

Columbia River Gorge Chapter January Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2025

Next meeting

February 25th

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm - networking

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - meeting

Columbia River Hotel (formally Shilo Inn)

Minutes of our January 28th Meeting:

Introductions: We did not make introductions since everyone knew each other.

Recap on 2024 - We had a very successful year. Our chapter activities included 3 successful kids fishing events in May with over 300 participants, fish clipping at the Parkdale fish hatchery with over 19,000 fish flipped, enhancing our partnership with ODFW, very successful chapter banquet raising in excess of \$16,000 and we increased our active chapter membership to over 100 members. Our chapter was presented with Chapter of the Year and Pat Cimmiyotti was presented with Volunteer of the Year at the State CCA banquet.

2025 Chapter Activities - Our chapter activities for 2025 will consist of the following:

- **Kids Fishing Seminars (New)** - This activity will consist of holding kid's fishing seminars to provide hands-on instruction on knott tying, fishing setup and fishing techniques at a local fishing store. The details are still being developed but the initial thoughts would be to hold two one-hour sessions on Saturday two times a month in March and April. These seminars will help the kids be more successful fishing time, especially during our Kids Fishing Events in May. Looking for volunteers!
- **Kids Fishing Events** - There again will be 3 kids fishing events at our local ponds in May. The exact dates will be confirmed at our next meeting. Looking for Volunteers!
- **Fish Clipping at Parkdale Fish Hatchery** - We will partner with the hatchery to provide volunteers to clip salmon smolt. Need volunteers!
- **Fishing Forum** - The initial event details include a single day event that includes seminars, fishing swat meet, boat inspections and product dealers. The details for the event are still being developed. We will be establishing a group at our next meeting to develop the details. Need Volunteers
- **Chapter Banquet** - Need volunteers

Local Companies Presentations - Matt from Daybreak Fishing provided insight on some new walleye jigs and worm harnesses. He listens to the local fishermen and tries to stock the best fishing products.

Questions for Jeff Whisler - Group developed the following questions:

- There was a significant increase in the catching rate for tules in early fall. Fisherman were catching 3 - 5 to one tules to chinooks. We assume these tules will migrate into the Columbia River tributaries. Will this create a long-term issue with other salmon species? Can we anticipate this rate in the future?

Can you provide an update on the status of the cold-water sanctuaries on mouth of multiple tributaries to the Columbia River. These restrictions have been in place for multiple years now. Have these restrictions produced positive results? What does the future present? There appears to be a significant effort being made and expenditures being spent by our law enforcement to maintain and enforce the restrictions.

- Our membership is very interested in exploring volunteering opportunities, especially in these times where funding is limited. Can you discuss any potentially volunteering opportunities throughout the length of the Columbia River and its tributaries.
- We have been experiencing issues over the last few years in salmon carcasses being dumped along the shoreline at each boat ramp. Dumping the carcasses in the shallow water is allowed. This presents unhealthy situations at the boat ramp areas. Is there a method or process to change the rule to require the carcasses to be deposited in deeper water. (ie 100 feet from shore line)?
- Can you provide an update on the 2024 spring and fall salmon seasons? Multiple concerns were raised concerning establishing the initially short fall season and then extending it multiple times and ultimately to the end of the year. Is ODFW exploring any different method than was performed last year?
- We are hoping you can provide a general update on the sturgeon season and what we can anticipate for next year?
- Can you provide an update on the spring and fall salmon seasons? What can we expect?

Raffle. 3 gift certificates, \$50.00 from HR Powersports and Marine, \$50.00 from Fat Fish Designz & \$25.00 from Daybreak Fishing