

STEPPIN' OUT

The Florence Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Newsletter

Clamming on the Oregon Coast

Clamming, one of the long-standing recreational activities on the Oregon coast, will be explored at the Wednesday, April 1 meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge on 12th st. in Florence. The public is invited to attend.

Mike Bones, a Florence native and retired state park ranger, will share his knowledge and experience in all things clams at the meeting. Bones learned the fine art of clamming at his father's side while growing up in Florence. He delights in sharing his techniques, experiences and recipes for clams.

Oregon mud clams, also known as soft shell clams, originally came from the East coast. They allegedly were hand planted in the Siuslaw estuary in the late 1800s, having been dug up in Coos Bay, where they had taken root after hitching rides with ships that anchored in that area.

A business meeting, with updates on hatchery, traps, spawning activities and the Fish Egg to Fry program, will precede Bones' presentation.

Fish Egg To Fry Program Underway

Steelhead eggs are heading into 23 classrooms throughout the Siuslaw Basin — and two more down to Reedsport schools — as the 2015 Fish Egg to Fry program gets underway.

Two work parties, under the direction of the new equipment team of Bob Depweg, Brian Hudson, Bob Occhi and Terry Talbot, organized and prepared the tanks and chiller units. Ron Caputo wrote and was awarded a grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation to purchase new chiller units. Gone are the days of frozen ice bottles to keep temperatures at 50 degrees!

The eggs will stay in the aquariums approximately five weeks as students monitor their growth, remove dead eggs and do a variety of curriculum activities in their classes. Tentative date to remove the fry and have first graders assist in releasing them into Munsel Lake is May 6, according to Becky Goehring, Fish Egg to Fry program coordinator.

Fish Cleaning Station Wins Final Approval

The new fish cleaning station is completed and open for business! A thing of beauty, the station received final approval from the city of Florence building inspector and is open during the day for anglers to clean their catch.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and acknowledgement of those who worked hard to complete this project is planned in the near future. Special thanks to Bill Hennig, Craig Brandt and Bob Anderson for planning and overseeing this project.

Calendar of Events April, 2015

Wednesday, April 1

Steelhead Egg Delivery To Classrooms

9 a.m. at Siuslaw Elementary School
Contact Becky, bravabecky@yahoo.com
or 541-997-9046 to be a part of the team!

April General Member Meeting

"Clamming on the Oregon Coast"

Mike Bones, speaker

Business meeting precedes talk

Public is invited to attend

7 p.m. Elks' Lodge

12th st. in Florence

Wednesday, April 15 Board Meeting

4 p.m.

Port of Siuslaw Board Room

Friday, April 17 Annual Bottom Fishing Trip

Betty K Charter Trip

Limited to 21 anglers. Cost about \$75

Contact Ron Caputo for a spot,

541-997-4961

Saturday, April 25 Ada Grange #570 Celebrates Grange Month!

5 p.m. kitchen opens

6 p.m. Bingo

Intermission: Ice Cream Social
Questions, call Nancy, 541-997-2380
10 miles out Canary rd.

Work Party Schedules

Tuesdays and Thursdays to
Whittaker Creek.

Spawning returns to Whittaker on
Tuesdays

Contact Ron Caputo to help
with the hatchery activities

President's Letter by Ron Caputo

Marine Reserves and the Angler

One of the words that brings fear into the heart of a fisherman is the word reserves. You immediately figure you are going to lose your favorite fishing spot. So now we have the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Areas just north of Florence. The Southeast Marine Protected Area starts about where Baker Beach road is north of town and runs north to the mouth of Tenmile Creek. These zones run from the shoreline out three miles. What can you do in this area? You can crab, troll for salmon, and fish from shore. What can't you do? No commercial fishing, no take of Pacific herring, Pacific sardines, anchovies, smelt, Pacific sand lance, or market squid. You can participate in all other legal take.

The actual Marine Reserve Area starts at Tenmile Creek and goes north to Cape Perpetua. This is the real reserve area. There is no take of any fish, invertebrates, seaweeds or wildlife. You cannot deploy any fishing gear. If your favorite fishing hole is in this area you can kiss it goodbye.

The North Marine Protected Area runs from Cape Perpetua north a few mile past Yachats. There is no take of any fish, invertebrates, seaweed or wildlife except you can take crab, you can troll for salmon, and you can recreationally use hook and line from shore.

So why do we need marine reserves? There are a lot of people in offices in the state of Oregon sitting at their desks figuring stuff out. One of them decided that if the Pacific Ocean fish stocks were to fail there would be no way to tell until it was too late to save them. So he came up with this wonderful idea having places out in the ocean where nobody could catch fish. That way the scientists could compare the fishing zones with the non-fishing zones and save the Pacific fishing stocks.

Is there a problem with our Pacific fish stocks? Absolutely not! We have very robust and diverse fish stocks. We have 13 types of flat fish: 9 types of sole, 2 flounders, sand dabs, and a very healthy stock of Halibut. We have 45 different types of Rock fish or Red Snapper or sometimes they are called rock cod. Only 2 species are under catch restrictions. They are Canary Rock fish and Yellow Eye Rock fish. We have 4 types of sharks and 4 types of skates. Roller and ice are not a type of Pacific skates. We have 18 other species that include herring, anchovies, sardines, mackerels, ling cod, hake and other types of fish. We even have a species called a Red Irish Lord, I presume they are good to eat.

Those of you who are going out on the STEP bottom fishing trip can plan on coming home with some real great firm white fish fillets, perfect for fish and chips, fish tacos or just baked in the oven with a few herbs and some lemon juice. I'm sure we will have a great time on Betty K Charters and that I'll come home with more stories to tell. Remember that there is a man in an office thinking up something new that will cost us a little more or that will take away a little bit of our good life on the Oregon Coast.

Jorgenson Tapped To Fill Open Board Seat

Lyle Jorgenson was appointed by the STEP Board of Directors to fill out the board seat vacated by Brad Parks. Parks and his wife Robyn are moving to Whidbey Island in Washington. Thank you Brad and good luck to both of you in your new adventure!

Jorgenson is a long time STEP member and former president. Welcome back, Lyle. The board meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Port of Siuslaw board room. All members are invited to attend.



P.O. Box 1322
Florence Oregon 97439
Not for profit tax TIN
#93-1121056

President

Ron Caputo, roncaputo@charter.net
541-997-4961

Vice President

Rick Samuelson, cvsams@msn.com
541-902-1954

Secretary

Open Position

Treasurer

Craig Brandt, brandt8877@msn.com
208-336-8877

Newsletter Editor

Becky Goehring, bravabecky@yahoo.com
541-997-9046

At-Large Directors

Bob Anderson, Jack Armer,
Tim Hanson, Bill Hennig,
Jim Jordan, Lyle Jorgenson, Skip Rosenbalm

Hatchery Crew

541-997-3558 (on-site phone)

Jack Armer, manager
Ron Caputo, assists

STEP SHED

Craig Brandt

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