

March/April 2004

# The Adipose



*The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition*

Volume 4, Issue 2  
Mar./Apr. 2004

## The President's Run

I have a three year old son, Derek, and my wife, Ingrid is currently expecting twin boys in June. I am extremely happy, but at the same time a little overwhelmed! I can visualize myself now trying to unravel three Snoopy rods at the same time! But, at least I know now, if my sons choose to become a crazy steelhead fisher like their father, we are heading in the right direction. My hope is that they have the opportunity one day to catch and feel the magic of a wild steelhead putting a bend in their rods!

As many of you already know the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Voted 5-3 and adopted a two year moratorium on retaining any wild steelhead caught in state waters. Please see following article in the Tacoma New Tribune <http://www.tribnet.com/sports/outdoors/story/4715206p-4665160c.html>. And has this article goes to press the word is that the Olympic National Park may follow suit and add a two year moratorium on harvest of wild steelhead in all park waters.

Jack Berryman and Dick Burge both representing the WSC attended the vote and took very good notes on the proceedings. But, to be brief, here is how the Commission voted: Commissioner Van Gytenbeek introduce an amendment for rules proposal requesting release of all wild steelhead, statewide, no exceptions. After long discussion, Commissioner Roehl called for the vote and Commissioners Van Gytenbeek, Pelly, Hunter and Tuck all voted for; with Commissioners Cahill, Roehl, Ozment and Shiosaki voting against. Commissioner Pelly then introduced a different amendment calling for a 5 year moratorium on killing wild steelhead. After a second by Commissioners Hunter, Cahill amended the motion to 2 years. After another discussion, they voted 5 to 3 to pass the motion with Commissioner Cahill providing the swing vote. Please take the time and opportunity to thank our Commissioners took a bold step and voted for wild steelhead in our future.

It is very clear that our testimony at the public hearings and the visits with the Commissioners had a sent the message how important it is to have wild steelhead for the future. The package of data presented to the Commissioners prepared by VP of Conservation Dick Burge with support of Past President Jack Berryman and WSC Member Larry Doyle solidified our case by providing compelling information and data for the Commission to make an informed step forward in favor for wild steelhead. To these gentleman, our members, other organizations who supported and the Commissioners who discarded politics and voted yes I am truly grateful. Thank-you!

In the coming two years we will very much need our membership's support, at this point it is a temporary rule and opponents will be working to overturn it. Opponents of the new rule are already mounting campaigns against the moratorium and the city of Forks, WA is concerned about economic impact and threatening legal action. You can help now by renewing your membership in the WSC and help educate people that by stopping the intentional harvest now of wild steelhead on the 'deemed' healthy systems that we can help insure fishing opportunities in our future. We also must work hard with the Commission and the WDFW to help come up with improved conservation management strategies for wild steelhead.

We also must move on to other important issues regarding wild steelhead. The WSC has recently been involved opposing the proposed increase by catch of Columbia River ESA listed wild steelhead from 2% up to 7%. We are also working on support to get funding to repair the slide at steelhead haven on the NF Stillaguamish. Our legislative committee continues to work with the help of Rob Masonis, American Rivers, to develop a strategy on getting our organization more politically mobilized. We have our fourth Steelhead Summit planned for May 15 at the Bellevue Hilton, which keeps on getting stronger with a diverse cross section of organizations working together. And we have completed our conservation award policies and will be asking our membership to contact us with potential candidates.

On a lighter note, please come and join us for a night of **steelhead camaraderie**, on **April 7, 6:00 PM** at the Hilton in Bellevue WA for a special dinner meeting where the legend of the NF Umpqua, **Frank Moore** will be our guest speaker. Please see the announcement in this issue of the Adipose.

But for now let's be proud that we had the persistence, worked within the system and it did work! Thanks to all for your support, I am indeed proud to serve as your President.

*Rich Simms*  
*President*  
*Wild Steelhead Coalition*

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**WSC March Program Speaker Report**  
**Guest Speaker Dr. David Montgomery, University of Washington**  
**Title - *King of Fish: the thousand year run of salmon***

Dr. David Montgomery specializes in the landscape evolution and the geomorphology of rivers, in part working to understand how climate, landscape, vegetation, and moving water interact to form structure in rivers. David's work has led him to studies of in-stream salmon habitat in the Northwest, with an eye toward the history of salmon and landscape evolution and salmon-human interactions. His presentation started with the very long view of possible causes for the evolution of the modern species of Pacific salmon, and then followed with his perspectives on the thousand year fall of salmon that started with Atlantic salmon in Europe, moved on to the collapse of Atlantic salmon in New England, and then onto the past century of salmon declines in the Pacific Northwest. Among the really interesting things I learned from David's presentation were:

