

December 2019

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

#### 2019-2020 Events

December 1, 2019, Sunday – Steelhead Fishing101 Workshop - 7:30 am to 5:30 pm (Set-Up to Take-Down) - Classroom (w/ casting at the river) - Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale. Contact Jim Cathcart, Angler Education Director, at (503) 238-4775, ext. 106 or email at <a href="mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com">ornavigator@hotmail.com</a> to sign up as a volunteer or with any questions.

<u>December 4, 2019 - Chapter Meeting</u> – Speaker - Ryan Queen, ODFW Sandy River Hatchery. 6:00pm, Sam Cox Building of Glenn Otto Park, 1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060. Coffee & DONUTS will be provided

December 8, 2019 – Sunday, Steelhead Fishing101 Workshop Fishalong 7:30 am to 1:00 pm - On-the-Water Session - We will meet up at Glenn Otto Community Park. Contact Jim Cathcart, Angler Education Director, at (503) 238-4775, ext. 106 or email at <a href="mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com">ornavigator@hotmail.com</a> to sign up as a volunteer or with any questions.

# Remember – January 8, and February 12, 2020 - Chapter meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in each of these months

January 8, 2020 - Chapter Meeting - Speaker - Brad Halverson, Oregon Hatchery Research Center. 6:00pm, Sam Cox Building of Glenn Otto Park, 1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060.

February 12, 2020 - Chapter Meeting - Speaker to be announced 6:00pm, Sam Cox Building of Glenn Otto Park, 1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060.

## Sandy River Chapter ANWS Chapter of the year for 2019

Our Sandy River Chapter of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders was been named Chapter of the year at the Associations Annual Hall of Fame dinner on November 9, 2019.



others appreciate all you do.

This awrd was presented for the Chapter's work in educating anglers and promoting our sport. This is a result of the many volunteer hours Sandy River Chapter members volunteer in. Some programs are presented independently and some in cooperation with others like the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, other Fish and Wildlife organizations, Association of Northwest Steelheaders, other Association Chapters, and local Municipalities.

Here is a list of just a few of the Chapter's volunteer efforts: Family Fish Camp, Egg to Fry program, Bull Run/Sandy River Chinook Salmon acclamation pond, Monthly Fish alongs, Monthly Family fishing events, Sandy River Cleanups, Glenn Otto Park adoption, Annual Tillamook Fish along, and the ODFW/Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop.

Congratulations to all our Members, it is nice to see

## Call for Volunteers! Steelhead Fishing 101 Workshop – December 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, for the next Steelhead Fishing 101 Workshop on the river session. The Chapter puts these workshops on in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife meeting at the Glenn Otto Community Park in Troutdale. We need instructors, mentors, and volunteers. Are you a new member new to steelhead fishing? Or, a past graduate of a workshop?



The time commitment is a half day on December 8th.

<u>Please RSVP to this email with the -</u> following:

- Availability for December 8th On-the-Water Session
- Whether you want to be an Instructor (and what you want to teach) or a

Mentor or an Assistant Volunteer or a Whip (rover). And, any questions you might have.



Contact Terri Boughton, Chapter Secretary, at email - <u>terriboughton@comcast.net</u> to signup as a volunteer or with any questions.

At 1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060.

## Courts can't keep Columbia and Snake River salmon from the edge of extinction

After decades of court cases have rebuffed federal management, it may take a political fix to restore salmon in the Columbia Basin.

Carl Segerstrom | ANALYSIS | Sept. 26, 2019 |

From the print edition: **High Country News** – "The People Who Care About The West"



A chinook salmon swims in the counting window at McNary Lock and Dam on the Columbia River near Umatilla, Oregon. Salmon advocates are fighting to remove dams on salmon runs.

Jeff T. Green/Getty Images

On Sept. 20, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission voted to close all fall steelhead fishing on the Clearwater River and part of the Snake, tributaries of the Columbia, because so few fish had returned from the ocean. These steelhead are one of 13 threatened or endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Since the Columbia Basin's rivers were impounded by dams — including four on the Lower Snake, and more than a dozen on the Columbia itself — a handful of salmon populations have died out. Now, about two-thirds of the remaining runs are at high risk of extinction. Compared to pre-dam returns in the 1950s, only 3% of wild sockeye and spring- and summer-run chinook, and 15% of wild steelhead, returned to the upper Snake last year, according to an analysis by the advocacy group Save our Wild Salmon

(https://www.wildsalmon.org/news-and-media/sos- blog/hot-water-report-2019-august-23rd-2.html). This year, returns look even worse

(http://www.fpc.org/web/apps/adultsalmon/R yeartodatecomparisontable results.php).

Years of low salmon numbers, concern over endangered orcas that feed on salmon, and cracks in political support for the Lower Snake dams are breathing new life into the fight to breach those dams. For decades, lawsuits by tribal nations, state agencies and fishing and conservation organizations have forced changes in dam management aimed at improving fish survival. But those court-ordered tweaks haven't pulled salmon back from the brink. Now, salmon advocates are looking to the court of public opinion in their quest to see the Lower Snake River dams removed.

