



Winter 2024

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Saying Goodbye to Winter

Well we made it to 2024 and what a start of the year it's been. We've seen the gamut of weather: snow, freezing rain, sunshine and good old fashioned Oregon rain. And depending on where you live, you even experienced extended power outages. Yes, I'm speaking from experience. We burned through February like it was yesterday even with an extra leap year day. Before we get into the spring mode and turn our backs on winter, I want to welcome you to the Winter edition of the "Ripple Effect."

As always, it is our intent to provide you with relevant information and interesting articles in regard to what is happening within CCA Oregon.

Inside this issue are some exciting announcements and some things happening around the state.

We appreciate your taking the time to read these quarterly releases and look forward to any suggestions. If you would like to submit any story ideas to be considered for future editions, please send to info@ccaoregon.org.

Thank you, Jim Kennedy
Communication Committee Chair



Clarifying the Columbia Basin Endorsement Fee

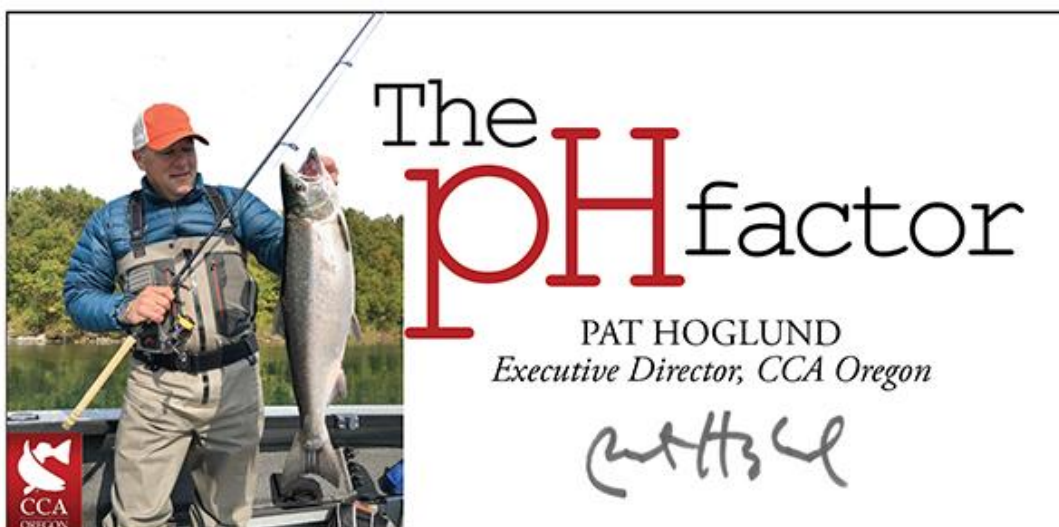
Too often I hear people, many of which are CCA Oregon members, incorrectly discuss the merits of the Columbia Basin Endorsement (CBE) fee. I wanted to take this time to clarify a lot of misunderstandings.

To begin, the CBE has funded much of the Columbia River Gillnet Reforms of 2012. The main use of the fund is to produce more hatchery fish so we wouldn't lose any of the spring Chinook that were historically planted in the Willamette River system.

The Columbia River Gillnet reforms were created by a bi-state work group that proposed sweeping changes to harvest in the mainstem Columbia River in 2012 that included transitioning gillnets off the mainstem Columbia River and prioritized "selective recreational fishing" for the management of the mainstem below Bonneville Dam. Commercial fishing was to be focused on the off-channel terminal areas where very low numbers of wild fish exist, and heavy production and harvest of salmon could still take place using gillnets. The work group presented its plan to both the ODFW and WDFW commissions; each adopted the new plan in 2012 and 2013.

In 2013 Senate Bill 830 in Oregon codified the agreement.

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Buckle Up: It's Banquet Season

You think you know, but until you walk in the footsteps of a banquet chairperson, you don't really know. Which means I sorta know.

One of my responsibilities as Executive Director is to assist (translated: watch) those planning their banquets. If they need something, it's my job to make sure they get what they want (within reason, of course). If they need help, it's my job to lend a hand. In other words, I get to see how the sausage is made. Everyone who shows up at the banquet gets to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They're all under a lot of pressure and it's been fun watching them put their heart and soul into making sure each banquet goes off without a hitch.

