



December 2023 Newsletter. Updated 12-18-23.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping to spread the voice. The Oregon Anglers Alliance has been increasing its allies and growing steadily.

"There is strength in numbers, but even more so in collective good will. For those endeavors are supported by mighty forces unseen."

We are now looking at 2024 and you can be sure that the last quarter of 2023 has been full of surprises! There's an impossibly huge amount of news to share, so we'll just touch on a few of the highlights for now.

There are times to give ODF&W credit, and this is one of them. ODFW Staff and others have been working with Congress to secure funding for Oregon's hatchery infrastructure repairs and upgrades, along with habitat restoration. With assistance from ODF&W, the Oregon Anglers Alliance crafted a report on Cole Rivers/Rogue River infrastructure and habitat degradation. OAA submitted this report to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and Congress. The result is millions of dollars for Oregon Salmon! Additional funding has been granted to Treaty Tribes for salmon propagation programs. We don't have all of the numbers yet, but we do know that a large share of the funding has been appropriated for the Columbia River with millions of dollars for the Rogue River Cole Rivers hatchery, and another generous piece for the Bandon hatchery. The Oregon Anglers Alliance will be working with ODFW, its Tribal partners, HW/Coexist, and the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program in an effort to identify where increased supplementation programs may be appropriate. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/media-release/biden-harris-administration-announces-106-million-recommended-funding-west-coast-and>

- Due to unstable ground and mudslides, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center has closed its doors at the Alsea River Fall Cr. facility and moved to the OSU field campus.

Experiments will now be conducted at OSU and at various hatchery locations.

A few of the projects in store for the OHRC include gathering a consensus of the Social Perceptions of Hatchery Fish, how do we view "wild" and how to better define wild? Plus, a hatchbox workshop, and improving olfactory imprinting. Please see the link below by our friend Bill Monroe on the use of beer to improve salmon homing abilities.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2023/05/bill-monroe-heres-how-oregon-beer-could-wind-up-saving-oregon-salmon.html>

- When we dive into the "best available science", we soon realize that the science doesn't always get us to where we want to go. Inadequate data, along with social, economic, and/or cultural concerns often supersede science. There is also money as a stumbling block. Often times, institutions, or NGO's that are well organized and well-funded affect policy decision making to serve their own agendas. The OAA is working with Portland

State University and many others to conduct a Public Affairs and Policy Relative to Fisheries Management Forum. The forum includes many interviews with folks from from an eclectic group of participants. The end goal is that after a 2-year study, produce a published paper that will help guide us to craft better informed policy decisions.

- Fish habitat/timber harvest topic; The Elliot Creek Forest that was granted to OSU in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siletz, and Siuslaw, has been handed back to the state due to recent restrictive land use policy put into place resulting in the inability to properly manage this important resource. Please read the letter of explanation contained in the link below. The OAA will continue to monitor and provide comment on this topic.

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/0/inbox/id/AQQkADAwATMwMAItMjk4Yy1hN2JhLTAwAiOwMAoAEAD8k4mVq9B%25>

- Offshore wind update; There have been many people including the Oregon Anglers Alliance, that have put the economics and environmental concerns of this project into perspective resulting in many unanswered questions. It appears that the amount of energy to be produced by these giants may be more of a liability to the taxpayer than an asset. The only ones that may profit are the energy companies that are guaranteed a profit by the Feed-in-Tariff policy set forth by our federal government. As history shows, money almost always trumps environmental concerns, but thankfully for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the potential negative impacts to our ecosystem may come first. Please use the link below for an excellent report on the effects of offshore wind.

<https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2023/11/november-2023-letter-to-boem-governor-kotek-on-pfmc-comments-on-draft-wind-energy-areas.pdf/>

- Huge thanks to the ODFW for working with the Coquille STEP, the OAA, and the OHRC to formulate a plan to initiate in-stream incubation boxes as a large-scale research project. New technology will enable us to track the returning adult incubation box fish through the use of DNA sampling. This is the latest in wild fish supplementation work and there is renewed optimism that the data will illustrate this to be a valuable tool in helping us to regain our wild fish abundance.

The Oregon Anglers Alliance mission is to increase awareness and educate the public through participation in fisheries management. This has proven to help our policy managers to make better informed decisions that aid in providing increased salmonid abundance, resulting in a healthier and more viable ecosystem for all aquatic species, including our communities. Please help us to grow our voice by enlisting new members. Membership is FREE.

Please visit www.oregonanglersalliance.org to learn more, become a member, and/or to donate to our fish and our habitat.

Thank you for your dedication and passion for our fisheries,

Leonard Krug
President, Oregon Anglers Alliance
541-659-0976