



July 25, 2023 Newsletter

On behalf of the Oregon Anglers Alliance Board, Officers, and its Science Review Panel, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that has helped to grow our organization. To quote the ONRI's slogan, "We are Stronger Together". In addition to picking up several thousand new members this last quarter, the OAA is particularly grateful for the latest addition to our Science Panel Dr. Randy Brummett.

We have found Dr. Brummett to be a very kind and thoughtful man that has an outstanding life history regarding worldwide fisheries management. He was born and raised in Oregon and has recently returned to the mid-coast to pursue his passions of fishing, and aquatic sciences.

Legislative update; There were a near-record 2970 measures introduced into the legislature. Much of our law-makers time is spent educating other legislators in order to kill almost 80% of them. There are hundreds of measures made to further restrict, or eliminate our fishing opportunities. Many thanks to the courageous legislators that held the line for us during this 2023 legislative session.

HB 3086 This was a hard-fought battle, but we now have a more equitable representation for rural Oregon. Our ODFW Commissioners will now be appointed by water districts, instead of the tradition congressional districts. This is another big win for sportsmen and women. Special thanks to our Legislators, our OHA partners, and our tribal partners for helping to close this out. Please take note that Commissioner Zarnowicz has stated that she will not be seeking re-appointment. It is believed that the next appointment will be for the southeast zone of the state and it will be made soon. There are other positions coming to term in the coming months.

HB 2966 Will allow for more latitude in regard to the management of Black Bass and Stripped bass when they present an extreme conservation risk for salmonids.

Coquille River Salmon Restoration Thanks to the Coquille River Community for creating a partnership of the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program and the Coquille Tribe. This partnership has the Coquille Fall Chinook population rebounding and it is back on track with a renewed and vibrant community effort. Another WIN!

Special shout out to the "Howl for Wildlife" folks. If you do not know about this organization, you do now! Membership is free! It is the most powerful tool that we as fishers have ever had. Go to; https://www.howlforwildlife.org/take_action

Additional Tribal MOA's; The Fish and Wildlife Commission approved agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians in the June meeting in Newport. The Grand Ronde Tribal MOA is slated for approval at the August F&W Commission meeting. The Tribes remind us that co-management is not just with state government, it's with all of the state's citizens. The OAA understands that these agreements will help to increase the abundance of our fisheries as well as our wildlife.

Consideration of a similar agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was delayed until the Aug. 4 meeting to allow more time for coordination, including discussion between Tribes.

Oregon Hatchery Research Center; Thanks to the new OHRC Director Dr. Seth White and long-time Board member and Chairman Scott Starkey, there are good things happening at the OHRC. The OAA believes that there is much room for optimism and that the shifting OHRC culture will be leading to many improved recommendations to our managers resulting in improved fisheries management practices. Please open the link provided to read about how beer is being used to track salmon. <https://www.foodandwine.com/salmon-hatchery-brewers-yeast-spawning-7562109>

Interesting fact; According to OSP and ODFW, 70% of Oregon salmon and steelhead originate from a hatchery and 95% harvested in the Willamette River are from a hatchery. This illustrates that without hatcheries we will not have sustainable harvest. Without harvest people will quit fishing. When people quit fishing people will quit caring about fish. The majority of Oregon's hatcheries were built between 1900 and 1940. The expiration date is past due. Good news; ODFW has completed a vulnerability risk assessment and is currently to working to obtain funding. The expectation for approved funding is 2027.

The good old days; Interesting note. According to the Journal of Canadian Science Fisheries Jan. 2020, in-river landings of Oregon Coho were based on an estimated 40% harvest rate, but current data shows that we were actually harvesting at an 80% rate. This tells us that the escapement numbers are less than half of what we believed. Spawner escapement before about 1950 were actually only about 20%, not 60%. We have been grossly overestimating past return numbers. These same metrics have given us unreliable data to base what are likely unobtainable desired status and recovery goals. Hmmm. It's time to de-list the Oregon Coastal Coho.

Salmon Derby reminders; Please note the following dates for the upcoming Salmon Derbies. Our apologies for only listing four of them as there are many to participate in. Please note that a large portion of these proceeds go towards STEP and putting more fish into our streams.

Rogue Bay Curry Anadromous Fishermen Derby, Gold Beach Aug. 9 thru 12

www.fishmederby.com Winchester Bay Aug. 19

Gardiner/Reedsport Winchester Bay STEP Derby, Labor Day weekend. (Sept. 2, 3, 4,)

Coos Bay South Coast Anglers STEP Derby, Sept. 9th and 10th

Gratefully,

Leonard Krug, President, Oregon Anglers Alliance

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors” – Plato.