- Pacific and Atlantic salmon diverged from a common ancestor about 10-20 million years ago
- The classical idea for the divergence of modern Pacific salmon species holds that the period of ice ages that started around 2 million years ago prompted the isolation and divergence of modern Pacific salmon species, yet fossil salmon of modern species pre-date those ice ages by up to 8 million years!
- modern Pacific salmon species first appear in the fossil record around 8-12 million years ago, a timing that coincides with the uplift of modern topography on the Pacific coast of North America ... David believes that this uplift is a likely cause for the isolation of ancient Pacific salmon that then led to the evolution of the modern species; the topography of the east coast of North America, in contrast, is little changed over the past 100 million years and this may explain why there is only one species of Atlantic salmon
- David's research was able to trace public concerns over the 4-H's (harvest, habitat, hatcheries, and hydropower/dams) back to 1030! For example, in 1030, King Malcolm II of Scotland established closed seasons for taking spawning salmon. Scottish kings in the 1200's and 1300's issued proclamations to protect habitat and outlaw barriers to fish passage.
- Well into the 1800's, the same issues of habitat, harvest, and dams continued to appear in European Atlantic salmon conservation laws and discussions, yet enforcement wasn't strong enough to stop the declines in Atlantic salmon habitat and populations
- When the first Europeans settled in New England, Atlantic salmon abundance was exceptionally, rivaling that of Pacific salmon in the Northwest in the early 1800's, and Atlantic were an important food source for early European Americans. By the 1890's, Maine's Atlantic salmon lost access to 90% of their historic habitat due to dams. Today, the abundance of Maine's Atlantic salmon is about 1% its historic level.

Key common factors in the decline of Atlantic salmon in Europe and New England were:

1. an over-reliance on local control of salmon habitat and fisheries, and lax enforcement of laws protecting fish and habitat
2. the gradual accumulation of many small negative impacts
3. an over-reliance on hatcheries at the expense of habitat preservation
4. a lack of land use controls and long-term planning

After going through this historical information, David posed the question: "Are we repeating the Atlantic salmon decline in the Pacific Northwest?"

His answer: "of course".

In terms of habitat issues, we're only now starting to realize the extent to which we've lost productive salmon habitat. David's lab at the University of Washington is now working to develop historic maps for salmon habitat in Puget Sound estuaries and floodplains by using old photographs and maps from the past. Their work to date finds that floodplain marshes and valley bottom wetlands are essentially gone from the Puget Sound low lands, and this represents a tremendous loss of salmon and steelhead habitat.

David finished his presentation on a more hopeful note, how ever, by stating that it w ill be possible to accommodate more human population grow th along w ith more fish in our future, but it w ill require careful planning and significant land-use changes to realize those goals. He suggested that the key discussion about long-ter m land-use planning is not now happening in Olympia. His recommendations for the key issues supporting long-term strategies for allow ing growth and restoring salmon populations in the future are to:

1. convert river corridors that are now in agricultural lands into netw orks of salmon sanctuaries along major river floodplains
2. hire and empow er river-keepers
3. stop fishing on endangered salmon and steelhead stocks

Speaking for the members of the Wild Steelhead Coalition, and for the non-members that attended our March 3 meeting, thanks David for your terrific presentation.

*Sincerely,*  
*Nate Mantua*  
*Wild Steelhead Coalition*  
*VP of Science and Education*

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## **Steelhead Summit IV- May 15**

Steelhead Summit IV is in the works and scheduled for May 15 at the Bellevue Hilton. The Summit "Alliance" continues to grow , and member groups are increasingly working together between Summit meetings. This multiplies our "clout" for the steelhead, and adds even more success stories to our list.

Recent additions to our Alliance are Eyes In The Woods (Jay Hunter); Lower Columbia F.E.G. (Tony Meyers); Inland Empire Flyfishers (Scott Mayfield); and representing Idaho steelheaders w ill be Mike Cummins of the Red Shed Fly Shop. We welcome these reps and look forward to working w ith them toward better steelhead stewardship.

Other organizations are out there, w ith similar goals. Interested groups should contact Dave Bailey (captain@olympen.com) for information, or to sign on.

For questions or suggestions on the Summit IV agenda, contact co-chair Dick Burge at fskibum@olympen.com. Issue committee chairs wishing to present papers, or updates, should notify Dick for a time allotment.

**Early details on the May 15 Summit meeting (directions, accommodations, etc.) are available from Jack Berryman, at cohojack@hotmail.com.** This information w ill be passed to all known Summit representatives in mid-April.

