



April
2014
Newsletter

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

President's Message By Jeremy Brown

Fellow trollers,

As I write this, the ink and all the grubby fingerprints are drying on the 2014 season plan. We all need to thank everyone who worked so hard to keep the process on the rails when so many forces seemed to be bent on a train wreck.

First and foremost: troll advisor Jim Olson. Jim does an amazing job juggling the demands and tensions of not only the factions within the Washington troll fishery, but other user groups, agencies and entities. No other way to say it- experience counts.

As the newbie this year, I did my best not to add to the considerable workload of the CTA team of Steve Wilson, Joel Kawahara and Dave Parker. They kept the bases covered and provided the thoughtful considerations that adapting to the changing hoops we had to jump through demanded. The State and Tribal managers and representatives all remained doggedly conscientious and forthright, not an easy tack to follow when the tension ratchets up, but I really must single out Doug Milward for his patience and good humor through some very tough meetings. It is easy to forget how work goes into thrashing out the season plan. If you are as eager as I am to go fishing, these are the folks you should thank for making it happen so you can.

And now, can we go fishing?

Yes, and very soon, if you haven't already got a jump on it down in Oregon.

And good for you if you if you did. Reports are very encouraging already, which combined with the largest Chinook quota for Alaska since the Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed in 1984, which means that the game of 'spin the bottle' just got harder for multiple license holders.

Not such a bad problem to have.

I hope we all make the right moves and really get in the bite this season!

Good fishing and be safe.

Three trollers from the CTA attended a meeting in Vancouver last fall and learned that the states of WA and OR were responding to concerns the NMFS had over Lower Columbia River coho. They were listed as "threatened" in 2005. The feds were concerned that the health of these coho were being evaluated by only 2 different runs, the Clackamas and the Sandy. Neither of these is on the WA side. So the managers, led by Oregon's Chris Kern and Washington's Cindy LeFleur, began studying the health of 2 other OR rivers and 6 WA rivers. Their work produced the Coho Matrix (see below).*

Their matrix shows the levels of "Parental Escapement" across and the "Marine Survival Index (based on return of jacks per hatchery smolt) up and down. So, for example, a High level of Parental Escapement with a medium Marine Survival Index would result in a 30% maximum allowable ocean fishery mortality rate. And before you ask about "full seeding," I admit that I don't understand it yet. From pp 6-7 of the FWS source referenced, "Within the matrix table, parental escapement is expressed as some fraction of "full seeding. Full seeding for the Sandy and Clackamas populations was estimated by fitting a stock recruitment curve to observed spawner and recruit data for these basins and then determining the theoretical escapement level that corresponded with the maximum production of recruits. Using this method, number of spawners necessary to fully seed the Sandy and Clackamas was estimated to be 1,340 and 3,800, respectively." (Make sense? Me either).

A presentation was made to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel during the April PFMC meetings by the coho workgroup, including NMFS administrators Robert Turner and Peter Dygert. Cindy LeFleur said the intent is to "do something better for fisheries without increasing the risk to the population." The group hopes to complete their work in time for the March 2015 PFMC process.

Harvest management matrix for lower Columbia River wild coho showing maximum allowable ocean fishery mortality rates.

Parental Escapement	Marine Survival Index (based on return of jacks per hatchery smolt)			
	Critical (<0 .0008)	Low(< 0.0015)	Medium(< 0.0040)	High (> 0.0040)
High > 0.75 full seeding	< 8.0%	< 15.0%	< 30.0%	< 45.0%
Medium 0.75 to 0.50 full seeding	< 8.0%	< 15.0%	< 20.0%	< 38.0%
Low 0.50 to 0.20 full seeding	< 8.0%	< 15.0%	< 15.0%	< 25.0%
Very Low 0.20 to 0.10 of full seeding	< 8.0%	< 11.0%	< 11.0%	< 11.0%
Critical < 0.10 of full seeding	0 - 8.0%	0 - 8.0%	0 - 8.0%	0 - 8.0%

* Source: www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/Hatcheryreview/Reports/...

