



Northwest Steelheaders



Mid-Valley Chapter Newsletter

2021, Vol 4

President's Message

I hope that everyone has stayed safe and healthy as the pandemic begins a wind down phase. We may be able to finally start having face to face meetings and other fun activities' in a couple of months without the hassles of masks and distancing. Until that time we have some events planned that will still be fun and safe if we act responsibility. I will touch on those events a little bit further down the newsletter.

The winter steelhead was a bust for many of us, but take a look at the picture of Dennis Cook with his very first steelhead. He stuck with it and was rewarded with a memory to last a life time. Way to go Dennis! If any of you caught fish recently and have pictures or have a fishing story to tell, please share with us as we are always looking for information from our members. The fish does not have to be a Steelhead or Salmon, any fish is a win. Along that same line, if you know of a unique method, lure, piece of equipment, etc. that you have found to be useful to increase your fishing efficiency, write it up and we will pass it along in future newsletters. We would like to see some of your recipes for fish batters, brines, smoking methods, even Hush Puppies, etc. It is one thing to catch the fish, it is another to eat them.

There is a glitch in the raffles we were supposed to put on with Damon Struble, and Curt Curry because the Association accidentally went over the limit of funds brought in per raffle. We are hoping that this can be cleared up by June 5th when our annual picnic is held. If so, we can hold the drawing then.

We still have the new style hats, t-shirts, and Hoodies for sale. Hats are \$15, t-shirts are \$15, and Hoodies are \$30. Contact myself, or George Larson to get one of these great pieces of clothing at the meeting.

Due to the Corona virus problem the Mid-Valley officer and board member elections will be held at the picnic in June rather than as is customarily at our banquet in April. Please consider running for one of the open positions.

Upcoming Meeting Information:

April 7th: Rich Bryan from Kokanee Powers of Oregon has confirmed that he will be giving us a presentation on the three most popular and promising lakes to try this season. Also he has great up-to-date equipment and methods ideas to help us catch more quality kokanee. As most of you know Rich is always ready to answer your questions with full and true information. This is especially appropriate for this time of the year. Don't miss it.

May 22nd: Shad Fishing Trip. The 22nd was decided on after looking at other commitments in the end of April and the beginning of June. As Bill Kramers explained in his article in last month's newsletter, the shad are a fun, plentiful, and relatively easy fish to catch with inexpensive equipment. Many of the Shad reach 3 to 5 lbs and give a good fight. This is a trip that is meant for the whole family to enjoy. More details, such as boat availability, and best launch sites will be forthcoming as the date gets closer.

June 5th: Annual Mid-Valley Chapter Picnic. Ron Pockrus has procured the big pavilion at Waterloo County Park on Saturday the 5th of June so we will have a picnic that the family can attend rather than during the weekdays when families had a hard time joining. Another consideration is the weather in June is so much better than the hot August days of previous year's picnics.

New Members:

We have been gaining memberships by contacting former members and asking friends as well as prospective fishermen that are not only interested in Steelhead, but all species of the finny tribes. As you are talking about fishing with people just ask have you ever heard of the NW Steelheaders? If not, then invite them to a meeting. By introducing them to our Chapter, you may very well be doing them and us a favor.

Information for Joining the Meeting:

The information to join the meeting will be forthcoming by Monday and probably earlier. If you have not received the instructions by evening on Monday please give me a call. Also if you would like to invite a friend, contact me with their email address or phone number.

Everyone stay safe and healthy. Get ready--fishing time is here!

Jim Sallee

President Mid-valley Chapter NWSH

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NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife

Contact:

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February 23, 2021

States set initial 2021 Columbia River spring Chinook recreational seasons

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – Fishery managers from Oregon and Washington adopted recreational spring Chinook salmon and steelhead seasons for the Columbia River today during a joint state hearing. These regulations modify the current rules which are in effect through Feb. 28 downstream of Bonneville Dam and through March 15 upstream of Bonneville.

