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January 2019

The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

2019 Events



January 9, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Steve Leonard of **Steve's Guided Adventures**

(<http://www.stevesguidedadventures.com/>)



January 19th, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at

ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.



February 13, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Brent Soule, **Brent Soule's Sport fishing guide service**, in

Washougal, Wa. speaking primarily on Kokanee fishing. Ph: 360-903-8944



February 16th, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at

ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.



March 6, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Chris Vertopoulos, **Northwest Angling Experience**, Speaking on

Winter Steelhead fishing. Chris grew up on Vancouver, Wa. and has been fishing since he was 8. He has been a Guide since 1992, and guided extensively in Oregon and Alaska. Ph: **503-349-1377**

<http://northwestanglingexperience.com/meetguide.html>



March 9th, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at

ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.



April 3, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Speakers yet to be announced.



April 20th, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at

ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.



May 1, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Speakers yet to be announced.



May 4th, 2019, Saturday - Annual Chapter Banquet and Auction - This is our annual fundraising event.

Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale, OR



June 5, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Glen Ward of Benchmade Knives - <https://www.benchmade.com/>

No chapter meetings in July or August 2019.



August 24th, 2019, Saturday – Annual Sandy River Chapter picnic - Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park area A, Troutdale, OR



September 4th, 2019 - Chapter Meeting – Speakers yet to be announced.



September 13th - 15th, 2019, Saturday – Tillamook Crab/Fish along – Arrive on Friday and depart on Sunday.



September 21st, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.



October 5th, 2019 - Steelhead Fish-along – On-the-water session. Contact - Jim Cathcart at ornavigator@hotmail.com or (503) 238-4775, ext. 106.

Chapter Meeting date changes

January 9th and February 13th, 2019 Chapter meetings are being held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This permits resting from holidays and avoids a conflict with the Portland – Pacific NW Sportsman's Show (February 6- 10, 2019)

Sandy River Watershed Council

<https://sandyriver.org/>



Mission: *To protect and restore the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Sandy River basin.*

Your Chapter Board has approved a donation of \$100.00 to the Sandy River Watershed Council. It is composed of people who live, work or recreate in the Sandy River Basin as well as organizations that have an interest in the area. The watershed council is a *partnership*: individuals and organizations work cooperatively to improve the health of the watershed for fish, wildlife and people.

Annual Chapter Board Election:



Election of Chapter Board Officers will take place at the April 3rd, 2019 Chapter Meeting. As required by the by-laws, the Sandy River Chapter needs to notify its membership of the upcoming election of officers. The Chapter Board positions we need to vote on are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

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 Election Committee. To run for an office you must be a current member in good standing.

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, or Treasurer ask them if you can nominate them for the positions. You cannot nominate someone without their permission.



HELP – WITH NEWSLETTER

We are currently in great need of someone with word processing skills to editor our newsletter. If you are interested in helping out please contact one our Co-Presidents: Greg Reed at g_a_reed@comcast.net (Ph: 503-869-1795, or Jeff Stoeger at mjstoeger@msn.com (Ph: 503-704-7920).



Record Attendance Steelhead 101 Workshop

On November 3, 2018 we had 46 signed for the event and 44 participants showed up. This, after our very own Terri Boughton and Aaron Sewall appeared on Outdoor GPS to broadcast our event on TV. Our normal number has been up to 36 participants.

The event went very well both in the classroom and on the water. This workshop focuses on Beginners Basics with stations teaching Knot tying, Reading streams, fishing techniques, and on the water practice.

TJ McConnaughey presented a fine spread for lunch for all at the event.

26 participants showed up the following Saturday to enjoy fishing along the banks of the Sandy River practicing their casting and catching techniques. A native Coho was hooked by one of our younger participants and another had a great "take down" on his bobber but lost it before it was seen. A very fun and successful day!

Each person will be assigned a one year membership to the Association chapter that is closest to their home address. They can also choose to relocate to any chapter they wish.

Thanks to Jim Cathcart for shepherding the event, ODFW for their partnership, and all our GREAT volunteer instructors. Looking forward to another great workshop next year!





Breakfast with Doug Briggs

By: Jeff Stoeger

This morning, December 19, 2018, I had the privilege to have breakfast with Doug Briggs the Chapters past President. Doug has had some health issues that have slowed him down from attending our chapter meetings as well as chapter functions. I also had the privilege to present Doug with his lifetime membership which he so deserved in recognition of his years of dedicated service to the Association of Northwest Steelheaders and the Sandy River Chapter.

Doug was told the Association had accepted our proposal for his Life Membership balance to be met by us in a shared manner. The Association waived 1/3 of the amount, the Sandy River Chapter paid 1/3, and Members donated the remaining 1/3 to accomplish this for him.

Doug and I had a great breakfast and caught up on a lot of stuff Doug had put into place to make sure the chapter would succeed. So here are a couple of pictures of Doug with his certificate. Doug expressed how grateful he was to the chapter for making his dream come true with his lifetime membership. So if you have time give him a call. He likes to talk about fishing and some of the great trips he has taken.



Recent Association letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding Willamette Basin Hatcheries.