First of all, I would like to thank all of the trollers who were part of the process this year. We had a number of trollers travel to Sacramento and Vancouver at their personal expense. This was a big help in shaping the regulations for the season.

This was my first year since 1999 that we were given real credit for the area 4 closure and it will make a difference in future years with regard to impacts on Puget Sound stocks.

Once again, we will be fishing in the middle of listed stocks, Puget Sound in the north and tules in the south. It was a challenge to make a season that attempts to fit the needs of most all of the trollers and still stay within ESA guidelines. Because we have listed Puget Sound stocks again, we will have caps in areas 3 and 4. So, know the regulations before you go fishing.

2014 CTA Officers

President and Director, FV/Barcarole	Jeremy Brown 369.716.371
Vice President and Director, FV/Halmia	Geoffrey Lebon 360.580.1010
Secretary and Director, FV/Deep Threat	Steve Wilson 253.732.4617
Treasurer, FV/Cynthia T	Cindy Olson 253.209.0436
Director, FV/Spring Skier	Ken Anderson 253.579.4431
Director, FV/Spencer	Louis Javete 206.940.7503

A few to whom we owe our gratitude

During the Pacific Fisheries Management process, there are no shortages of people to whom we trollers owe our thanks. They work long hours under pressure, look for creative solutions, and maintain our faith in a department that wants to see us catch the maximum allowable fish while never losing sight of our conservation objectives. They crunch numbers, negotiate with our tribal co-managers, commercial netters and recreational interests, and without fail, keep us in the loop. I apologize if I've overlooked someone. It's inevitable though with the people working in Olympia that we didn't even see in Vancouver. Thank you Phil Anderson, Pat Pattillo, John Long, Ron Warren, Kyle Adicks, Doug Milward, Wendy Beeghley, Angelika Hagen-Breaux, and Pete McHugh.

11th Annual Lark Luncheon

Plans are underway to co-host the 11th Annual Lark Luncheon. SeaGrant's Sarah Fisker has been in touch with the Makah Tribe and they will again support the event and serve as co-hosts. Our own Amy Grondin has been busy preparing a guest list, lining up a guest speaker, and working with Chef Johnathan Sundstrom to fill the lunch plates. The date

will be Wednesday, May 14th.

Let us know if you would like to attend or if you would like one of your direct marketing stores or restaurant owners to receive an invitation. It is a great opportunity to tell our story.





Pat Pattillo

36 years ago, Pat Pattillo passed his last final exam in the U of W School of Fisheries (after 2 years at WSU) and signed a contract with the Washington Department of Fisheries. His first job? trapping wild coho on the Skykomish River. Pat is retiring and I caught up to him to ask a few questions.

[Can you recall any memorable moments during your career?](#) – Many events are memorable as I started my career during the implementation of the Boldt decision and at the start of the PFMC process. I worked under Sam Wright with Dennis Austin and Rich Lincoln – the first three WDF members of the

STT – and was on duty as the first closures happened to the ocean fisheries (1979) and the first quotas for coho (1981) and chinook (1982) were applied to the ocean fisheries. I was assigned to the Salmon Team in 1983 and my first year in that role was the El Niño disaster response of 1984 – that was a tough rookie year for me in the Council process. In the early 80's I worked a lot on Columbia River chinook forecasting and in-season runsize estimation, getting to know those fisheries and working with great friends like Don McIsaac, Guy Norman, Ron Roler and Cindy LeFleur. I participated in the negotiations setting up the Pacific Salmon Treaty pre-1985 and with implementation of the Commission I was assigned to the Chinook Technical Committee through 1989. I was heavily involved in the development of the computer models we used in pre-season planning that led to the now familiar FRAM model in the mid-90's. The ESA era really ramped up in the mid-90's and I was assigned to the firestorm of issues with Puget Sound chinook conservation. Probably one of my biggest legacy issues was with the development of selective fisheries in the ocean for coho and in Puget Sound for chinook. Selective fisheries really were challenging for the Department in terms of maintaining viable fisheries and relationships with the fishing industry and the tribes. Some of the most difficult meetings in my career were those attempting to convince the tribes, the managers or the fishers that the benefits of selective fisheries outweighed the costs and downsides – definitely memorable, definitely a difficult challenge.