Sincerely,

*Dave Bailey*  
*Coordinator & Summit Focal*  
*WSC Steelhead Summit*

## Special WSC Dinner Meeting

### Frank Moore A Celebration of Steelhead, a River and its' Keeper

You are invited to a special dinner meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> with the Wild Steelhead Coalition at the Bellevue Hilton, Phoenix Room, 100 112 Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA.

Our Special Guest for the evening will be Frank Moore. Frank will share a presentation on Pass Creek and talk with us about his life experiences, history and stories of the North Fork Umpqua and her steelhead. Frank has lived and fished all his life along the fabled North Fork Umpqua with his wife Jeannie and they are former owners of the famed Steamboat Inn. During Frank's tenure on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission he was able to get the Wild Trout Program started including implementing the first quality regulations on the Deschutes and Williamson Rivers. Frank continues to attend Commission meetings speaking out for the conservation of our fisheries.

**So please come join us for a great evening of steelhead camaraderie.**

6:00-Social

7:00-7:45 Dinner

Menu: Choice of chicken w / mango salsa or pasta w / roasted vegetables

7:45-8:45 Guest Speaker- Frank Moore

8:45 Raffle

For dinner you must **RSVP** by Friday, **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Dinner is \$22.00 per person, which includes tax & gratuity, payment upon arrival at the Hilton. To RSVP please email Jeff Johnson at [wscmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:wscmembership@yahoo.com) or phone 425-702-1991. If you wish to not buy dinner you are welcome to attend the presentation at the conclusion of dinner at 7:45.

## News Bits

### *What's going on in and around the WSC*

#### **Thompson River Closure**

The Thompson River will be closed to all angling commencing October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 to the end of the year in order to protect steelhead.

The runs keep diminishing while they are still allowed to harvest them as by catch during the chum fishery on the Fraiser River. The WSC will be engaging with the Steelhead Society of BC to see if we can lend a hand in helping.

#### **Coming in April !**

There will be a great celebration of the fish we all love so dear. **Frank Moore** whom lives on the North Umpqua and is the former owner of Steamboat Inn will be sharing his experience with the fish and the river. He has been the river keeper for years down there and knows it unlike any other man. This is a presentation that is sure to be talked about for a long time.

### **WSC Send Letter to NOAA**

WSC Sent a letter to NOAA regarding the incidental by catch of ESA listed wild steelhead on the Columbia River gillnet fishery targeting hatchery spring Chinook. Log onto the website to read the letter in its entirety.

### **WSC Scholarship and Conservation Awards**

#### **Conservation Award**

The Wild Steelhead Coalition "Conservation Award" is presented to an individual or group that, through their actions and/or accomplishments, have made significant and noteworthy contributions to the protection and propagation of wild steelhead.

#### **Scholarship Award**

The Wild Steelhead Coalition "Scholarship Award" is presented to an individual or group that, through their research and scholarship, recognizes the significance of wild steelhead for Northwest culture and/or the scientific importance of wild steelhead in the management of all steelhead for optimal propagation and survival.

### **WSC Send Letter to Olympic National Park**

WSC Sent a letter to Olympic National Park Superintendent urging the park to follow suit with the WDFW and impose a two-year moratorium on intentional harvest of all wild steelhead in park waters.

### ***Thank-You!***

- We would like to thank **Patagonia** for their generous donation of clothing to the WSC for raffles.

### ***Please welcome our new members!***

#### **Individual memberships:**

**Ryan White**, Redmond, WA

**Michael Joe Cummis**, Peck, ID

**Steve Williamson**, Seattle, WA

#### **Family Memberships:**

**Bret Theil**, Everett, WA

### **It's That Time of Year Again!**

Dear WSC Member,

It is that time of the year that membership renewals are coming due. Current memberships run through March 31, 2004. On the back side of this sheet is a membership form. Please fill it out and send it back in to the indicated address. Please make checks payable to Wild Steelhead Coalition.

Over the past year we have been involved in many projects and have gained some ground on helping the wild steelhead that we all love so much. As most of you have heard we helped, along with other groups like TU and Washington Fly Fishers, obtain a two year moratorium on the killing of wild steelhead in the state starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004

while a new strategy of steelhead in managed is developed by the department. This is a good first step to help our wild fish but if we don't keep on top of this we will lose the ground we have gained. There is much work to be done in the coming two years to help make this permanent.

