



March  
2017

### Our Mission Statement

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

Did you know you can access our newsletter anytime? Just go to our website <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/Newsletter>.

### **Meetings**

#### **March 1**

Sandy River Chapter of the NW Steelheaders  
Meet & Greet 6:30 to 7:00pm

Meeting:: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR

**Guest Speaker: Todd Alsbury ODFW Talking about the fishery on the Sandy River**

#### **March 8**

Sandy River Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders board meeting

Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Izzys Pizza - 1307 NE 102nd Avenue,

### **Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor Adults Winter Steelhead Derby: Through March 31st**

Anyone Can Enter (Except Guides)  
Only Bright Hatchery Fin Clipped Steelhead  
May Be Entered  
Fish Must be Gutted (Gills Optional)  
1st Place Prizes Awarded For:  
\* Biggest Fish of the Week (By Weight)  
\* Biggest Fish of the Month (By Weight)  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes Awarded for:  
\*Biggest Fish of the Derby (By weight)  
Entries from all 3 stores will be combined for  
Biggest Fish Prizes  
Prizes Courtesy of Maxima Fishing Line and  
Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor  
<http://www.fishermans-marine.com/steelhead>

Portland OR

### **Events / Workshops**

#### **March 4**

Fish-A-Long (follow-up to Steelhead Workshop) 8am - noon

#### **March 4**

Hook, Line and Sinker - Winter Steelhead tournament

#### **Through March 31**

Adult and Kids Steelhead Derby

#### **April 15**

Bank Fish-A-Long

### **Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor Kids Winter Steelhead Derby:**

Through March 31st

Kids 15 Years Old Or Younger May Enter  
(One Entry Per Day)

Only Bright Hatchery Fin Clipped  
Steelhead May Be Entered

Fish Must Be Gutted (Gills Optional)  
Bring In Your Fish To Receive A \$10  
Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor Gift  
Card And A Spool Of Maxima Line

Prizes Courtesy of Maxima Fishing Line  
and Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor  
<http://www.fishermans-marine.com/kids-steelhead-derby>

# 2017 Willamette Salmon Quest



Join the Steelheaders for the 2017 Salmon Quest Fishing Tournament April 1st. Begin your day with a full day of spring fishing with the best guides and anglers in the area. Fin clipped salmon and steelhead can put you on the winners platform. The day concludes with a dinner, awards and silent auction at the Airport Holiday Inn in NE Portland. Angler registration fee includes guided fishing, dinner, and award ceremony. Proceeds from the tournament are dedicated to improve sport fisheries through on-the-ground restoration and fisheries projects in the Willamette and Sandy river basins.

## ONE LAST CAST Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)

One of the many benefits of being a member of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders is the chance to get to know and fish with fellow fishers. The tried and true event for this activity is called a "Fish-A-Long". Traditionally, these have been group outings where those owning boats are generous to share them with us "non-boaters" for a day or weekend of fishing. Sandy River Chapter examples of these boat fish-a-long events are Ray's Frostbite Follies (drift boating the Sandy), the Tillamook Bay Fish-A-Long and more recently the John Day Camp & Fish outing. These are great social events that provide opportunities to share techniques and usually result in some fish being caught. As a non-boater I am extremely thankful of the generosity of the boater to host me for a day of fishing on the water. It is a steal of a deal to cover the cost of fuel, bait and launch fees as my way of saying thank you.

Enter the Sandy River Chapter's newest invention — the Bank-Fish-A-Long. As the name implies, the Bank-Fish-A-Long does not involve boats. Their genesis comes from experienced Chapter members willing to

provide on-the-water bank fishing learning opportunities for those newer to the sport of steelheading. These were first scheduled to compliment the Chapter's early efforts to hold workshops and open houses as a way to draw new members into the Chapter. These efforts matured into our partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold the "Steelhead Fishing 101" workshops; which now includes an "On-the-Water" session as standard fare.