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

6641 SE Lake Rd. • Milwaukie OR 97222

503-653-4176

office@anws.org • www.nwsteelheaders.org

Established 1960

Via Electronic Mail

December 18, 2018

National Marine Fisheries Service
Sustainable Fisheries Division,
2900 NW Stewart Parkway,
Roseburg, OR 97471
Attn: Lance Kruzic
WillamettehatcheryEIS.wcr@noaa.gov
lance.kruzic@noaa.gov.

Re: New Information Relevant to Evaluation of Upper Willamette River Hatchery DEIS

Dear Mr. Kruzic:

On behalf of the Association of NW Steelheaders (ANWS), I write to request that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consider new significant scientific information directly related to its evaluation and proposed approval of Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans for Spring Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Rainbow Trout in the Upper Willamette River Basin (Upper Willamette Hatchery HGMPs) pursuant to Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act.

As you know, on May 29, 2018, ANWS submitted comments supporting NMFS's proposed approval of the upper Willamette hatchery HGMPs. Such approval would permit (1) annual hatchery releases of over 5 million spring Chinook into the upper Willamette Basin; (2) incorporation of natural-origin broodstock into the spring Chinook hatchery programs as called for in the 2008 Biological Opinion; (3) and annual releases of 547,500 hatchery summer steelhead smolts. *See* Upper Willamette Hatchery Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) at 16. These hatchery releases represent a continuation of the existing hatchery program with the primary difference being that approval of the HGMPs would allow for the use of natural-origin salmon in spring Chinook hatchery broodstock programs.

In our prior comments, we emphasized that "hatchery salmon, steelhead and trout programs in the Willamette Basin are vital mitigation measures necessary to maintain and support sustainable recreational and commercial harvest fisheries in the face of reduced abundance and productivity of wild populations", and that "[w]hile we appreciate that hatchery fish pose some risks to natural populations, we believe that science-based best management practices can significantly reduce those risks." *See* May 29, 2018 Letter from Bob Rees, Executive Director of ANWS (attached).

In particular, with respect to the DEIS's discussion of the risks posed by hatchery summer steelhead to wild winter populations, we directed your attention to scientific studies suggesting that these risks appear to be low, and that other factors, such as dams, sea lion predation, and habitat degradation, were much greater threats to the viability of wild winter steelhead in the upper Willamette.

In the last week, we have become aware of significant new scientific information that is directly relevant to NMFS's evaluation and proposed approval of the HGMPs as related to the proposed hatchery summer steelhead programs. The attached study, titled "A Natural-Origin Steelhead Population's Response to Exclusion of Hatchery Fish", has undergone full peer review and has been accepted for publication by the American Fisheries Society. The study examined whether the elimination of hatchery summer steelhead stocking in the Clackamas River – a lower Willamette tributary – increased the productivity of natural-origin winter steelhead. The study found that the abundance of hatchery summer steelhead spawners did not have a negative effect on natural-origin winter steelhead recruitment. The authors concluded that "the segregated summer steelhead hatchery program coexisted with the natural-origin winter population without negatively impacting adult winter steelhead recruitment." The authors further commented that "this regional covariation lends support to our finding that ocean conditions, rather than the abundance of summer steelhead, have been the dominant driver of adult winter steelhead productivity in the upper Clackamas Basin."

This new information supports the points we made in our May 29, 2018 letter. Moreover, although the formal comment period to the DEIS has closed, because this is new significant scientific information directly relevant to NMFS's ongoing evaluation, we request this letter and the attached study be considered in your evaluations, and included in the administrative records, for your NEPA and ESA-related decisions.

Thank you for considering our additional comments.

Best Regards,



Tom VanderPlaat

President

Association of NW Steelheaders

Sandy Chapter Board Members

OFFICERS

Position	Name	Phone
Co-President	Jeff Stoeger	503-704-7920
Co-President	Greg Reed	503-869-1795
Vice President	Tim Maples	503-740-4895
Secretary	Terri Boughton	503-307-2546
Treasurer	Vacant	503-869-1795

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Position	Name	Phone
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<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>-</i>
River Cleanups	Anthony Pedro	503-729-0579
Sales	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821
Angler Education	Jim Cathcart	503-238-4775x106

COMMITTEE HEADS

Position	Name	Phone
Special Events	Steven Rothenbucher	503-257-0039
Website, Content	John Hydorn	503-255-0600
Website, Design	Kerin Laurence	503-643-3168
Website, Development	Victor Laurence	503-998-3365




Doug Hays
Cell: 503.708.8353
email: oregontackle@comcast.net

O2BFISHN GUIDE SERVICE
Jeff Stoeger
503-704-7920

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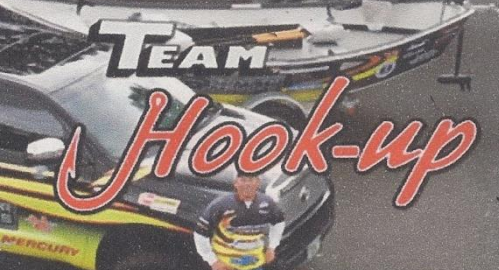
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www.hookupguideservice.com




**Check out the Sandy River NW
Steelheaders
Apparel!!!**
Contact: Rob Bitney
503-692-0180
<http://stancellgraphics.com/sandyriverchapter>




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