

# STEPPIN' OUT

The Florence Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Newsletter

## Salmon Smolt Loss on the Umpqua

A fish carcass clogged an intake pipe at Rock Creek Hatchery, shutting off the flow of water to a raceway, killing 400,000 spring Chinook pre-smolts. These fish were to be released directly from the hatchery into the North Umpqua River next spring.

Dan Meyer, Rock Creek Hatchery manager said the water flow didn't drop low enough to trigger an alarm. An alert employee discovered the problem within an hour but with the water temperature in the raceway at about 68 degrees and no fresh water coming in, it was too late to salvage any live fish.

"We have a new intake and a new emergency valve we can open. If power to the screens is out, water to the hatchery is severed, and the emergency valve will get water to fish. It was opened for short time during a power outage a few months ago when the emergency generator failed, and we think the carcass may have gotten into the water line then," Meyer explained.

The hatchery spring Chinook provide a popular fishery in the Umpqua and North Umpqua rivers with 4,000 to 6,000 returning each year. These fish return as three to five-year old adults, with the majority returning as four-year-olds. Anglers will see the impact predominately in the 2018 returns and to some degree 2017 and 2019 as well.

ODFW fish staff are looking at possible options for this fishery and will keep the public informed. Hatchery staff are refining the new alarm system testing and protocol.

## Calendar of Events July, 2015

### Wednesday, July 1

#### State of the Hatchery meeting

3 p.m. Honeyman group yurt

#### Annual Membership BBQ

5 p.m. Setup at 4 p.m.

Club provides hamburgers, hot dogs, oysters, soft drinks, water and fixings.

Bring a side dish to share.

### Saturday, July 4

ADA Grange at the

Wings and Wheels Show

Florence Airport

### Wednesday, July 15

Board meeting 4 p.m.

Port of Siuslaw Offices,  
100 Harbor St. in Florence

#### Work Party Schedules

Nothing scheduled. Watch email for special notices

## Annual Member Picnic Wednesday at Honeyman

The barbecue will be smoking hot with oysters crackling out their shells, hamburgers and hot dogs sizzling at the annual member gathering Wednesday, July 1 at the group yurt in Honeyman State Park.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and oysters will be provided by the club, along with soft drinks, water and all the fixings for the burgers and dogs. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Stories looking back on the year of STEP activities will be shared and projections looking ahead to the fast-approaching fall chinook season will be made.

There will also be a raffle drawing for some prizes, including a rod and reel combination, \$50 Fred Meyer gift card and other treats. Tickets will be sold at the picnic, \$2 each or 3 for \$5. "All family members are invited," reminded club president Ron Caputo. "We look forward to seeing everyone at the event."

## ODFW Seeks Input on Nearshore and Conservation 10-Year Plans

Draft revisions for two major, non-regulatory planning documents are open for public comment period through July 20. The two plans are the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Oregon Nearshore Strategy.

The two planning documents are used by natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, landowners and others who want to enhance and conserve Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats.

There will be a public meeting at the North Bend Library in North Bend July 7 and another on July 9 at the Holiday Inn Express in Newport to examine and hear public comment on the Nearshore Strategy document. Both meetings will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Comments about the Conservation Strategy may be emailed to [audrey.C.Hatch@state.or.us](mailto:audrey.C.Hatch@state.or.us) by 5 p.m. July 20.

## Education Programs A Hit With Kids

A variety of programs and events that had volunteers from STEP helping kids learn and enjoy fishing have come to a close until September.

The spring season of education programs kicked off with the annual Fish Egg to Fry program in area classrooms and continued through several fishing days with kids.

“We had a good turnout and great volunteer help for all the programs,” noted Becky Goehring, who along with Mike Frankhouser spearheads the education component of the STEP activities. “Fish were raised and released and lots of kids were catching and taking home trout.”

The fishing experiences began with the Outdoor Adventure Camp for fifth and seventh graders. The end of the year camp is held at the Girl Scout Camp facility on Cleawox Lake. STEP volunteers staffed the fishing station for 4 days the first week of June.

The very next day, STEP volunteers turned out in droves to support the Free Fishing Day activities at Cleawox. Co-sponsored by the US Forest Service, ODFW, Oregon State Parks and STEP, the day was a big success as STEP handed out nearly 200 rod and reel setups for families to use.

The day included a free BBQ hot dog lunch, print making on t-shirts, practice casting stations and lots of trout being caught and brought to the cleaning station, headed up by Fred Peterson.

Fishing adventures with Eugene Girl Scouts and staffing a station during the Siuslaw Watershed Council's Summer Adventure Camp rounded out the season.

There is one more fishing experience with kids, scheduled Saturday, September 26 with Cub Scouts who will be camping that weekend at the Boy Scout Camp. Mike Frankhouser will be sending out further information and seeking volunteers to assist with that day.

## Emergency Regulations on the Umpqua

Effective immediately, an emergency regulation protects wild summer steelhead and a temporary rule better defines fall and spring Chinook angling in the Umpqua River.

The first temporary rule covers the Umpqua River from tips of jetties to confluence of the North and South Umpqua rivers. It sets Fall Chinook angling season from July 1 – December 31, 2015. Harvest limit is two adult wild Chinook per day, 20 per year in combination with all other salmon or steelhead marked on anglers' tags.

This temporary rule change was made to allow anglers to begin harvesting fall Chinook earlier and to benefit those who may already have reached their limit of spring Chinook. ODFW recognizes that biologically, the fish are classified as fall Chinook beginning July 1, not August 1.

An Emergency regulation covers from the Scottsburg Bridge (Hwy. 38) to River Forks Boat Ramp. From now through Oct. 1, 2015, angling is prohibited within 200 feet of all tributaries including no angling in the tributaries themselves from the mouth to 200 feet upstream. This emergency regulation will protect wild summer steelhead and fall Chinook salmon that hold in and around tributaries looking for colder water.

Currently, the Umpqua River has abnormally low flows and higher than normal water temperatures due to the drought conditions.



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### STEP SHED

Craig Brandt

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