



**Sandy River Chapter**

**September 2021**


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

***Based on the best information currently available the Chapter Board has decided to cancel this years Tillamook Crab/Fish along and our September 2021 Chapter Meeting***

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### ***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 to the site.

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 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.

Note: There will be redundancies between the Chapter Newsletter and our Facebook Group page in our attempt to share items to followers of both. Due to limited space in our Newsletter there may also be more posts on the Facebook group page than in the Newsletter.

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# **Steelheaders Secure Key Victories During 2021 Oregon State Legislative Session**

By Betsy Emery, Advocacy and Campaign Manager

Date: July 6, 2021

The 2021 Oregon legislative session has officially ended and overall, we were largely successful in securing the key bills and amendments we wanted to get through in a session largely dominated by COVID-19 and wildfire relief. We negotiated an amendment to the [Columbia River endorsement](#) bill, legally tying the fee to a requirement that ODFW continue to stick to their agreement to keep non-tribal commercial gill nets off the lower Columbia River and publish an annual accounting of what ODFW used the endorsement funding for. Also, after three long years, Board members Tim Lenihan and Bob Oleson got our bill to enhance fishing access for [veteran's angling](#) programs signed into law. We also secured amendments to require [weirs](#) on private property are constructed from natural materials and ensured that [material from ditch maintenance cannot be dumped into undisturbed wetlands](#). We also worked closely with the [Sportsmen's Caucus](#) of legislators to strengthen the [Conservation and Recreation Fund](#), secure funding for stream restoration and fish screening, and expand the wildlife inspection station program.

Unfortunately, some of the bills we advocated for throughout the session did not make it , including establishing [an independent science review board](#), updating the structure of the [Marine Advisory Board](#), and allowing ODFW to [reduce angling fees](#) to increase accessibility. We will continue to work with legislators and other organizations to refine and reintroduce these important bills in the next legislative session.

We are also happy to report that [ODFW's 2021 - 2023 biennium budget](#) includes a number items of interest for the fishing community. The Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Committee included funding to support multiple positions related to complex water basin planning efforts in the Willamette, Klamath, and other river basins. They also included funding for 5 field biologist positions, including one in the Tillamook region and directed the Department to purchase 4,600 acres of the Minam Property in northeast Oregon.

The legislature is expected to have a special session this fall to make budget adjustments. We plan to work with ODFW to obtain necessary funding to reconstruct hatcheries and increase fish production related to Oregon's wildfire seasons.

We worked extensively with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a number of state legislators to help us achieve our goals with these bills, including Senators [Dembrow](#) (D-Portland), [Girod](#) (R-Stayton), [Kennemer](#) (R-Canby), [Manning](#) (D-Eugene), [Patterson](#) (D-Salem), [Thomsen](#) (R-Hood River), and [Wagner](#) (D-Lake Oswego) as well as Representatives [Meek](#) (D-Clackamas County), [Brock Smith](#) (R-Port Orford), [Helm](#) (D-Washington County), [Lewis](#) (R-

Silverton), [Marsh](#) (D-Southern Jackson County), [Reardon](#) (D-Happy Valley), [Wilde](#) (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties), and [Witt](#) (D-Clatskanie).

If one of your local legislators is on this list, please thank them for their interest in advancing fish and angler friendly legislation and if your legislators are not on this list, you may want to work with them to help them be a better advocate for our interests.

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## *The Columbia's fishing horses*

the **Astorian**

By Julia Triezenberg For The Astorian

Apr 9, 2021

[https://www.dailyastorian.com/life/weekend-break-the-columbias-fishing-horses/article\\_bfb988a4-8cfd-11eb-97b6-0f5e210fe739.html?fbclid=IwAR0br\\_wBRRemvJqzr1LziQhA4Dniy2uV2Z6RzDAN0HJ4k1II9Y3QkyV11n4](https://www.dailyastorian.com/life/weekend-break-the-columbias-fishing-horses/article_bfb988a4-8cfd-11eb-97b6-0f5e210fe739.html?fbclid=IwAR0br_wBRRemvJqzr1LziQhA4Dniy2uV2Z6RzDAN0HJ4k1II9Y3QkyV11n4)

These days, the rotting pilings that sit in the middle of the Columbia River don't seem like much at first glance. But they are the remnants of a booming cannery industry.

Near the old Desdemona Sands Lighthouse, they were considered home for teams of horses that helped fishermen catch salmon along the river.

Commercial horse seining on the Columbia River played a vital role in the area's economy from the 1890s through the 1940s. When the river was in full swing, dozens of men would gather near Desdemona Sands and Sand Island to collect the bounty of salmon that awaited them.



Horses walk back to their barn after a day's work.  
Columbia River Maritime Museum



Structures set on pilings in the Columbia River served as fishermen's bunkhouses & horse barns.  
Columbia River Maritime Museum

Seine fishing involves a special type of net — a seine — that hangs vertically in the water. Its bottom edge is held down by weights. The top of the net is held up by floats. The net is laid out in a U shape around schools of fish.

On the Columbia, the nets were extremely heavy. There was a 16 ounce weight tied to every foot or two of net.

Fishermen would typically use between 300 to 400 fathoms — or 1,800 to 2,400 feet — of net in the water at any given time. They were so heavy that the fishermen couldn't haul them up themselves so they turned to horsepower instead.

Along with providing bunkhouses for people to sleep and eat, the pilings we see today also supported horse barns floating in the water that could hold over a dozen horses. Enormous Clydesdales or Percherons would pull a seine next to fishermen wearing waders up to their chests.

