



Sandy River Chapter

May 2021

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

**Cancelled - Sandy River Chapter May, and June 2021 meetings.**

With Oregon Covid-19 State and Local restrictions on social activities, and other unknowns it is not practical for us to hold a highly social activity like one of our meetings, in the near future.

We hope to be able to recommence later in 2021. We will keep you informed here and on our Facebook page.



**August 21, 2021, Saturday** – Annual Sandy River Chapter picnic - Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park area B, Troutdale, OR. Time to be announced in upcoming newsletter.



**October 8–10, 2021 – Tillamook Crab/Fish along** – Arrive on Friday and depart early on Sunday.

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## *Annual Chapter Board Election:*

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As required by the by-laws, the Sandy River Chapter needs to notify its membership of the upcoming election of officers. Election of Chapter Board Officers would typically take place at our April Chapter Meeting. We have had no one else express an interest in running for any of the offices for this year. The current board members are willing to stay in office until Spring of 2022 to help bring us back to some sense of our past normalcy of monthly meetings and activities post Covid.

**Currently, the following are running for offices.**

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

However, if you would like to run for any of these positions all you need to do is contact any current officer. To run for an office you must be a current member in good standing. We will vote on this at our Annual Picnic on Saturday August 21, 2021.

So, if you have some great ideas let us know prior to the end of April 2021. 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.



## *Federal rule gives states, tribes flexibility to kill cormorants*

By Katie Frankowicz, ***The Astorian***  
Dec 23, 2020

[https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/federal-rule-gives-states-tribes-flexibility-to-kill-cormorants/article\\_512210ec-452b-11eb-9971-1b512d5a0a44.html?fbclid=IwAR23\\_49ETA0Q\\_yKtm6wvzTrL6hthSO8xtqaALkQgmjFMNiDS4\\_KrujD1MYU](https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/federal-rule-gives-states-tribes-flexibility-to-kill-cormorants/article_512210ec-452b-11eb-9971-1b512d5a0a44.html?fbclid=IwAR23_49ETA0Q_yKtm6wvzTrL6hthSO8xtqaALkQgmjFMNiDS4_KrujD1MYU)

A new federal rule gives states and tribes greater flexibility to kill double-crested cormorants for management purposes.

Under the new rule, up to 121,504 double-crested cormorants may be killed per year nationally in areas under the jurisdiction of state and federally recognized tribal wildlife agencies that may have been off limits before. Conservation groups worry about the overall impact to the population. Others say the permit is necessary to deal with problem birds and protect state resources and salmon.

Agencies interested in the permit must show they tried other, nonlethal methods first. The permit will allow the fish-eating birds to be killed at sites in the 48 states where cormorants are shown to pose a danger to endangered or threatened species, where they impact health and human safety or are damaging state or tribal property and assets, among others factors.

“The Trump administration is providing tools under this coordinated approach for managing conflicts and economic damage associated with double-crested cormorants while minimizing the regulatory burden on federal, tribal and state agencies and individual citizens,” Aurelia Skipwith, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said in a statement.

“This special permit will help minimize human-wildlife conflicts while maintaining sustainable cormorant populations as required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,” she added.



Cormorants perched on the Astoria Bridge.  
Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

In comments the Fish and Wildlife Service received on its proposal earlier this year, some organizations and state agencies suggested the model the federal government used to evaluate allowable annual take was politically driven and not based on science.

“Similarly, states also commented that regional and continental cormorant populations should be managed sustainably and adaptively, potentially at lower levels,” the Fish and Wildlife Service noted in a summary of the public comments.

The agency had earlier determined it could allow upward of 160,000 birds to be taken nationally, but went with a lower number as a precaution.

Along with proponents of the new rule, the agency also argued that research demonstrates “cormorants can negatively impact fish at certain locations and times, thus there has been a demand among fisheries biologists for management options.”

## **Five-year review**

Under the new rule, the agency will conduct a five-year review of the take limit — something others voiced concerns about in their public comments, saying such reviews should happen more frequently.