In the 1930s, hydroelectric dam construction in the Columbia Basin began, electrifying and irrigating the inland Northwest and sending commodities like wheat downriver on barges. But dams exact a heavy toll

on salmon: Reservoirs not only create hotter water than the fish are adapted to, they slow their downstream journey to the ocean and force them to navigate artificial passage systems. To offset those impacts, the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal agency that sells power generated by the dams, has poured about \$17 billion into hatchery programs, fish passage projects and habitat restoration.

The fish ladder of Ice Harbor Lock and Dam on the Snake River redirects through a parking lot. Hotter water temperatures of such dam structures impact salmon survival rates. Federal Caucus/CC via Flickr

But since the early 1990s, state agencies, tribes and salmon advocates have sued the federal government, arguing that it's not doing enough for endangered fish. At issue are "biological opinions" from the National Marine Fisheries Service, reviews of management plans developed by the federal agencies



that manage the Columbia basin dams: the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation. The biological opinions assess whether dam operations are likely to cause salmon extinctions and recommend ways to offset harm. But since 1993, federal judges have repeatedly overruled them.

In the process, courts have become the system's de facto managers: Judges have ruled that more water be spilled over dams, and forced agencies to develop specific habitat improvement programs. While advocates have long sought the removal of the Snake River dams, federal environmental laws don't give judges the authority to force dam removal. Judges have, however, ruled that the federal government must assess the impacts of breaching dams as part of a National Environmental Policy Act review, a draft of which is expected in February 2020.

Salmon advocates have long argued that dam removal is the best way to restore salmon runs. That view is bolstered by a 2017 analysis (http://www.fpc.org/documents/CSS/CSS\_2017\_Final\_ver1-1.pdf) by the Fish Passage Center, an organization funded by the federal government, which found that breaching the lower Snake River dams and increasing spills over the Columbia's dams would quadruple the number of salmon returning to spawn, compared to the status quo. But dam removal is not a silver bullet, biologists warn. "Even if we took out the dams, there could be other limiting factors for salmon recovery," said Christopher Caudill, a fish ecologist at the University of Idaho. Warming headwaters and changing oceanic conditions can harm salmon whether or not the dams are removed, Caudill said.

Any overhaul of the Columbia and Snake River dams likely requires an act of Congress as well as a lot of promises to local stakeholders who stand to lose regional infrastructure. Dam removal has long been anathema to politicians who tout the system's economic benefits. But the economics are changing as maintenance costs rise and natural gas and renewables undercut hydroelectric prices (https://www.bpa.gov/StrategicPlan/StrategicPlan/2018-Strategic-Plan.pdf). [REL ATED: https://www.hcn.org/articles/analysis-the-disappearance-of-washingtons-orca-whales]

Now, the politics may be changing, too. Earlier this year, Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, broke with area politicians by calling for a serious look at removing the four dams

(https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/environment/article229602914.html) on the lower Snake River. Simpson said he wants to work on a new federal plan to ensure salmon recovery in Idaho, one that would replace the Northwest Power Act, the 1980 legislation that guides dam management in the Columbia

Basin.

That political action can't come soon enough for salmon advocates tracking the threats fish face, including reservoir water temperatures that hit unhealthy levels for weeks at a time (https://www.wildsalmon.org/news-and-media/sos-blog/hot-water-report-2019-august-23rd- 2.html). "The climate is changing faster than the laws can keep up," said Angela Moran, an organizer for Save Our Wild Salmon. "We need political and community support, because we know that will be the biggest step to taking down the dams."

Carl Segerstrom is an assistant editor at High Country News, covering Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Rockies from Spokane, Washington. Email him at carls@hcn.org (mailto:carls@hcn.org) or submit a letter to the editor (https://www.hcn.org/feedback/contact- us). Follow @carlschirps (https://twitter.com/carlschirps)

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### HELP – WITH NEWSLETTER

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

## **Association of Northwest Steelheaders Hall of Fame photos**



Sandy River Chapter of the year



Robert Burke, Foot Solider



Pat Bauer, Member of the year



Association award given to Oregon State Representative Ken Helm in recognition of his efforts toward keeping the Leaburg Hatchery funded and with the North Santiam river Salmon and Steelhead hatchery program.



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Tim Heath - 503-550-5681

## Sandy Chapter Board Members OFFICERS

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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

### **DIRECTORS**

Position	Name	Phone
Fish Tanks	Mike Myrick	503-281-6438
Newsletter	Vacant	503-869-1795
River Cleanups	Anthony Pedro	503-729-0579
Sales	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821
Angler Education	Jim Cathcart	503-238-4775x106

## **COMMITTEE HEADS**

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Special Events	Steven Rothenbucher	503-257-0039
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Website, Design	Kerin Laurence	503-643-3168
Website, Development	Victor Laurence	503-998-3365



















