



Oregon Anglers Alliance Dec. Newsletter 2022

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It is also time to let you know what the OAA has been working on during the final quarter of 2022.

It's time to once again dust off the winter steelhead gear and recap the new 2023 regulations that were adopted under the Rogue/South Coast Conservation plan for all coastal rivers from the Sixes to the Winchuck. Several OAA members participated as Stakeholders in this 2-year process. **South Coast anglers are now required to purchase a \$2 South Coast Steelhead endorsement** to fish for winter steelhead. Plus, if anglers wish to harvest up to 1 a day, 3 per year, they are required to purchase a \$10 South Coast Wild Winter Steelhead tag. Non-resident fees are double the cost of residents. The new regulations also close a daily license loophole. ODFW heard from anglers who said some people repeatedly bought daily paper licenses to harvest wild winter steelhead, potentially allowing them to exceed the three-fish annual bag limit. The new regulations close this loophole because an individual ODFW Identification Number is needed to purchase the harvest tag and validation. Those purchases cannot be made through "guest checkout" which doesn't include an identification number. Monies derived from these fees will go directly to Oregon's South Coast Winter Steelhead Program. We are confident that the cumulative data collected will enable us to better follow the science in crafting fisheries management policy and especially, harvest goals.

At the Sept 16th ODFW Commission meeting, the Oregon Anglers Alliance provided testimony asking Staff to recommend **increasing the Elk River daily bag** limit of 2 fin-clipped Fall Chinook, to 3 per day. The logic behind this was that this is one of the many methods to reduce straying of hatchery origin fish on spawning grounds. The OAA considers the proposed reduction of hatchery releases to be the worst choice for the fishery. Testimony was presented on Friday, and the following Monday there was unilateral agreement to adopt this regulation. This is a great example of how we can all increase opportunity by providing viable solutions to age-old problems.

Congratulation to Brad Halverson on his appointment to the new **Columbia Basin Collaboration Hatchery and Harvest Workgroup**. The tri-state stakeholder group has been designed to create suggestions regarding best hatchery and harvest policy. As the previous Chair of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center and many other fisheries associated organizations, Brad is more than qualified. Brad brings with him a refreshing and very objective, scientific

perspective regarding the age-old conundrum of how hatcheries and harvest affect the abundance of our salmonids and what would likely happen if we cease all supplementation and harvest. "It's time for a paradigm shift to create best practices hatchery origin spawners in order to facilitate greater abundance or program size for harvest. We don't require more science for that. We know how to do it. Greater use of natural origin brood stocks to achieve 100% wild brood even in years forecast for low returns is the starting point. If we agree with end of century population forecasts for cold water anadromous salmonids, we recognize they are on a path to decline -some postulate extirpation -that cannot be reversed. Using the term recovery to defend conservation over fisheries seems disingenuous because the most hoped for goal for wild stocks is merely to slow down this progression to elimination. And, by using wild parents in the hatchery we create returning adults that in a preponderance of the science demonstrates they can spawn in the wild with either natural origin mates or other hatchery origin partners with no diminishing impacts to fitness or diversity. We need to make unabridged use wild genes right now while we still have them rather than preserve them for the doubtful future of their recovery." We would urge interested parties to go to our website at www.oregonanglersalliance.org to view more of Mr. Halverson's writings.

The Oregon Anglers Alliance has been very busy. We joined our cooperative partners in contributing to the **Measure 114** defense fund. This measure will reduce Pittman Robertson and Dingle Johnson available funding, infringe on our constitution, and do nothing to reduce crime or enforce penalties for criminals. Currently there are 4 lawsuits pending. Although this will likely be a costly court battle, we are optimistic the measure will be reversed.

The OAA donated monies to the Oregon South Coast Fishermen to fully replace kids fishing gear that was **burglarized from an ODFW kids fishing trailer**. Special thanks to Wraptor Rods Company for making this possible.

The OAA donated monies to Brookings High school to fully fund the **creation of a student's fishing club**. Special thanks to teacher Michelle Pruden, Chucks Seafood, and The Oregon South Coast Fishermen for assisting in this project.

We are currently laying the ground work with our partners to **de-list the Coho Salmon**. We believe that we can be successful in this endeavor to the benefit of our fisheries and the myriad of natural resource policies that this affects. NOAA crafted a recovery plan that set desired status for recovery that included sustainability goals. We have met, or exceeded the goals that were set forth in the plan. Plus, the 100-year sustainability tests have illustrated a successful recovery. However, NOAA has now stated that there are not yet adequate protections in place to declare them recovered. The Oregon Anglers Alliance and its partners are asking the question; "If we've met the sustainability testing for a 100-year period and have met, or exceeded desired status, then haven't we met our habitat goals?" We have done a huge amount of work to achieve these goals, now it's time to allow the public to enjoy the rewards for a job well done. We will continue to collaborate, arbitrate, and if necessary, perhaps litigate for a more equitable solution.

