Coastal Trollers Association

February 2016 Newsletter

Created to enhance and protect an economically viable Washington salmon troll fishery.

President's Message By Jeremy Brown

Fellow trollers,

It's getting to be that time of year again…..

The calendar is filling up with meetings and deadlines, and boat projects are coming along. It seems there are always a few encouraging rumors if you are inclined to optimism, and plenty of gloom if you would rather.

It is far too early to guess about salmon, but we have a small increase in halibut this year, which is always a nice bonus when you run across one.

In the longer term I also take encouragement from the remarkable stories coming from the Elwha River. It took almost a generation to reach the agreements necessary to remove the two dams, and throughout the process we were told to expect a very slow recovery of the river and salmon runs that would take decades to reestablish themselves. Fortunately nobody told the salmon this! Restoration experts seem pretty much in agreement that salmon-friendly conditions are occurring much quicker than anticipated, and spawning salmon are reclaiming their grounds far up into the basin.

This is encouraging not only for the Elwha runs, which likely do not greatly contribute to Washington ocean fisheries, but because it makes a strong case for other river restoration projects.

This is not to argue that all dams are bad and should be removed, but that some dams which provide few or no benefits should be.

First up would surely be the Klamath River, where serious consideration of dam removal is no longer a forbidden subject, followed by the four dams on the Lower Snake River, which would improve migration to an enormous amount of high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

(Continued next page)

CTA Board Meeting 6-9pm Friday, March 4th, 2016

Nordby Conference Center, Fishermen's Terminal, Seattle

P.O. Box 2434, Auburn, WA 98071
www.coastaltrollersassociation.com

(Continued from Page 1)

These are long term goals I grant you, but if there is one thing that fishermen share, it is the willingness to commit to the long term and stick with it. The return of salmon to the Elwha has been a long held dream, that we are seeing the realization of that dream now is really encouraging.

Just a reminder, Coast Guard safety inspections are required now. Be sure to schedule your dockside inspection in good time, and remember that the requirements represent very much the lowest common denominator for emergency equipment. It is up to you to anticipate and prepare for the risks we all face.

Be safe, and happy bottom-painting.

Don't forget to renew your halibut application !!

(must be postmarked or faxed no later than 11:59 p.m. March 15th)
For a copy of the application for "Incidental Commercial during SalmonTroll," go to: http://www.iphc.washington.edu/commercial/2a-licensing.html

2016 CTA Officers:

Jeremy Brown, President and Director	FV/Barcarole	369.716.3717
Joel Kawahara, Vice President and Director	FV/Karolee	206.406.7026
Steve Wilson, Secretary and Director	FV/Deep Threat	253.732.4617
Cindy Olson, Treasurer	FV/Cynthia T	253.209.0436
Tom Kelly, Director	FV/Eight Ball	206.914.1342
Glen Aurdahl, Director	FV/North Star	425.577.3928

. . . many thanks to:

Amy Grondin- for all her work organizing the Lark Luncheon;
Sarah Fisken- for setting up helpful workshops and training through Sea Grant and promoting the Lark Luncheon;
Joel Kawahara- for representing trollers at the Feb.17th meeting in Portland with the Columbia Basin Partnership (NOAA's attempt to form a basin wide concensus for the recovery of salmon in the basin from Canadian border to the Rocky Mountains);
Dave Parker, Jim Olson, Joel Kawahara & Steve Wilson- for meeting with the Director and WDFW staff on Feb. 4th at the Willapa Community Center;
Members who helped with our booth at Pacific Marine Expo;
and to a few of our sponsors,
Seattle Marine Supply, High Tide Seafoods, Englund Marine Supply, & Masco Petroleum

Troll Advisor Report: Jim Olson

We are waiting for the final stock composition numbers that will come out of the March 1st meeting in Olympia with the WDFW. This will give us an idea of what Puget sounds stocks will be.
The numbers for the Columbia are mixed with Chinook being up a small bit and Coho numbers being about half of last year.
It looks like the new model for Puget sound stocks will not be ready for use this year.

Important Dates:

March 1st	Olympia	WDFW salmon stocks updates
March 4th	Seattle	CTA meeting to share season preferences
March 8-14	Sacramento	PFMC meeting to adopt range of season options
March 15th	Olympia	First North of Falcon Meeting
March 21st	Olympia	Columbia River/Ocean Fisheries Discussion
March 28th	Westport	PFMC Public Testimony opportunity
April 6th	Olympia	N. of Falcon Meeting – Col. R. & Ocean discussion
April 8-14	Vancouver	PFMC adopts final ocean fisheries regulations
May 1st		historic ocean troll start date

Keep your eyes on...

On Jan. 13th, the Duvall-based non-profit Wild Fish Conservancy filed a 60 Notice of Intent To Sue the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) for funding hatchery programs throughout the Columbia River Basin under the Mitchell Act without complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

and . . .

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to cull the population of cormorants in the lower Columbia River, hopeful to reach the Corps' four-year Environmental Impact Statement plan to reduce the population of the water bird by 56 percent. The Audubon has not given up however. Their lawsuit will continue as both sides have agreed on a course of action that results in final oral arguments in court on March 7, 2016. (Note: this information is from the Columbia Basin Bulletin, dated Oct. 2, 2015).

and also . . .