On the North Coast, cormorant management has been a fraught undertaking. New developments continue to emerge following intensive and lethal federal management of a colony that nested seasonally on an island near the mouth of the Columbia River.

After the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began shooting adult double-crested cormorants and destroying nests on Oregon’s East Sand Island in 2015, thousands of birds abandoned their nests multiple times and flocked to the Astoria Bridge.

This year, state biologists recorded around 5,000 breeding pairs nesting on the bridge — up from roughly 3,542 in 2019, which itself was already a significant increase from the 333 pairs noted annually in prior years.

The Army Corps has argued that the East Sand Island colony, once the largest in North America, threatened runs of young endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead. However, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife now estimates that the growing bridge colony may have more of an impact on salmon mortality than the former East Sand Island colony did.

The number of birds nesting on the bridge also complicates federally required inspections of the structure. The proliferation of nests and the accumulation of bird guano make it difficult for inspectors to examine the bridge.

## **Hazing**

The state attempted to haze birds off the bridge ahead of inspections earlier this year to mixed results. A depredation permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service allows the Oregon Department of Transportation to take up to 1,500 nests from the bridge, but as the colony swells, it could be a challenging and “perhaps unlikely task” to conduct inspections without taking more nests than permitted, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff concluded in a report to the state fish and wildlife commission.

They recommended implementing a hazing plan to dissuade birds before they had an opportunity to nest. Cormorants are seasonal visitors to the the Columbia River estuary. The hazing could also provide an opportunity to attract the birds back to their abandoned colony on East Sand Island, state staff noted, though such a plan may be cost-prohibitive.

This year, the state approached the Army Corps and asked the agency to attempt to attract cormorants back to East Sand Island while bridge inspections were underway and again during bridge maintenance scheduled to begin next year. The Army Corps declined to help.

“Further, the Corps has previously stated it has no authority to address the cormorant issue on (the Astoria Bridge) in general and thus could not assist (the Oregon Department of Transportation) to attempt to push cormorants back to East Sand Island,” a fish and wildlife report from earlier this year states.

“The available data suggest moving double-crested cormorants back to East Sand Island would appreciably reduce cormorant consumption of federal and state (Endangered Species Act)-listed salmonids, the primary goal of the original federal management plan for East Sand Island,” the report continues.



With the cormorant dispersal to the bridge, fish and wildlife staff said they estimated the original federal plan “may have resulted in no change or even an increase in cormorant consumption of salmonids in the Columbia River estuary.”

The state hopes to implement a hazing plan this year ahead of the nesting season. Details have yet to be finalized. The new permit would not provide any additional tools, but may allow for a higher nest take if necessary, said James Lawonn, a biologist in charge of avian predation for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Hazing, however, is the department’s preferred approach for now.

“We would rather not have to take any birds,” Lawonn said. “Best practices are to try to reduce take as much as you can and we stand behind that. We don’t want to be taking birds if we don’t have to.”

The Army Corps is no longer conducting any active cormorant management on East Sand Island, but has provided nesting habitat that could support approximately 6,000 nesting pairs of cormorants.

The agency continues to monitor the island using Civil Air Patrol photos.

According to a spokesman for the agency, those photos have shown a “mostly empty island with occasional eagles and gulls scavenging on the tidal flats.”

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### ***Robb Gibbs near the mouth of the Willamette on April 19, 2021***





# FIRST CAST

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION | EDITORIAL



**\$10.5  
BILLION**  
IN TRIP  
EXPENDITURES



**167,000**  
JOBS



**\$24.4  
BILLION**  
IN SALES



**\$14  
BILLION**  
INCREASE IN  
TOTAL US GROSS  
DOMESTIC  
PRODUCT



**134%**  
INCREASE IN  
EXPENDITURES  
OVER 2014



**275%**  
INCREASE IN  
TOTAL SALES  
OVER 2014

## ECONOMIC NUMBERS ARE NO FISH TALE

**R**ecreational angling has always been a powerhouse for the U.S. economy, but the methods used to determine the extent of that power have been a source of contention for years. In the arcane world of fisheries economics, the ways to calculate things are as varied as the species of fish in the sea. CCA and the recreational boating and tackle industry have fought for years for changes to those methods that would more accurately reflect reality and give the economic might of recreational angling its proper due.