We all have our roles, and attending banquets can be argued is one of the most important things CCA members can do. Banquets are the lifeblood of our fundraising efforts. When done correctly, the banquets are really enjoyable. They're an opportunity to catch up with old friends, enjoy a good meal, and make a contribution to the organization. When you attend your chapter's banquet, I'd encourage you to personally thank those who have been working behind the scenes to put the event together.

From where I sit, I'm excited to participate in the first round of banquets. In the coming weeks we have two banquets on the calendar, both the Linn-Benton and Salem chapters. Even if you're not a member of those chapters, I encourage you to attend. They all have procured some great auction items for both the live and silent auctions as well as raffle items.

I'd like to offer another suggestion in terms of helping. If you are in a position to help procure items for your chapter, I know each chairperson would love to hear your ideas. I've included a list of banquet dates and contact information. If you have a good idea, please reach out. Your support will go a long way.

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[CLICK HERE FOR 2024 CCA BANQUET DATES](#)



SCHAMP'S
Rants
Dave Schamp Chairman of the Board

Let's Not Let It Happen



Green Peter Drawdown is One Method Wild Fish Only Advocates Want to Cut Hatchery Production,

Wild fish only advocates continue to take advantage of the legal system to further their misguided agenda. I want to believe that these organizations are genuinely interested in increasing wild fish numbers, but it's difficult to believe that is their real goal given how they go about their business.

I'm sure that many of you have heard about the recent drawdown of Green Peter Reservoir. This action, taken by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), was the result of a lawsuit filed by the Native Fish Society, Northwest Environmental Defense Center and Wild Earth Guardians.

Photo by Mary Gallagher

The lawsuit is based on a 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOp) that required the USACE to take 96 actions within a 15-year window intended to benefit Spring Chinook in the Upper Willamette Basin. According to Greg Taylor, Fisheries Biologist for USACE, 87 of those actions were accomplished. He pointed to the need for more time and funds to complete the remaining nine.

Holding government agencies accountable is a good thing and at first glance many will agree that finding a way to get juvenile spring Chinook and winter steelhead past the Green Peter dam safely needs to happen. But here's the deal, the Green Peter Dam, built in 1966, stopped migration of wild fish above that point without assistance. To get above the dam fish had to be trapped and hauled, and according to Taylor that system didn't work primarily because water temperatures were too cold.

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FROM THE TRENCHES

CCA Oregon Advocacy Update

By Heath Heikkila
CCA Pacific NW Fisheries Director

Thank you for your continued support for CCA Oregon and our mutual efforts to improve the management of our fisheries. We are making a difference.

Please find the latest updates on CCA Oregon advocacy efforts, including:

- Oregon Legislative Update – Columbia River Gillnet Legislation Planning for
- 2024 Fall Salmon Fisheries Underway ODFW/WDFW Columbia River
- Negotiations
- Salmon Recovery: Billions Invested, No Returns.

[READ ARTICLES](#)



Pro-Cure Tour

By George Barton, Willamette Falls Chapter

On a cold December morning last year, several members of the Willamette Falls Chapter met at the Pro-Cure factory in Salem for a tour. We were hosted by Steve Lynch, Director of Operations.

As we walked through Pro-Cure, Steve graciously took the time to explain the entire process of transforming natural fish and chemicals into world-class products that have helped to refine modern recreational fishing today. Pro-Cure is clearly a Pacific Northwest success story.

In 1984 Phil Pirone started Pro-Cure in his basement. At that time Pro-Cure was the first commercially-made egg cure in the US. By 1988 Phil moved into a small commercial unit with four employees and manufactured Pro-Cure Original Egg Cure and several bait oils.

A major bump in the road was a fire in 2001 that burned Pro-Cure to the ground. Rising from the ashes and getting Steve Lynch on board, Pro-Cure started over that same year at a new location in Salem. Steve helped set up the new building and operations.

In May of 2021 Pro-Cure moved to a much larger facility in Salem which was the one we visited. Today, approximately 20 employees run the current operation. Pro-Cure has over 550 products and sells to every major distributor in the US and in 45 countries throughout the world. Amazon is currently Pro-Cure's largest single customer.

As Pacific Northwest recreational anglers, we collectively take off our hats to Pro-Cure and the quality products they make!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

“Coffee’s For Closers”

For the past 16 years, CCA Oregon member Frank Unger has been the one constant at the Pacific Northwest Sportsmen’s Show in Portland. This past February was no different. For the better part of the five-day show Frank was in the CCA Oregon booth recruiting new members and renewing memberships.

Unger has served CCA in multiple capacities but it’s hard to imagine the Portland show without Frank in the booth.