The WDFW's Michele Culver called a meeting last fall for commercial trollers to hear the Department's proactive design for Marine Spatial Planning. The strategy is to create a rough draft of ocean areas primarily used by sports and commercials. This "map" would aid the Dept. when (and if) there is an application for off-shore energy systems, for example, wind energy generators. We should hear more in the near future.

Coast Guard Rule Changes

Everyone is no doubt aware that the Coast Guard requires, since October 15, 2015, mandatory dockside safety examinations and receipt of a safety decal for all vessels that operate beyond three nautical miles of the baseline of the U.S. territorial sea. They suggest that to help alleviate last minute scheduling backlogs expected before our salmon troll season opener, we should make the appointment sooner than later.

And the Coast Guard requirements show that the words "lifeboats or liferafts" have been replaced with the language "a survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water." Current life floats and buoyant apparatus are not designed to keep an individual out of the water when used in an emergency.

At our January 2016 meeting, CTA President Jeremy Brown distributed a "Marine Safety Alert" regarding navigation lights. The 2 page document can be seen at: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/1015.pdf.

An interesting notice is the requirement that commercial fishing vessels that are 65 feet or greater must have installed a Class A or Class B Automatic Identification System (AIS) by March 1, 2016. (33 CFR 164.46(b)(1)(i))

Contact the Coast Guard 13th District (Seattle and Portland offices) at http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cfvs/docksideexams.asp to see what the requirements are for your vessel and to schedule a dockside safety exam. Dan Hardin (Seattle) can be reached at: (206) 220 7226. Mike Rudolph (Portland)- whom I've had in the past- can be reached at: (503) 240 9337.

Washington State Legislature Bill watch

As of this writing, there has been no activity on bills introduced in the 2015 Legislature that have been by resolution, reintroduced and retained in this 2016 session. Specifically, those bills that prioritized sport over commercial opportunity based on economics (House bill 1660, and Senate bill 5844); and, Senate bill 5632 which increases license fees and adds a crew license.

WDFW Hosts Outreach Meetings

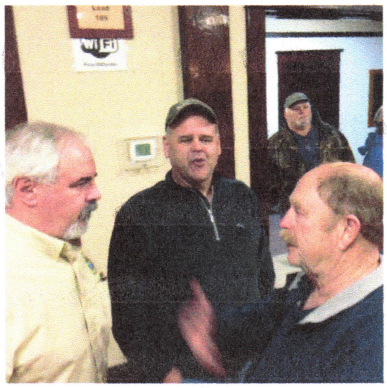
Washington State fish and wildlife managers had held 6 public meetings asking for the public to help identify conservation and recreation priorities before several of us attended the seventh one held at the Willapa Community Center, Feb. 4th, 2016.

Under the leadership of Director Jim Unsworth (pictured), who assumed his position in early 2015, WDFW began this effort, called "Washington's Wild Future," by asking Washingtonians to share their thoughts on what the department is doing right, where it can improve, and where the agency should focus its efforts over the next five to 10 to 20 years.

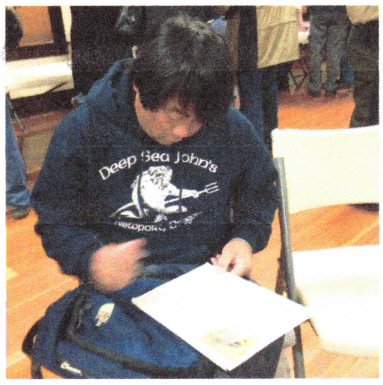
Our carpool included Jim Olson, Dave Parker, Joel Kawahara, and myself. The Community Center was packed with folks who wished to express their wildlife preferences. The meeting was opened by Region 6 Director Michele Culver who shared a powerpoint presentation on the importance of fish and wildlife management to Washington's quality of life and the economies of communities throughout the state. She was followed by Director Unsworth who underscored the department's desire to learn what they are doing right, where they need to improve, and where they should focus efforts and funding over the next five to ten years.

About 8 easels were randomly placed around the perimeter of the room and we were released to meet with department managers and regional staff who used felt pens to document our opinions. One easel may have included opinions on wolves, bird watching opportunities, hiking, turkey hunting, sport fishing preferences over commercial and tribal, rule book confusion, etc. Staff were then going to group the opinions and later release a summary such as was done at the prior 6 meetings. The audience was also given the opportunity to write their own comments and submit them. We were reminded that comments are still welcomed at the website: http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture/form.html.

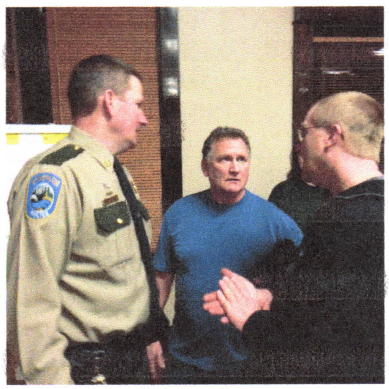
- Steve Wilson



Ron Roler, Region 6 with Butch Smith, PFMC's SAS Chair and Jim Olson



Joel Kawahara putting his thoughts on paper



Capt. Chadwick, Region 6, & Dave Parker with Gary Grahn, Area 3 Sport Rep.