The OAA is working with ODFW and the Salmon, Trout, Advisory Committee in **updating the language for the STEP/STAC program**. This will provide a clear understanding of the intent of STEP that will help safeguard our mission. The estimated timeline for Commission approval is March.

Trivia question #1: What causes some lingcod to have a blue-green, or turquoise color to them? Keep reading to find the answer!

The Oregon Anglers Alliance is proud to be an integral part of the **new Oregon Sportsman's Conservation Partnership**. The OSCP has been created to protect and enhance our traditional model of conservation while guarding the heritage of hunters anglers, trappers, and shooters. (HATS). The partnership is growing rapidly including many organizations from across the country.

<https://congressionalsportsmen.org/the-media-room/news/oregon-sportsmen-unite-under-a-new-coalition-to-protect-hunting-fishing>

Stan Steele, an Oregon Anglers Alliance Board member and Vice President of the Oregon Sportsman's Conservation Partnership, just attended the **annual NASC Sportsmen's-Legislator Summit in Bozeman Montana** as a session speaker on predator management. Hosted by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the NESC provides 3 days of education, networking, and planning to ensure that the interests of sportsmen and sportswomen are protected in state capitols throughout the nation. Mr. Steele presented a session on Predation in Oregon. Please click on the link to learn more about this event that is critical to returning balance back to our management strategies.

<https://congressionalsportsmen.org/events/2020-annual-nasc-sportsman-legislator-summit>

Congratulations are in order for the **newly formed Coquille Chapter of the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program**. This has been a huge community effort involving Coquille area cities, towns, Ports, landowners, businesses, The Coquille Tribe, ODFW and all fishers. We are happy to know that the Coquille River habitat is being restored. With its first successful broodstock collection and egg incubation now taking place, there is now some certainty that the Coquille River will once again provide an abundance of salmon.

Oregon Hatchery Research Center welcomes new Director Dr. Seth White. Dr. White brings a wealth of knowledge along with a refreshing perspective on our fisheries management philosophies. With Chair Scott Starkey and Dr. White on board, this promises to be a landmark year for the historically struggling OHRC.

Trivia question #2: What is the Columbia River Cormorants favorite fish?

You know the drill.... keep reading for the answer

Nov. 22. Thanks to our partners the UMPQUA FISHERY ENHANCEMENT DERBY, we now have a **live-stream sub-surface video camera** that provides real time fish viewing in the

Winchester dam fish ladder. The camera is linked to a website and may be accessed through the internet. Just another great example of how our non-profits are making a difference. Click on the link below for the full story.

<https://kqennewsradio.com/2022/11/23/derby-launches-live-stream-video-of-umpqua-fish/>

The Oregon Anglers Alliance Board and Officers, Science Review Team and our cooperative partners will continue to work with ODFW Staff, Commissioners, and industry leaders, so that we may assist in providing optimal management solutions for our natural resources. If you are interested in perhaps joining as a team member, don't hesitate to drop us an email at oregonanglersalliance@outlook.com and don't hesitate to share this with others. We welcome anyone that may be interested in outreach and messaging, sales and marketing, membership recruitment, or expanding our industry sponsorship base. For those that would like to join us with a free membership and receive communications, just shoot us an email. In the wise words of ODFW Commissioner Mark Labhart, "*The world is won by those that show up.*"

Answer to trivia question #1:

According to Monique Lance of the WDF&G, the color phase is most likely from the bile pigment biliverdin. Exactly how this pigment gets into the tissues of some lingcod and not others **remain one of the many mysteries of the deep.**

Answer to trivia question #2:

NOAA Fisheries has stated that while steelhead are believed to be the most vulnerable to cormorant predation, recent tag data has shown very high predation rates on lower Columbia River Chinook as well. At peak populations, **cormorants have been found to consume about 13 tons of forage a day.** To learn more, click on the link below.

https://www.newsdata.com/clearing_up/environment/study-fewer-cormorants-eating-more-columbia-steelhead/article_fc57c1ea-66f9-11ed-9c87-17a98f4b283b.html

Thank you for helping to enhance our fisheries by joining a united voice and by educating others. Please pass this on to someone that will appreciate it.

Gratefully,

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