The lower Columbia River (from Buoy 10 to Warrior Rock) will be open for the first time since 2018. Also, a no-boat-angling bubble will be in effect on the mainstem at the Cowlitz River mouth (as well as Carrolls Channel in Wash.) to provide additional conservation measures for fish returning to the Cowlitz River.

The overall forecasted return of adult spring Chinook to the Columbia River mouth of 143,200 fish is similar to last year's actual return of 142,500. However, the season-setting process is driven by the forecast for upriver-origin spring Chinook of 75,200 fish, which is lower than last year's actual return of 81,300. Returns to the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are projected to meet hatchery escapement goals which allows for opening of the fishery throughout the lower Columbia River.

The fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam will be managed for a harvest guideline of 2,206 upriver Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) prior to an in-season run size update. Upstream of Bonneville Dam, the pre-update harvest guideline is 315 upriver mortalities.

Columbia River spring Chinook salmon seasons are driven by Endangered Species Act limitations and a management agreement between the states and Columbia River Treaty Tribes specifying the total number of upriver-origin Chinook that can be killed. Therefore, open dates can change during the season if/when guidelines are expected to be met. Always check your Angling Zone in ODFW's Recreation Report /Fishing Report before fishing to make sure regulations haven't changed , <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/>

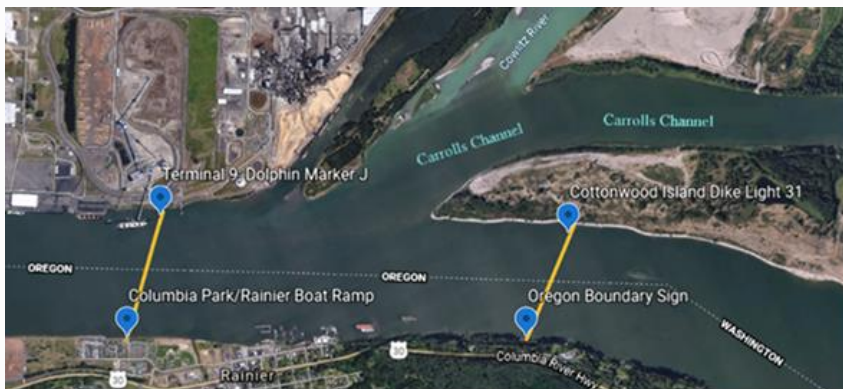
Anglers are reminded that the use of barbless hooks is required when angling for salmon or steelhead in mainstem Columbia River waters from the mouth upstream to the OR/WA state line.

The following regulations will be in effect for the mainstem Columbia River:

Below Bonneville Dam

- Season: Monday, March 1 through Sunday, April 4
- Bag limit: Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.
- Open area: Buoy 10 line upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline, except salmonid angling from a boat is prohibited in the spring salmonid boat angling area closure adjacent to the Cowlitz River mouth.

Spring Salmonid Boat Angling Area Closure: Boat angling for salmon and steelhead is closed within the Columbia River mainstem adjacent to the Cowlitz River, including all of Carrolls Channel, as described below.



- Downstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Dolphin Marker J (near Shipping Terminal 9), southerly across the Columbia River to the Columbia Park Boat Ramp in Rainier, Oregon.
- Upstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Cottonwood Island Dike Light “31”, southerly across the Columbia River to a deadline marker on the Oregon shore.

Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border

- Season dates: Tuesday, March 16 through Wednesday, May 5
- Bag limit: Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.
- Open area: Tower Island power lines (approximately six miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines

Sandy, Clackamas, and lower Willamette rivers

Fishery managers are forecasting 50,000 adult Willamette-origin Chinook will return, which would be an increase from last year's actual return of approximately 46,000 fish. These rivers will be open under permanent

regulations—except two rods are allowed March 1-August 15 when fishing for all species except sturgeon on the lower Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel) and in the lower Clackamas River downstream of the Hwy 99 Bridge (just upstream of the confluence with the Willamette) with a valid two-rod validation.