“Frank has a lot of great skillsets, and the one that I think best identifies him is selling CCA memberships at the Portland show,” said Jack Smith, CCA Oregon president. “He’s been doing it a long time and we’re grateful for his dedication to this particular event.”

Unger, now retired, comes at sales naturally. He spent most of his professional career as a salesman for Pitney Bowes.

Anyone who’s witnessed Frank work the booth will attest that he feeds off the energy of selling memberships. Even more so, he loves closing a deal.

In fact, one of Frank’s favorite movies is “Glengarry, Glen Ross.” A movie about high pressured real estate sales in which actor Alec Baldwin’s famous line — “Coffee’s for closers” — is now spoken as gospel in many sales circles.

[**READ MORE**](#)



Jerry Massey Getting Chummy

Editor's Note: This past November we received this letter from Jerry Massey about his time spent volunteering at the Big Creek Hatchery on the lower Columbia River.

When the boat is on the trailer and the rods are back hanging in their rack, I tend to look for volunteer projects at various hatcheries to go to and work a couple days a week. Hatcheries this time of year are a blur of activity and always looking for volunteers. This year through the mailing to the state board members, Jim Marquoit sent a contact for an ODFW biologist working at the Big Creek Hatchery. Kelcee Smith, Ph.D., is the ODFW state coordinator to reintroduce chum salmon back into Oregon's coastal rivers and streams. Big Creek is also the only hatchery in Oregon that has an ongoing chum broodstock program. It is a robust hatchery that releases spring and fall Chinook, coho, steelhead and chum.

If you have never caught a chum salmon you are missing a treat not experienced by most anglers. Although not known as good table fare and not a species you are able to retain anyway, they are by far one of the hardest fighting salmon that you will catch. They are beautifully marked matching the fall colors flashing green, gold and purple vertical striping. The males have mouths full of protruding teeth. A truly beautiful fish that I have caught numerous times along the North Coast of Oregon. A treat to just catch and release.

[READ MORE](#)

Plan Your Steelhead Fishing to What The River Presents

By Tim Juarez

While we're watching winter fade to spring, there's several months of steelhead left on the calendar. There's also several months where water conditions will affect how you approach a steelhead run. The simplest bit of advice I can offer is to pay close attention to water conditions and levels. Both can be critical and learning how to fish different water levels takes time to learn. Here are some shortcuts that might help.

In high water, you want to fish on the edges of the fast water; think of walking speed water whenever you look at a section of river with current flow. Pick the slower water just inside the fast water.

Steelhead move their way upriver in high water with the least resistance and this is where they'll likely be found.

As the water level drops, remember that same walking speed tip. In low water, that walking speed concept still applies only the steelhead will generally push out to the main river channel.

Another tip I learned years ago from a very experienced steelhead fisherman was when the river is high, fish low and when the river is low, then fish high in the holes.

Tight lines and good luck!



Smoked Salmon Potato Salad

CCA Life Member Gordon Smith and wife, Kathy shared their delicious recipe for Smoked Salmon Potato Salad. After returning from Alaska, Kathy wondered what she was going to fix for dinner. This is the recipe she came up with and it has been a big hit ever since!

The photo is Kathy and Gordon taking time out to have sampling of Mai Tai's while at Kona.

[SEE RECIPE](#)





Jim & Addy Skaar

Congratulations to Jim Skaar of Tillamook for winning the February Photo Contest. Jim submitted a photo of himself and his 9-year-old granddaughter, Addy Skaar. While fishing the Wilson River, Addy caught two steelhead that day, a hatchery steelhead (pictured) and a wild steelhead that was used in the broodstock program. Both fish were caught back-trolling plugs, a metallic red 3.5 MagLip plug that was doctored with a black Sharpie.

CCA OREGON **2024** PHOTO CONTEST



Give us your best shot!

Link to enter the March Contest in live text box.

Sponsored by our friends at
An Edge rod will go out to Jim next week.



To view all photos submitted [CLICK HERE](#)

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Raffle tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

[Link to details and tickets](#)

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Upcoming Events

March 9 - [Linn-Benton Chapter Banquet](#)

March 12 - [Zoom Presentation](#)

March 16 - [Salem Chapter Banquet](#)

April 20 - [Willamette Falls Banquet](#)

May 4 - [Mount Hood Banquet](#)

May 17 - [S. Willamette Valley Banquet](#)

Thanks to our Statewide Donors!

Because of your generosity, our events are success and fun.



CCA Oregon

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