Things have come full circle and I now have Chapter approval to conduct Bank-Fish-A-Longs as a stand alone event for Chapter members. The idea is simple. Meet up for breakfast and afterwards head to the river and spread out in small groups; each group led by an experienced angler or "Mentor". The Mentor is there to help others as needed; otherwise we all just fish to have fun. Bank-Fish-A-Long goals are: (1) create an excuse to go fishing, (2) have fun, (3) fish safely, (4) learn a new spot, (5) share tips and steal secrets, and .... wait for it .... (6) catch fish! So, mark you calendars and plan to help host or attend the April 15th and October 7th Bank-Fish-A-Longs.



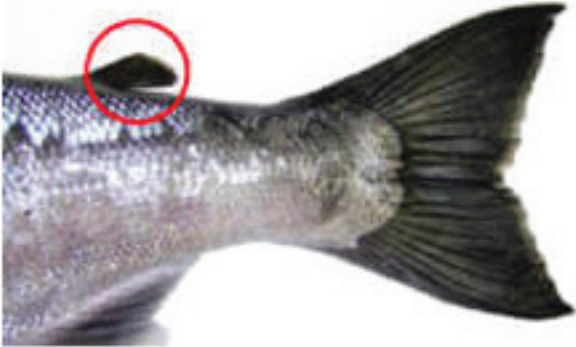
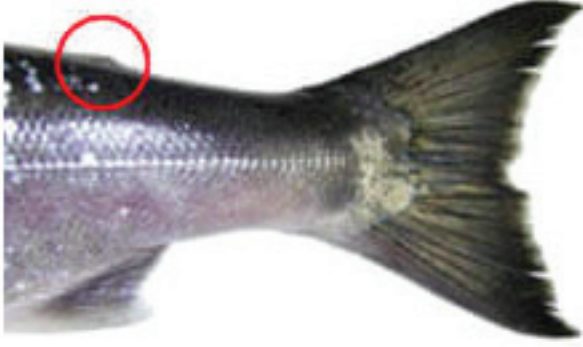
## ***Sign Up Now*** ***April 15, 2017 Bank Fish-A-Long***

Looking for an excuse to go fishing? Then sign up for the next Bank-Fish-A-Long, Saturday, April 15th. April is a transition month on the Sandy River; an opportunity to chase late run winter steelhead or encounter an early summer run or spring Chinook.

**DETAILS;** Optional breakfast begins at 6:00 am. Scheduled Fish-A-Long begins at 7:30 am and runs through 1:30 pm. **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!** To register: Send an email to Jim Cathcart, [ornavigator@hotmail.com](mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com). Please include "Sandy River April 15th Bank-Fish-A-Long Registration" in the subject line. Please include your name, phone number and your preferred method of fishing. Participants are expected to come prepared with all your tackle for the day, your fishing license for 2017 (including the endorsement stamp and harvest tag), rain gear, layers and a lunch. Waders are preferred because they allow you to cover more water. That is key to success. A wading staff and life jacket are good items if you have them.

**MENTORS WANTED:** — Want to help out? I am looking for experienced bank fisherfolk to lead a small group of 4 to 5 anglers for this event. **TO SIGN UP,** please contact Jim Cathcart at [ornavigator@hotmail.com](mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com). Indicate the stretch of river you would like to take the group to and the fishing techniques you want to focus up on.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Jim Cathcart at (503) 238-4775, Ext. 106 or email Jim at [ornavigator@hotmail.com](mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com).

HOW To IDENTIFY HATCHERY FISH	
WILD: Not Fin-Clipped (Unmarked)	HATCHERY: Fin-clipped (Marked)
	
Hatchery Salmon, steelhead, and trout are marked by removing their adipose fin.	

Remember to check with ODFW often for fishing regulation updates. You can go to their website [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/reg\\_changes/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/reg_changes/index.asp) anytime.

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By Jeff Hernandez

I don't often write testimonials but on occasion I enjoy sharing things that have given me success.