While the above is a major item that most everyone has seen there are also many other issues that we are working on and or tracking to keep them on everyone's radar. We have been very active in the Columbia River spring Chinook tangle net fishery process where the state has asked to raise the acceptable impact rate on wild steelhead from 2% to 5-7%. We have also provided testimony on the minimum in stream flow legislation that is going through Olympia now. Projects that we have been tracking are the Grandy Creek hatchery on the Skagit and are currently waiting on an EIS on the site due out any day now. The slides on both the North and South fork of the Stilly have been a problem for years we are working with SIRC to help make sure that the funding comes in to get those slides fixed once and for all and hopefully that will be complete in the next 18-24 months.

Numerous other issues are being addressed so please don't hesitate to email or phone up Jeff Johnson 425-702-1991 if there are any issues you are concerned about or want to help us out with. Without our membership we have no eyes and ears around and we appreciate all input. We are always in need of more people to help on special committees and projects, if you are interested please contact us and we would love to have your help to continue to protect Wild Steelhead.

*Sincerely,*

*Jeff Johnson*

*1<sup>st</sup> VP of Membership Wild Steelhead Coalition*

[wscmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:wscmembership@yahoo.com)

<http://www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com>

## **WSC Guest Editorial**

### **Why Should We Continue to Care?**

As I write this letter, the WDFW Commission is meeting to hear an appeal to overturn the two-year no-harvest moratorium on wild steelhead. On the Olympic Peninsula, municipal agencies and sovereign nations are banding together to push for the chance to continue killing wild fish. Last week some misguided or uncaring landowner dozed up a few hundred yards of the Sauk River and in the process devastated prime salmonid spawning habitat. My favorite winter rivers have suffered anemic returns for the last 4-5 years and now I am hearing the dreaded ESA listing tag being whispered in regards to them. With all the doom and gloom it is sometimes hard to keep up the fight. But keep it up we must. The future of steelhead and steelheading in our region depends on it.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition scored a major victory with the two-year moratorium on the harvest of wild steelhead. The organization and its board of directors, deserve all the accolades it is currently receiving. The board persevered when many, myself included, advised them not to fight the "un-winnable" fight. They stayed focused and as E. F. Hutton used to say, "they earned it". There is no time to rest on laurels though.

A two-year moratorium will at best stem the bleeding. It will not reverse the downward trends nor will it be sufficient to produce any valid data to support an extension. What it does do is stop the harvest. For some time I have believed that sport harvest to be a relatively minor factor in the health of runs. That is not to say an unimportant factor for before we can start saving them, we need to stop killing them. For the next two years, it appears we have stopped killing them. Now the real work begins.

Getting the moratorium extended must be a priority but there are many other important issues to address as well. To our north, the mighty Thompson River has had its fall steelhead season shut down because of low escapements. This in spite of the providence allowing a chum salmon gillnet fishery that is known to have significant steelhead by-catch. In our own state, we have the embarrassment of the Columbia tangle tooth fishery and its impact on ESA listed stocks. In the last five years the number of fish farms has expanded tenfold on the coast of B.C. There is habitat degradation and the impacts of poorly designed and operated hatcheries. There is no shortage of battles to fight.

The WSC finds itself with a gift of significant political capital due to its recent successes in Olympia. It will need every bit of this and more to address the only partial list of issues I listed above. I started this article by asking, "who continues to care about wild steelhead"? The answer is the Wild Steelhead Coalition and its board of directors. If you care as well, please get a hold of a board member and offer your time and energy. Membership dues are fine but time makes things happen. Don't be afraid to step up. There is more than enough work to go around.

***Tight lines,  
Duggan Harman***

*"Duggan Harman is a current Trustee of the Wild Steelhead Coalition. He is also the WSC's first President and one of the founding Board Members. Duggan makes his home with his wife and two sons in Bothell, Wa. and is one of the earliest rising steelheaders I have the pleasure of knowing"*



*Winter Steelhead Camp*

*Photo by R. Simms*

## Wild Steelhead Coalition Board Meeting Feb. 24, 2004

The meeting was held at the Edmonds Public Library. Board members in attendance were Rich Simms, Todd Ripley, Peter Dorn, Dick Burge, Bob Young, Les Johnson, Jack Berryman and Richard Hunt. Jeff Johnson (JJ) and Nate Mantua had excused absentness. The meeting started a little after 6 pm as traffic from the Seattle area was terrible.

Rich Simms started the meeting by discussing about old business.

Action: Rich requested Richard Hunt to bring the bylaw update and documents to the next board meeting.

Rich provided status on the Catch and Release education project and said that he again had time to work on the project. Action: Rich said he needed more photos using different gear types and was going to get more photos from Regional Rep Bob Ball.

