

STEPPIN' OUT

Florence Salmon & Trout Enhancement Newsletter

February 2017

A Message from our President

Steelhead Fishing

I caught my first Steelhead when I was in my forties. I fished for them at the right places with the wrong equipment for years. Not knowing that a nice stiff salmon rod is not the right rod to catch steelhead. I fished the Wilson, the Nehalem, the Sandy, and many more rivers. But I never got a bump. It was like fishing with a broomstick.

I was in the real estate business back in the eighties so I had most mornings off. My friend Bruce took pity on me. He took me up on the Salmon River near Rippling River Golf Course. We hiked down to the river and Bruce lent me one of his rods and said "Cast up-stream a little and let the bait float down near the far side of the river". I made a nice cast and sure enough I could feel every little rock as my bait bounced downstream. Suddenly, my bait stopped so I gave a little tug and then the battle began, me against an 8 # Steelhead. I had caught a lot of trout but nothing this big. This giant trout jumped, shook his head, ran up river, then down river. So I ran up river, then down river. (I could actually run back then). Somehow, after a long fight, I was able to land my first Steelhead. That started my long love of Steelhead fishing.

My friend Bruce had a drift boat so I got to fish a lot. We would go to the lower sandy river an hour before the park gates would open and slide his boat down a steep bank to the river. We were able to be the first drift boat down the river each day during the spring Salmon and Steelhead season. I learned about wiggle warts. How to fish them and how to adjust them. We caught fish. Some days we would get one somedays three and somedays we got skunked. I remember the trip when we were close to down town Troutdale and we hooked a good springer. It felt like a heavy fish. Fortunately, we were in a deep wide spot in the river. We took turns fighting the fish. When I grabbed the rod, and felt the fish "o Yeah baby" this was a real fish. I sure we fought it for close to a half hour. Mean time several cars had stopped and a crowd had gather and we heard a great big cheer when the fish slid into net. The fish was a 36-pound Spring Chinook. The finest tasting fish in the world hot off the grill. Those were the good old days.

See you on the river. Ron

February 2017

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Wednesday, February 1st
Membership Meeting
Elks Lodge 7:00 p.m.

Jesse Dolin will be our Speaker. Jesse has developed lead free fishing weights. His weights are made from rocks and are designed for Steelhead fishing. Jesse grew up in Waldport and was an ardent fisherman. He has fished the Alsea, Yachats, and Siletz Rivers for Steelhead. He thought about rocks as weights because the underwater sound they make would be more natural than lead sinkers. Jesse will talk about how he developed and tested his weights and how to use them to catch more Steelhead.

Wednesday, February 15th
Board of Directors Meeting
4 p.m. Port of Siuslaw Office

Check out the ODFW 2017 Trout Stocking Schedules:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/trout_stocking_schedules/

Where are the Coho Salmon?

Sustainability Status

Unlike most ground fish stocks, biomass measurements are not used to describe the status of salmon stocks. Instead, it is usually described using measures of how many salmon return to the stream of their birth to spawn (spawning escapement), productivity, and recruitment. However, annual estimates of abundance of year classes that will contribute to fisheries are used for management purposes.

Fishing and habitat: Coho salmon are a target species of commercial troll fisheries in California, the Pacific Northwest, and Alaska. They are also harvested in commercial seine and gillnet fisheries and taken by a variety of gear by subsistence and recreational fishermen. Fishing gear for salmon has little or no direct impact on fish habitat; however, lost net gear can pose an entanglement risk to marine animals.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council manages commercial and recreational coho salmon fisheries in federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California through **Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP)**. The general goal of management is to allow for harvest of the maximum amount of salmon that will support the fishery while preventing overharvest of the resource and ensuring that salmon populations with low abundance are rebuilt to a healthy level. Specific management measures vary depending on how many salmon are present; regulations might include size limits, season length, quotas, gear restrictions, and bag limits for recreational fishermen. Every year, the Council makes recommendations for management for the coming season based on reports of the previous season and estimates of salmon abundance for the coming season. Management of coho salmon fisheries must also comply with laws such as the **Endangered Species Act**. Final recommendations are implemented by NOAA Fisheries Service on May 1.



The Whittaker Trap is now up and running – We will soon be spawning! If you'd like to help or just come take some fantastic photos and see what it's all about - work parties are usually held every Tuesday leaving the shed at 9 a.m.

For more information or directions contact Bill Hennig at just1more@q.com

Florence Salmon & Trout
kim gomez

Nice fish Ryan!

Type information a summary of the information in this newsletter or provide more information about your company.