In 2020, NOAA Fisheries released a new round of recreational saltwater angling expenditures for the U.S. using different techniques and the results are stark. The findings of the new survey demonstrated the enormous economic engine that recreational fishing trips support and shows a massive increase over the last angler trip expenditure survey conducted in 2014.

The new survey effort estimates that saltwater recreational anglers spent \$10.5 billion on trip expenditures alone in 2017. Trip expenditures include fuel, bait, ice, charter fees, lodging, meals and incidental expenditures made by anglers on trips specifically taken to go recreational fishing. Those expenditures supported 167,000 jobs and generated \$24.4 billion in sales, \$7.9 billion in personal income in coastal communities and increased total U.S. gross domestic product by \$14.0 billion dollars.

That is a 134% increase in expenditures over 2014 and a 275% increase in total sales. This is fantastic news for our sport and the economic role it plays in sustainably supporting coastal livelihoods.

Estimates of our economic footprint are extremely valuable for our sport, our industry and for proper marine resource conservation. Strong economic facts help groups like CCA advocate for conservation policies by demonstrating what healthy, sustainable resources that support a vibrant recreational angling community can do to support the economy of our country. Economic arguments are a key underpinning for our efforts on issues like outlawing drift gillnets in the Pacific and requiring descending devices in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. Sound management practices - such as eliminating wasteful commercial gear and improving catch-and-release survivability - simply make good conservation and economic sense.


Unfortunately, the fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries itself often ignore this amazing economic driver in favor of entrenched commercial interests. In fact, it is not even certain that NOAA will use the same methods in the next survey or won't tweak them to show something completely different. Our fight for proper recognition of our economic potential may never really end.

For now, it is our job to make sure these estimates are used to further our conservation goals and the eye-popping numbers in the latest survey should make that job a bit easier. 



## **New Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group**

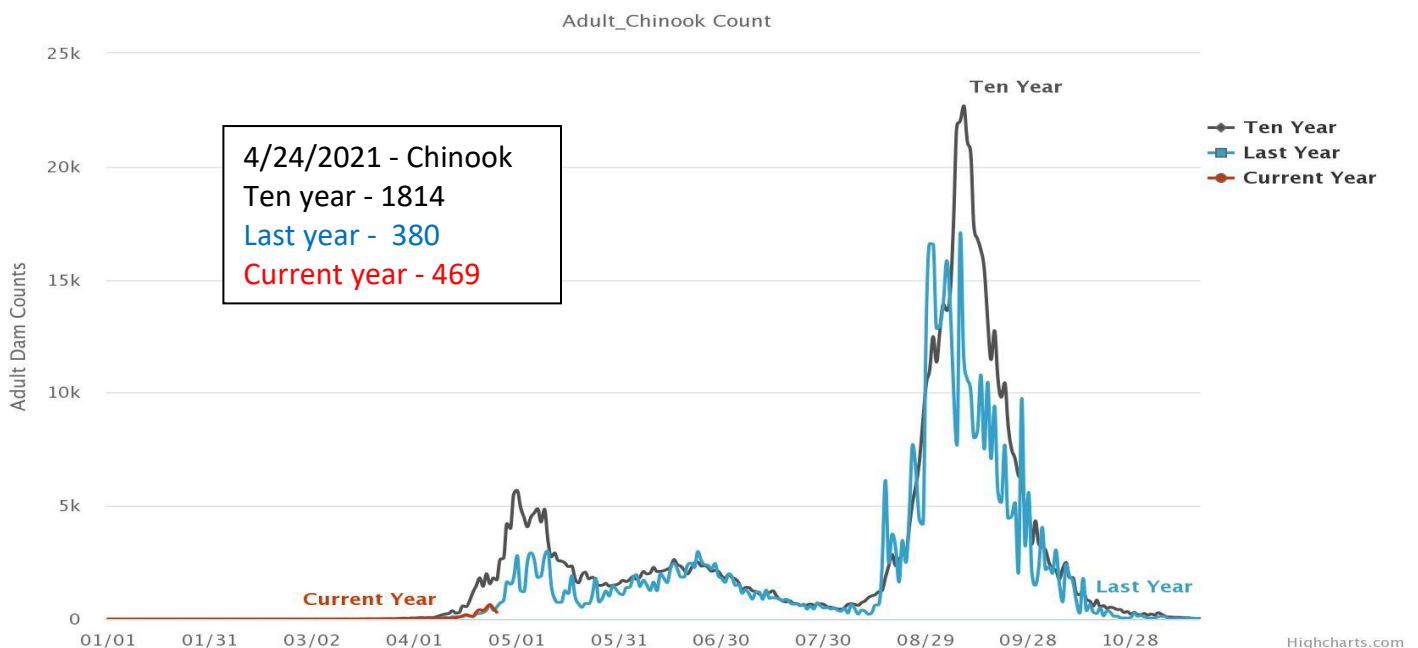
We invite you to visit the new Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group at **"Sandy River Chapter NW Steelheaders"** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/451895135882897> . Our previous Facebook page did not permit posting by anyone but the Administrator. The move to a "Group" is for public viewing, meaning anyone can visit, like, and follow. As set up, being a "joined" member only adds the ability to post. Even those who are not "joined" members can and we encourage all to visit our Group at any time. Our previous Facebook page will be taken down on April 15, 2021.