Rich discussed with the board about upkeep of the website and requested the need to keep the WSC website current. Jeff Johnson had talked to Rich and is awaiting information from Juro Mukai and Dugan Harman about updates. Les Johnson said that he knew a person with web skills that could help update the site for a nominal fee. Action: Peter Dorn will check into and see if we can sell banner space on the WSC website to help fund keeping the site current. Action: Les and JJ are going to talk with Les's friend that can do the work.

### **New Business**

Rich Simms reported that JJ is going to send out membership renewals within the week. We had 9 new members from the booth at the Flyfishing show in Bellevue. Peter Dorn reported that the WSC raised \$1030 from the sale of raffle tickets, hats and new memberships. The booth for the show cost \$750 so after the cost of the booth we generated some positive cash flow. Peter Dorn was commended for such a good job organizing the booth.

Dick Burge reported that there will be a fishing show in Pt. Townsend in March and would the WSC like to have a presence there. Dick is already going to man a booth at that show and we discussed the idea of the WSC paying for half of the booth cost and having a spot for brochures and other WSC items. The idea to pay for half the booth (\$75) was motioned, seconded and carried unanimously.

Rich Simms began discussion about the 2-year moratorium on wild steelhead kill that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioners passed and discussion began to map out the WSC strategy in light of the decision. The board discussed the importance of updating the original White Paper with some more current information. Action: Jack Berryman volunteered to lead that effort.

The board further discussed making the information available that was presented to the WDFW Commissioners, **The Washington State Status of Wild Steelhead** and we will work on posting the information on the WSC website and develop some hard copies of the content. Action: Jack Berryman, Dick Burge, Les Johnson and Nate Mantua will develop the second white paper.

Action: Dick Burge, Bob Ball and J.D. Love are going to try and share the information with the Fork's mayor. Les and Jack will lead the effort to get the information out to magazines and area newspapers.

Todd Ripley spoke next about how this would be a good time to develop a plan to open dialog with the tribes (co-managers) to see if the 2 year moratorium changes their plans to fish. Action: Dick Burge said he would help Todd investigate this possibility.

Dick Burge said that the Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout Advisory Board was being reorganized and now the board members will help set the agenda for the meetings. Dick Burge also discussed the fact that some of the WDFW Commissioner's terms are up soon and that the WSC should become involved in the process of who might become a new commissioner. Action: Dick Burge will keep the WSC Board updated and will gather further information to report at the next board meeting.

Bob Young provided the treasurer's report and reported expenses of \$750 for the booth at the Bellevue flyfishing show and \$771 for the hat order. The WSC received a donation check for \$500 from the Lower Columbia Fly Fishers. Bob also informed the board that the date for Adipose submittals was March 15<sup>th</sup> and the next issue of the Adipose would be out the end of March. Action: All board members must submit their articles for the Adipose by March 15<sup>th</sup>, Rich Simms will send a notice for content and contact the Trustees and Regional Reps for a guest editorial.

Rich Simms began discussion for future membership meetings. The speaker for March's meeting will be David Montgomery. The speaker for April will be Frank Moore of North Fork of the Umpqua fame. The April meeting will be held at the Bellevue Hilton and there will be a RSVP dinner option available. You don't have to have dinner to come to the meeting but you will have to RSVP if you want to have dinner. Action: Jack Berryman will organize the dinner meeting with the Bellevue Hilton. Action: Nate Mantua will contact Bill Mcmillan as our May speaker.

The board discussed the WSC Conservation and Scholarship awards and will entertain names at our next board meeting for potential candidates. We will also request nominations via email and Adipose from the membership. Action: Rich Simms will send out documents again regarding policy input from board members.

Jack Berryman reported about the Patagonia grant request and said that it was ready for submittal. The grant request is for \$5500. We motioned, seconded and passed unanimously to submit the grant request. The board also discussed the opportunity to get some press in the Patagonia catalog.

Action: Rich Simms will write a letter to The Olympic National Park about closing the Queets to wild steelhead retention and following suit with the commission decision on a two year moratorium on retention of wild steelhead.

Rich Simms requested a Legislative Committee plan and report out at the next board meeting from Todd Ripley.

The next board meeting will be March 23.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
*Richard Hunt*  
*WSC Secretary*

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*Rain Forest Steelhead River*

*photo by R. Simms*

## **Thanks for Supporting Wild Steelhead!**

*The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is an organization dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the waters and rivers of the Pacific Northwest.*

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<b>Dennis Dickson</b>	<b>Bill Bakke</b>
<b>Frank Amato</b>	<b>Duggan Harman</b>
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