One of the milestones for me in my steelhead fishing career (mind you, it's only been since 2007) is meeting a guy named Derrel Hewitt. I was doing mediocre at best and catching a fish here and there, but Derrel really took me to another level. He was a bit overwhelming at first because of his vast knowledge. I really couldn't handle it. But I decided to take in what I could, and over the years I would start incorporating some of the things I learned.

First spinner that I made (ugly thing on the right) to catch a salmon. The other one was from Derrel.



Derrel is a spinner guy straight up. One of the best if not THE best I have ever met. Through years of experience, living on the Clackamas and fishing it nearly every day, trial and error, and amazing attention to detail, he is a master. Not only is Derrel a spinner guy but he is a fish guy. It's rare to hear someone talk about fish and really describe the psyche in the way he

does. For example he was saying scent to a fish is like us walking down the sidewalk and smelling a bbq. We may not be hungry but you smell those hotdogs or hamburger on the grill and your like, "Man, a burger sounds pretty good". His analogies really have a way of opening your mind to what might be going on under water.

First fish caught on an inline blade. Lower Clackamas early summer steelhead.

I learned a lot about color, sky conditions, water conditions, water temperature, and even tide flows. Yes, tide flows on the lower clack. Who would have known? I didn't pay attention to this for a couple years, but when I started hitting the river when the Morrison was showing high tide, my hook ratio went through the roof (on the lower clack. First mile).

Killer dark body and green tape works like a charm on this dandy trout on the Deschutes. May.



I started using lead bodies (who would think grey would be so in) which provided a nice weighted spinner to get down deep. I started using small beads at the bottom of my blades, using darker spinners and blades during the summer months and finding some great success. Started imitating some of his patterns and putting tape on the back of some

of my blades with good success also.

Christmas fish with a nice winter blue pattern. Blue bead and tape. Caught on Eagle creek off the clack.

I don't claim to be a spinner master yet. Still learning to pay more attention to weight, balance and color, etc. I just throw stuff together and get lucky at times. Getting better but these three had a good weekend during the fall of 2014:







The tri-beads are one of my signature go-to bead types, and I have had some good success with them. The snowman body is a nice balanced body. My ugly sharpie green (lazy but will give it some color job), and then my double weighted bass weights with a bead in the middle all caught coho.

When I see Derrel he either throws me a couple spinners and says, "Give these a try" or I buy a few to try out and replicate.

He made a couple nice spinners that I purchased last year and landed this nice Chinook. Hermon creek just past Bridge of the Gods. It was the yellow pattern with red dots and copper blade.

This nice fish was pulled in on the Lewis river up in Washington during summer time. Custom paint job and old brass blade worked killer. This was a nice 13 Lb buck. See how the loop is nice and round. That means Derrel made it, not me. (Although my loops are pretty tight these days).



In summary I can only say the knowledge and technique I have learned over the last 8 or 9 years or so have been priceless. I can make a spinner for about a buck and the fancier ones slightly more. But they work just as good if not better than the manufactured stuff that cost twice as much. Recently in talking with Derrel he disclosed to me that there has been some major medical issues and bills in his family and raising a teenage kid is not getting any cheaper. Things are tight with all of us, but I felt like he could use a boost.

Without asking me, I decided to send out an offer to help him raise money and a way for YOU to get some top quality (excuse my French), Bad-Ass spinners. This stuff works. Trust me. See details below and if you want to

pick up a pack or two please shoot Derrel a line or email and he would be glad to hook you up. Here is what he has. Basically \$3.25 per spinner (killer deal and these blades he has had for 20 years and are top notch and not available any longer).

10 Pack: \$32.50

20 Pack: \$65

100 Pack: \$300

If anyone purchases a 10 pack I will throw in 1 extra spinner with the deal.

So 11 for price of

If anyone purchases a 20 pack I will throw in 2.

If you purchase a 100 pack I will make 5 of my own custom spinners and throw them in. Not that you would use them if you had 100 of Derrel, but what the heck. A little variety wouldn't hurt.

