top of the line "Trokar" hooks. I have seen these hooks. They are simply the sharpest hooks I have ever seen right out of the package! Their design and metal quality is outstanding as well.

We'd like to thank Mr. Mount and Eagle Claw for this very generous donation!

Larry Palmer



***Just a Reminder! It is only 1 month til the Sportsmen's Show and we need to complete the planning of our time for volunteering at this event. It is important to the club to be there and have our members in the booth to meet the public and help increase our membership.***

# Portland Boat Show Sign-up, January 6 - 11, 2015

Volunteers will receive free show entry via "Will Call". Please check all the shifts that you are willing to work. Actual work shifts will be established to provide the most participation possible and your actual shift(s) will be confirmed by phone or email no later than Jan. 2nd. Call **Mike Myrick** at **503-281-6438** for details.

[illegible]

## Sportsman Show Sign-up, February 4-8, 2015

Volunteers will receive free show entry via "Will Call". Please check all the shifts that you are willing to work. Actual work shifts will be established to provide the most participation possible and your actual shift(s) will be confirmed by phone no later than Jan. 24th. Call **Mike Myrick at 503-281-6438** for details.

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## Election of Officers, Directors and Members of the Board of Directors April 1st Membership Meeting

As required by the by-laws, the Sandy River Chapter needs to notify its membership of the upcoming election of officers. The five positions that we need to vote on are President, Vice President (2), Secretary and Treasurer. We will be electing members to the Board of Directors, as well. If you would like to run for any of these position all you need to do is contact any current officer or member of the board of directors. To run for President Position you must be a current member in good standings and must have been a member for longer than a year. So if you have some great ideas we are looking for you to fill one of these positions.

You can run for president or vice president with a co-partner. If you have any suggestion of someone who would make a great President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director ask them if you can nominate them for the positions.

**You cannot nominate someone without their permission.**



## Memorable Events and Fishing Success for 2014



















**We need your photos throughout the year of your fishing successes and mishaps and a lot more pictures of our members volunteering at the different Chapter events . Great pictures do not have to have big fish in them, they can also include the comical shots as well.**







