



5-1-24 OAA Newsletter

We are almost on the back of 2024 and looking directly at the front of 2025, so it's time to look back to what has happened, what is currently happening, and prepare for what may likely happen.

A key highlight of interest to not only anglers, but to the science community as well, is the recent work done by the Oregon Anglers Alliance regarding the long-standing "Reduced Reproductive Success Theory" (RRS), that has been utilized in Oregon management strategies to minimize the presence of hatchery salmon. This has been a keystone block of ODFW fish policy for decades and it was believed that Oregon had finally produced a piece of credible evidence to support this idea. It has not been seriously questioned until the formation of the Oregon Anglers Alliance. It appears that Oregon's foundational premise of Reduced Reproductive Success in regard to years of hatchery salmon policy may be in error. We've been applying this policy for decades and it has not increased the numbers of natural origin fish. There are only examples of having fewer salmon where hatchery presence has been reduced or eliminated. We have not found the RRS theory nearly as convincing as some have. Just one example of what concerns many of us are the following disclaimers written as online supporting materials from Araki et al. (2007):

"We used a one-tailed test because **we had a clear, a priori hypothesis that captive-bred fish** (or $C[CxW]$) **might have fitness that is lower than wild fish** (or $C[WxW]$). We also wanted maximal power to detect lower fitness of captive-bred fish (or $C[CxW]$) because the biological consequences of failing to detect a real difference are far worse than of falsely concluding a difference exists. **We calculated p values without adjustment for multiple comparisons because, again, we wanted to err on the side of detecting lower fitness of captive-bred fish.**"

According to the data presented in the published paper and the online materials, over the study period of 1995-2000 the hatchery derived fish were **only worse half of the time**: 1995, 1998 (females) and 1999 (males). The use of generous statistical methods justified by the argument of a negligible downside seems to **indicate a preferred outcome**, at least to those of us who find ourselves on the downside. Using these methods, Araki et al. manages to squeeze out a p of 0.042... barely significant. They explain the contradictory data by saying **"it is difficult to disentangle environmental effects from genetic effects"**.

If these are supporting materials from an RRS theory advocate, then we probably need not say more... but wait, there is more!

Please open the link below to view the recent work produced by Kathleen O'Malley and her team at Oregon State University that provides additional supporting evidence for our case.

Kathleen O'Malley

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<https://beav.es/cut>

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Disturbing news: On Wed. April 24 a 22-year-old man was arrested in Gardiner Oregon by the Oregon State Police, the Douglas County Sherriff's, and the City of Reedsport Police for breaking into the Gardiner Salmon Trout Enhancement Program hatchery and emptying one gallon of bleach into the raceways killing an estimated 20,000 Chinook salmon smolt. He is currently lodged in the Douglas County jail. A motive has not yet been determined.

The Gardiner, Winchester Bay STEP Association is seeking donations for upgraded security materials in an attempt to prevent future break-ins and salmon losses.

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And to close on a happy note, I was one of many that were privileged to take part in the annual "REEL Fishing Daze" program at the Arizona Beach State Parks Pond for all Curry County 3rd grade students. This event is a collaborative effort by the Gold Beach Curry Anadromous Fishermen, the Brookings Oregon South Coast Fishermen, and the primary organizer, the Gold Beach Salmon Trout Enhancement Program Biologist Mr. John Weber. This event is a community effort that brings classrooms, teachers, parents, the Curry Sherriff's Marine Deputy, Curry Aquatic Safety, Search and Rescue, the Watershed Council, State Parks, and of course, volunteer angling members including guests from as far away as the Coos Bay South Coast Anglers STEP.

Kids are instructed on water safety, riparian education, knot tying and casting, and then of course, actually fishing and catching hatchery rainbow trout for dinner. There are a lot of fishers born at this event! This event is a highlight for the community as it brings people together and builds lasting relationships that revolve around the values of hatcheries and sustainable harvest.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to digest all of this so that you may inform others around you.

Please feel free to share this in order to help us grow the voice. Remember, membership is FREE!

Gratefully,

Leonard Krug

President, Oregon Anglers Alliance

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Please visit our website at:

<https://www.oregonanglersalliance.org/>