The two-rod validation costs \$28 and is also valid in most ponds and lakes in the state. Youth anglers under age 12 may use two rods in waterbodies where they are allowed without purchasing the validation.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries (Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough)

Effective March 1 through June 15, on days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.

On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is closed to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply (see [Columbia River Zone permanent regulations](#)). These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (hatchery only during Jan. 1 – July 31), hatchery steelhead, and hatchery coho except for some seasonal tributary closures

Smoked Salmon/Sturgeon Rub Mix:

3 c. dark brown sugar
1 c. Johnny's seasoned salt
¼ c. freshly ground black pepper*

I usually make this in a ½ gallon mason jar so it is easy to mix. This keeps the mixture nice and dry and handy for other uses as well.

When using for smoked salmon, generously sprinkle on salmon pieces. Place in refrigerator overnight, turning once or twice during evening. (I like to place in a Ziploc so I can easily (and neatly) turn salmon. Leave overnight.

Next day, take out of mixture (there should be quite a lot of liquid). Take salmon pieces out of mixture and place on a pan to let it “dry” till sticky and form a pellicle (note: it is the pellicle that retains the smoke and is crucial to the smoky taste). This drying period can last an hour or two.

Do NOT wash the mixture off the salmon or use a paper towel to dry off. Let the seasoning “dry” naturally on the salmon.

When it is dry/sticky, I place on the Traeger on the smoke function and smoke till it is firm to the touch – about 150 degrees. Depending on the weather, this can take 1 hour to 2 hours...just check with your fingers which will tell you when it is done. This will be a cold smoke. You can smoke longer if you feel you need to but the salmon will not be as tender and moist.

When done (for me an hour or two) I remove and place in a Tupperware/ plastic ware container. A liquid/sweat will form and I try to keep this with the salmon to keep it moist.

Notes: I hate to waste and also use this mixture to stir fry veggies and as a seasoning mix to top salmon/kokanee before grilling. This makes amazing grilled salmon and veggies!

If you can use freshly ground black pepper, it really makes a difference in this recipe.



This is my best picture. Isn't she a beauty?
Dennis Cook



Bryce Hansen's day on the river. He caught on steelhead and one trout and just enjoyed floating down the river.

How to Join the Chapter Meetings

Mid-Valley Chapter Meeting are available using Zoom.

This meeting is FREE and open to the public! All are welcome to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting using audio and video

<https://zoom.us/j/92332137381?pwd=Q3JCSzFlSEdVWmJkSjNuaXJndVZSUT09>

Meeting ID: 923 3213 7381

Passcode: 901284

To join by phone (audio only):

Dial: 253-215-8782

Enter meeting ID: 923 3213 7381

Passcode: 901284

From your computer (if using a cell phone for video and audio, you will need to download a Zoom app):

- Open the Zoom desktop client or Zoom app
- Join a meeting using one of these methods:
 - Click Join a Meeting if you want to join without signing in.
 - Or sign in to Zoom then click Join.
- Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.
 - If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
 - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
- Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and click Join.

By Phone audio only:

- On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number provided in your invite.
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted using your dialpad.



JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS

Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Check one:

- Annual Member..... \$30 per year
- Sustaining Member..... \$10 per month
- Lifetime Member..... \$500 one time
- Budgeted Life Member.... \$100 in 5 annual installments

These are the standard rates as of January 1, 2020

Contribution of \$ _____ Total charged/enclosed \$ _____

Please charge my: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Note that we cannot process payments via debit card

Card No. _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ Auth Code: _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone 1 _____

Phone 2 _____

Email _____

Chapter or Member at Large _____

*A portion of your membership may be tax deductible.
Check with your tax advisor.*

Mail this membership forms to:
George Larson, 414 12th Ave SW, Albany, OR 97321

Memberships received by the Mid-Valley Chapter will be forwarded to the NW Steelheaders main association.