

STEPPIN' OUT

Florence Salmon & Trout Enhancement Newsletter

A message from our President Ron Caputo



Driving up Rhododendron on my way home from fishing up river I noticed about 10 Fishermen casting lures in the river. This fishery has come on really strong in past few years. The River is open for retention of Fin clipped Coho. It is not open for wild Coho. We do not have a fin clip program on the Siuslaw so I hope any Wild fish that are caught are released alive. Those of you who fished for

Chinook in the river last few years probably caught more Coho or Silver salmon than Chinook. It's such a shame to have to release these beautiful fish back into the river, where many of them die from exhaustion or poor release methods.

Historically the Siuslaw has had huge runs of Coho and Chinook salmon. In the late eighteen hundreds thousands of pounds of salmon were canned and shipped down the coast to San Francisco or around the Horn in South America To New York. Runs of 200,000 fish were common. Unfortunately the great runs of salmon slowly died out as the area was developed for farming and logging.

Now the lumber mills are gone and improved farming and logging practices have helped bring the salmon back from the endangered species list. The following groups have worked hard to improve conditions for salmon survival: The Florence STEP Group, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Siuslaw Watershed Council, The US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and private land holders have restored miles of degraded streams in the Siuslaw basin. Trees have been planted, culverts replaced, and structures installed in creeks all for the sake of Salmon.

What caused the decline in fish runs? Ocean conditions? Seals? Logging? Global warming? Degraded streams? Over fishing? The cause is all of these conditions and none of these. Ocean conditions gets blamed a lot, but the lake systems continued to have very high return of fish while the coastal streams runs dropped to edge of extinction. Over fishing has been part of the problem as the bulk of returning fish were caught at sea by fishermen under an allocation system that was poorly conceived by fishery managers. Degraded streams and logging played a part in the poor runs. There is a lack of gravels and woody debris in our streams caused by high water events scouring out our creeks to bedrock. If you visit our local streams you'll

OCTOBER 2017 Calendar of Events



October Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 4th
Florence Elks Lodge 7 pm

Meeting speakers will be **Terry Barret** and **Dean Hendricks**. Terry will show the gear and bait that he uses to catch **Surf Perch**. He will also tell when and where to fish for these tasty fish. Surf Perch fishing is open all year and the limit is 15 fish.

Dean will show the methods he uses to catch **Coho Salmon** in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes. He will also provide a map of the best places to fish.

See you Wednesday

ADA GRANGE BINGO

Ada Grange #570
Saturday, Oct. 21st
5:00 p.m. Kitchen opens
6:00 p.m. BINGO

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at 541-997-2380

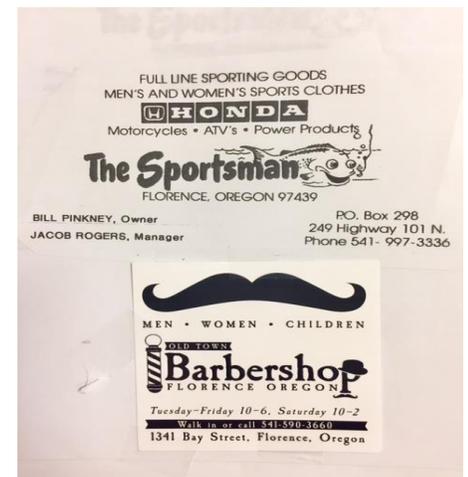
find Alder lined banks devoid of Cedar and Spruce trees. These were logged by our early pioneers for lumber to build homes and ships.

The Florence STEP Group was instrumental in the reopening of fishing in Takenitch and Siltcoss Lakes. Our Coho runs have been the highest of any system on the Oregon Coast except the Columbia River. In the early 1990's runs of 2000 to 5000 spawners were very common. Runs continued to increase until 1997 when only 667 spawning fish were counted. The runs again increased until we had the highest count ever recorded on the Siuslaw. In 2002 over 56,000 spawning fish were counted followed by 29,000 the following Year. In the last 2 year the Coho and Chinook counts have been down. WE had no Coho return to either out Munsel Creek or our Woahink traps so we were unable to release our 10,000 fin-clipped Coho fry. I certainly hope this year's returns are much better.

See you on the river



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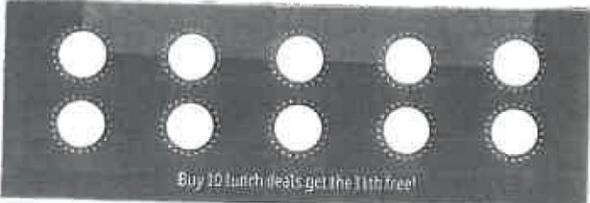
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