[Besides changes in leadership, what do you see as the biggest change during your career?](#) – Leadership, without a doubt, is the biggest change. When I started with WDFW in 1978 we had a Director (Gordon Sandison) who knew nothing about fish or fisheries, and who was aloof from the workings of the agency and staff. Since that time we've had Directors with more knowledge of fisheries, and some with better people skills, but right now we have Phil Anderson who really brings a complete game to the Directorship. Without Phil's guidance in the last few years, with all the challenges we've had from fish to wolves, we'd have become a lost agency – and I would have stayed for 36 years without that strong leadership at the helm. Besides leadership, the biggest change has been learning to live with ESA and the federal government as the third leg on the stool of management. Think of the amount of work we do annual today compared to the 70's or 80's. We spend an enormous amount of time and energy just finding a way to wriggle through the eye of the ESA needle each year, and when we're not planning fisheries in the spring, we're intensively managing them in-season (as ocean fishers know well) and we're forced to continuously upgrade our management plans and provide stronger justifications for having fisheries at all.

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We've gone from a very simple way of life in fisheries management to one that scares people away with the intensity and workload. I wish we had more time to do more research, reflect on the information we collected during the fisheries each year, and to be more innovative - ah, for the good old days.

[Looking ahead, what are the Department's biggest challenges?](#) – Staying relevant and in the game. Throughout my career, WDFW has provided leadership in the scientific field of fisheries management (e.g., modeling, stock identification such as genetics, selective fisheries applications) and in the policy realm (e.g., PFMC, Pacific Salmon Treaty, Tribal-State co-management). That leadership role required strong leaders at the top and through the ranks, and we have been fortunate – maybe downright lucky – to somehow find really motivated people to recruit into key positions and then make a career of it. I see strong evidence that the State of Washington is losing the ability to attract the best and brightest to do the good work of agencies in the public interest. Both the tribes and the federal government are able to out-compete with WDFW for the pool of talent needed to step up to these modern-day challenges. Also, although it may be just my perspective with a long term investment, I can't help but think there are fewer and fewer staff who have a connection to the history of fisheries in Washington. I was raised here and my father taught me about both sport and commercial fishing. I chose this career because I saw significant changes happening to what I have always felt were my fisheries, and I wanted to make a difference. So the biggest challenge for the Department is to ensure we have a strong youth movement – no easy challenge.

[What do you look forward to in retirement?](#) – I will continue to work, hopefully within the realm of natural resource management, but expect to have greater command of my time. Also influencing my future, I have my first grandchild now and expect that the time I invest in his early life will pay strong dividends in having a fishing and hunting partner in the near future.

[Finally, is there anything else you'd like to add?](#) – My relationships with people are the most tangible and satisfactory product of my career-long labor. There's a natural tension between fishery managers and those who participate in the fisheries and the territory might not seem like fertile ground for friendships. But I believe that by being honest and fair in dealing with issues that affect people as well as fish, I can shake the hand of just about anyone with whom I've been engaged over the years.

Pat concluded his last Pacific Fisheries Management Council process this April, again playing an instrumental role bringing the Tribal Co-managers along with numerous gear type and association representatives through difficult, albeit successful negotiations. Of course, Pat has made decisions that have frustrated many fishing interests over the years. But you can't say he didn't listen, ask questions to gain understanding and share why the resolution was made, making sure the fisherman knew why. I believe he has been "honest and fair" with people, the very definition of integrity. I hope that you too will shake his hand when you see him and thank him for his years of service with the Department. We will miss Pat and wish him well in retirement.

-Steve Wilson