A few custom spinner patterns by Derrel:



Derrel can be reached at the following locations:

Email: [oldernewguy@yahoo.com](mailto:oldernewguy@yahoo.com)

# Fishing Updates

## **Columbia Zone Updates:** ***Revised January 26, 2017***

SALMON, STEELHEAD, and SHAD

All Permanent Regulations for salmon, steelhead, and shad apply unless modified below (see 2017 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations).

Waters of the Youngs Bay Select Area and Knappa/Blind Slough Select Area (both Clatsop Co.) lying within waters of the Columbia Zone:

***Effective February 1, 2017***, the use of barbed hooks is allowed when angling for salmon, steelhead, or trout in the following areas:

Within the Youngs Bay Select Area (Clatsop County) from the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to markers at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers, including the lower Lewis and Clark River upstream to the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge and the Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge.

Within the Knappa/Blind Slough Select Area (Clatsop County) from markers at the west end of Minaker Island upstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough, continuing upstream to the railroad bridge in Blind Slough. See Northwest Zone updates regarding hook regulations for adjacent sections of the Knappa/Blind Slough Select Area site.

**BARBLESS HOOKS ARE STILL REQUIRED WHEN ANGLING FOR SALMON, STEELHEAD, OR TROUT IN THE MAINSTEM COLUMBIA RIVER.**

## **Willamette Zone Updates** ***Revised Jan. 25, 2017***

Beginning Feb. 1, 2017, the use of barbed hooks is allowed when fishing for salmon, steelhead, or trout in Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel and Gilbert River) and in lower Clackamas River upstream to Highway 99E Bridge.

**BARBLESS HOOKS ARE STILL REQUIRED WHEN FISHING FOR SALMON, STEELHEAD, OR TROUT IN THE MAINSTEM COLUMBIA RIVER.**

2016 rules that allowed special use of two rods in certain streams in this zone are NOT in effect. Use of two rods is restricted to waters identified in 2017 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations. All other rules identified in the 2017 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations remain in effect.

**REMEMBER:** It is up to you to check on all updates via ODFW website. They change often!



# What can I keep, and how many?

Beginning January 1, 2017



## No Retention Allowed



Yelloweye Rockfish

Any vessel fishing for, or possessing, bottomfish in the ocean **must have a functional descending device** onboard, and use on any rockfish released outside of 30 fathoms



## Marine bag limit—7 fish, in aggregate



Yellowtail Rockfish



Widow Rockfish



Sablefish



Vermilion Rockfish



Canary Rockfish



Kelp Greenling

- Rockfish species and other marine species not listed as prohibited, or having a sub-bag limit
- Includes: sculpins, greenlings, skates, spiny dogfish, leopard shark, soupfin shark, sablefish, Pacific cod, and others
- Does not include species with separate limits such as: lingcod, flatfish, tuna, and offshore pelagic species, salmon, herring, sardines, and anchovies

## Sub-bag limits- out of the 7 fish marine bag, no more than:



6 Black Rockfish



1 Cabezon  
(July 1-Dec 31)  
(Min. size = 16 inches)



Copper Rockfish



Quillback Rockfish



Blue/Deacon Rockfish



China Rockfish

**4 fish in aggregate (combined)**

## Do you have questions about your rods, reels or tackle?

Take your fishing equipment and questions to our chapter meetings where experienced Chapter Members will be glad to help you solve your problems. This message brought to you by Sandy Chapter President, Steve Rothenbucher.

Visit our website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

## Our Board Members

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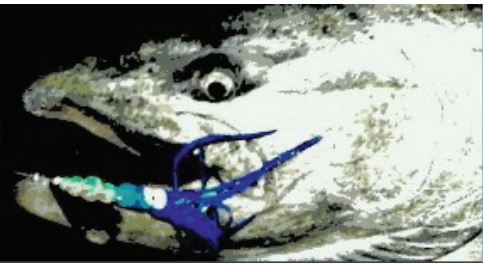
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