The fishermen would fish with seines only when the water was low enough that they would be able to bring the horses in the sand. If the water got up to their chests and stomachs, they would lose all their pulling power so it had to be slack enough that they could use the horses' strength.

Two seining skiffs were required for each net. Typically three or four men worked on each boat. Sometimes up to eight fishermen could be working alongside three teams of horses to bring in such monstrous seines. A 400 fathom net could bring in between 4 and 5 tons of salmon.

The seining season only lasted from the beginning of June until the end of August so it was a clever way to bring in as many fish as possible within that period. Out of the 27 million pounds of salmon that were harvested from the river every year during this time, around 6 million of that was the product of horse seining.



Horse seining in the Columbia River.  
Columbia River Maritime Museum



Seine nets hang vertically in the water, with weights at the bottom and floats keeping them upright.  
Columbia River Maritime Museum

Many of the fishermen loved working around the horses and got to know their personalities over the years, since they would use the same animals each season. They worked tirelessly for six days a week, with Sunday as their only day off. Local college students would return home for the summer and work on the seining grounds to pay off their tuition for the next year.

As time went on, Oregon and Washington state both began imposing restrictions on the kind of fishing that could take place on the Columbia. Seining was officially outlawed in 1934 in Washington and 1948 in Oregon.

Julia Triezenberg is an educator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.





## TAKE THE PLEDGE!

[https://www.clackamasproviders.org/take-the-pledge/?fbclid=IwAR0mUwnLDpOptxcBH0Co1LrvMtpAUADXTbK\\_HYjyHH9-VkR20MM5YwOzeM](https://www.clackamasproviders.org/take-the-pledge/?fbclid=IwAR0mUwnLDpOptxcBH0Co1LrvMtpAUADXTbK_HYjyHH9-VkR20MM5YwOzeM)

Take the Pledge! If you live in Clackamas or Washington County and get your drinking water from the Clackamas River, we are asking our water customers to take a pledge to reduce or even stop outdoor watering by mid-September. If you care about protecting our river water for people, and fish here's your chance to be part of our ***"Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done"*** campaign to help migrating fish.

By taking part in our Pledge you will receive a **FREE** yard sign (below) letting neighbors know that you are doing your part to keep water in the Clackamas River for fish.



**PLEDGE TO DO MY PART:  
Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done**

Fill out the application on line at: <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/pledge-application/> and submit it to our office to take the pledge and receive your free yard sign.

Pledge mail in Application Form at: <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Pledge-F-1.pdf>



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## **STURGEON Opener - September 2021**

<https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone#STURGEON>

See **2021 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations** for sanctuary areas, daily and annual bag limits.

### **Wauna Powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam**

- **Area definition:** From the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline, including the Cowlitz River (WA).
- Permanent rules for sturgeon are in effect, including closed to the retention of sturgeon, **except** for the following temporary modifications:
  - This area will be open to retention of white sturgeon on **Saturday, September 11 and Saturday September 18 (two days)**.
  - Daily bag limit is one white sturgeon, 44-50 inches fork length (fork length is measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork in the caudal fin (tail) with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface, with the tape measure/ruler positioned flat under the fish).
  - Annual bag limit is two white sturgeon (applicable to any/all 2021 retention fisheries).
  - Retention of green sturgeon prohibited.
- Catch-and-release fishing is allowed except in sanctuary closure areas during May 1-August 31. All other permanent rules apply.

### **White sturgeon is the largest freshwater fish species found in North America.**

**Features:** There's no mistaking a sturgeon. This primitive looking fish has large bony plates running down its back, a long flat snout, and a deeply-forked tail. It's also covered in rough, scale-less skin, similar to a shark. Though they can reach lengths of 20 feet, most white sturgeon rarely get over 10-feet long, which seems plenty long to us. Some populations migrate between the ocean and freshwater, but not necessarily with the same consistency as salmon or steelhead. These prehistoric fish may live well over 100 years, and may not mature until they are 25-years-old.

## Sandy Chapter Board Members

### OFFICERS

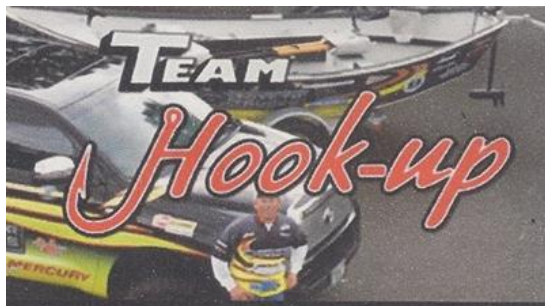
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Co-President	Jeff Stoeger	503-704-7920
Co-President	Greg Reed	503-869-1795
Vice President	Jeff Boughton	
Secretary	Terri Boughton	503-307-2546
Treasurer	<b>Vacant</b>	503-869-1795

### DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Phone
Eggs to Frye	Mike Myrick	503-281-6438
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<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	<b>Vacant</b>	-



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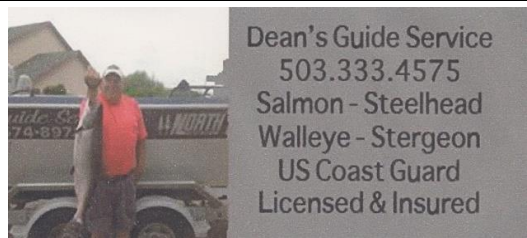
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Check out the Sandy River NW  
 Steelheaders  
 Apparel!!!  
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