Even as a non-joined visitor you can suggest postings through "Messenger" (  Logo in upper right section of home page) at any time and we will review your input for publishing.

We are trying to initially keep those with "joined" membership to this Facebook group to current Sandy River Chapter of the ANWS members. This is due to the difficulty in managing large numbers of participants, and our need to ensure joiners follow the rules and regulations of the Sandy River Chapter and the ANWS related to fishing conservation.

If you are not already a member of the ANWS consider joining for as little as \$30.00 per year. We would be happy to have you as a member and you can join the Association of NW Steelheaders at : <https://nwsteelheaders.org/get-involved/membership/> . Any further questions, please ask.

**Bonneville Dam Adult Count Graph**





## Sandy Chapter Board Members

### OFFICERS

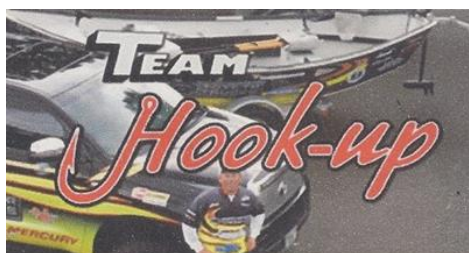
| Position       | Name           | Phone        |
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| Co-President   | Greg Reed      | 503-869-1795 |
| Vice President | Jeff Boughton  |              |
| Secretary      | Terri Boughton | 503-307-2546 |
| Treasurer      | Vacant         | 503-869-1795 |

### DIRECTORS

| Position              | Name          | Phone        |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Eggs to Frye          | Mike Myrick   | 503-281-6438 |
| <b>Newsletter</b>     | <b>Vacant</b> | 503-869-1795 |
| <b>River Cleanups</b> | <b>Vacant</b> | -            |
| Sales                 | Rob Bitney    | 503-320-9821 |
| Angler Education      | Jim Cathcart  | 503-287-9616 |

### COMMITTEE HEADS

| Position         | Name                | Phone        |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Special Events   | Steven Rothenbucher | 503-257-0039 |
| Website, Content | John Hydorn         | 503-255-0600 |



Jack Glass 503.260.2315  
Brandon Glass 503.260.8585  
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<http://stancellgraphics.com/sandyriverchapter>



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