



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Dec. 20, 2021

Many thanks to all of you that have joined our united voice and have helped to bring a better sense of balance to our natural resources table in Oregon. The attacks are still ongoing and we need to be diligent in our efforts to maintain and regain our privileges.

Special mention must be made of our core group of Board members and Officers. They have unselfishly donated their own time, energy, and money into this great organization. Welcome newest Board member Heath Hampel. He is the owner/operator of Chucks Seafood in Charleston and brings a unique dimension to our group. Heath has the trait of being a very focused and driven individual and is ever-diligent in achieving our goals.

The following are but a brief snippet of accomplishments that the OAA has realized this last quarter.

1. The OAA has been instrumental in the completion of the newly released documentary "The Rumreich Hatchery at Morgan Creek." Please go to our website, click on "more", and then click on "Videos", to view this entertaining and informative 12-minute film. You won't be disappointed! Kudos to OAA Board member Cliff Lance and OAA Science Review Panelist Tom Rumreich for their extraordinary dedication in creating this one-of-a-kind film about what a community can achieve in bringing back our fisheries through salmon propagation.
2. The US Army Corp of Engineers is receiving over 4 billion dollars from the infrastructure bill that was recently approved and signed into federal law. Approximately 573 million dollars will be allocated to Oregon. The OAA has been actively engaged in soliciting monies for infrastructure repairs and maintenance for especially, Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery. Special thanks to OAA associate Steve Beyerlin for leading this effort. We have let our voice be heard by Senators Merkley and Wyden through letters and attending town hall meetings voicing our concerns and the need for upgrades. We can now proceed in campaigning for additional hatchery upgrades for other facilities. We need to restore our ability to hatch and rear smolt.
3. The OAA single-handedly spearheaded a campaign to have 9 1/2 year, term-expired OF&W Commissioner Greg Wolley replaced by Dr. Leslie King. We enlisted an environmental law-firm and had them send a letter of intent to the Governor's office explaining the need to follow Oregon Statutes and proper protocol in regard to appointing Commissioners. This immediately resulted in the appointment of Dr. Leslie King. After Dr. Kings appointment, we then had to again threaten to file because Wolley refused to leave his seat until January. This was problematic as Commissioner Wolley has a history of repeatedly voting against Sportsmen and sportswomen's interests, and against ODFW Staff's opinion. With help from our Senators, Representatives, and

others, we soon had Dr. King in place and Greg Wolley gone. This action will go far in preventing what likely would result in the further shredding of our traditional model of fish and wildlife conservation. Everyone needs to be diligent in staying informed as to the make-up of our F&W Commission. Join the OAA.

4. The OAA has brought what is perhaps the only voice to push back on anti-hatchery and anti-harvest groups like the NFS, the Conservation Angler, Trout Unlimited, Wild Salmon Center and more. We have testified at commission meetings to rebut campaigns that call to halt all summer steelhead hatchery production on the Umpqua River, along with their outrageous proposals to eliminate all fishing in tributaries, banning bait and barbed hooks, to **no fishing from a floating device** and more.
5. The OAA was solely responsible for saving our STAC representation as we know it. We nearly lost most of our representation. The future of STAC/STEP as we have known it is yet another issue that is pivotal to our success as hunters, trappers, and anglers. We welcome our newest STAC representative Roger Lindquist. He is a great addition, is an OAA member, and is dedicated to safe-guarding our privileges from the anti-angling/anti-hatchery groups.
6. The OAA has had many Stakeholders seated for the Rogue/South Coast Conservation plan. This has been a 2 year-plus process that involved over 40 combined ODFW Staff and Stakeholders. This has been a very contentious battle with hatchery propagation and harvest privileges at stake. Anti-fishing/hatchery groups such as Trout Unlimited, The Native Fish Society, and The Wild Salmon Center posing as conservation groups, are attempting to create anarchy in regard to our proven, successfully, traditional model of Conservation. Thanks largely to the Oregon Anglers Alliance and the wave of testimony from pro-angling advocates within the local community, Curry County BoC's and City Councils for supporting us. On Dec. 17th the Oregon F&W Commission voted decisively to accept the proposed plan that includes continued harvest and hatchery production. There are other battles on the horizon, but for now, add another W to the growing list of OAA achievements!
7. The OAA has been working with the Oregon Hatchery Research Center to explore methods that will better serve the interests of the angling public. This has been a contentious issue since the inception of the OHRC. We have a list of plans and goals to present in January that we believe will provide some rehabilitation, but we are not completely confident that we can change the existing culture. ODFW has given us some hope that there are some positive changes about to occur. We have 5 delegates appointed to this. Thanks to long-time OHRC Board member Scott Starkey, two of our six Science Review Panelists Lyle Curtis and Jim Pex, our Lead Case Administrator, Lobbyist, and Board member Stan Steele, and especially our 9th District State Representative Boomer Wright, for their dedication in bringing some reform to this project. This will be an interesting one to watch. We will soon decide whether we can salvage this program, or reallocate anglers monies back to something that will be of greater benefit to the angling public.
8. The Coquille River has seen a decrease in their annual Fall Chinook returns in the last decade. From 32,000 to less than 300. The OAA Science Review Panel compiled a very detailed and holistic restoration plan for this river and submitted it to ODFW. The plan

included intensive invasive species management, riparian restoration, hatchery conservation, mitigation, and augmentation alternatives. This proposal was met with a Luke-warm response from ODFW. Since then, our community partners the Coquille Tribe have taken the lead and are working on a number of these things. The OAA's Heath Hampel has people in the community that are interested in establishing a STEP group and working with ODFW to bring back the Cunningham/ Coquille High School project for salmon propagation and riparian restoration. There are also plans beings drafted to begin regular smallmouth derbies that will allow for catch and harvest. This is yet another interesting issue to watch as the community attempts to take back and restore its communities fishery and river basin.

This is only a quick snapshot of the total projects that we are involved with. The OAA has much more to talk about. Going forward, we need folks like you to help us "spread the word and grow the herd." We are always on the lookout for people that would like to get involved in organizing and/or administrating in order to ensure the future of our fish and wildlife conservation as we have known it for well over one hundred years. We are also looking to expand our industry leaders partnerships. Please consider getting involved. Reach out to us if you believe that you may be interested in helping to protect and restore our privileges for sportsmen and women. Please remember, we are a collaborative mix of **ALL** fishing, hunting, and trapping folks that have banded together for the greater good.

Our members are spread far and wide, and Zoom meetings are the norm, so at this time, travel is not an issue.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." M. Meade

Once again, from the Oregon Anglers Alliance organization, may you and your families have Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leonard Krug, President
Josh Bettsworth, Vice President
Linda Pinkham, Chief financial Officer
Holly Larkins, Executive Administrator

Board Members;
Doug Buck, Heath Hampel, Cliff Lance, Bob Main, Stan Steele, and John Ward.

Science Review Panelists;
Reese Bender, Lyle Curtis, Jim Pex, Reg Pullen, Tom Rumreich, and Joe Watkins.

www.oregonanglersalliance.org