

May/June 2004

The Adipose



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition

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The President's Run The State of the Wild Steelhead Coalition: Year 3

"Effective organizations do something" –comment from Steelhead Summit IV

This year has been the most exciting and rewarding year that I have been involved with the WSC since its inception. As one of the founders, it was exciting to start and see the development of a fledging organization with such talent. In my two years as the VP of Membership and now the President in the WSC's third year of existence, I have been very impressed with the current Board's ability to work together and the willingness to work on many issues and challenges facing wild steelhead. We continue to have a great group of Trustees: recent changes include saying goodbye to Dennis Dickson, who deserves special thanks for his Trustee term of service, and the addition of Rob Masonis, who we welcome as our newest Trustee. Our list of Regional Representatives continues to expand with the addition of Shane Stewart for NW Oregon, and it will soon expand into the Region 1 territory of Eastern Washington to help further the goals of WSC. We have a strong membership which continues to grow with individuals who have volunteered to get involved and help the Board.

The WSC Board of Directors has worked very hard over the last year. The two year moratorium has certainly captured a lion's share of visibility, but it is important to note there have been other important achievements made this year. At the Public Fish and Wildlife Commission Hearings in December the WSC and others commented on new rules proposals, but also provided strong points and very compelling testimony stating that the continued harvest of wild steelhead is not acceptable and the wrong direction for steelhead recovery. After the hearing the WSC scheduled personal meetings with each Commissioner and traveled to share charts, data and facts of Washington's declining wild steelhead runs. This information will be compiled and formatted into the WSC second white paper titled: "**The Washington State Status of Wild Steelhead**". By working through the system, we believe that we played an important role in the Commission's February vote to impose a two-year moratorium on the intentional harvest of wild steelhead in state waters. We hope that this "cease fire" will allow opportunity for the WDFW to develop more progressive management plans for wild steelhead. The WSC is also working on developing ideas for a more conservative management plan for wild steelhead, and this

document will be shared with WDFW. The news of the moratorium also prompted the WSC to be interviewed in articles for regional newspapers as well as an associated press article that was widely distributed.

With regard to notable WSC achievements in the past year, the news of the moratorium was just the tip of the iceberg. We organized and hosted two more **Steelhead Summits**, the first in November 2003 and the second in May 2004, both held at the Bellevue Sheraton Hotel. These summits continue to be well attended by representatives of angling and conservation groups from across the NW and BC, and they have attracted new participants with each passing summit. Many of the ad hoc committees have completed draft position papers and the Summit Steering Committee has completed its draft of the Steelhead Alliance Procedures and Policy. A fifth summit is tentatively scheduled for November 2004. A special thanks goes out to Summit Coordinator Dave Bailey for his work on planning the summits. We also received a grant from **Patagonia** to fund the Summit IV to which the WSC is very grateful.

The WSC has also developed a Hatchery Reform Policy draft which was shared with membership and the Summit Hatchery Reform Committee. And we have been involved reviewing the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) hatchery recommendations, and along with many other organizations we recently signed onto a letter to the state and tribal co-management leadership that supports full implementation of the HSRG recommendations for reform. Nate Mantua, our VP of Science and Education, has represented the WSC at recent hatchery reform meetings and has ensured that the WSC's input is heard.

The WSC continues to have top notch speakers at our monthly general meetings, and they have provided a range of expertise regarding wild steelhead. Speakers in 2003 included:

- January 2003 - **Jeff Carter**, Snohomish County Surface Water Management and **Brian Simonseth**, Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee: *Stillaguamish River Restoration projects*
- February 2003 - **Jon Honea**, Center for Streamside Studies and College of Forest Resources, University of Washington: *Effect of Marine-Derived Nutrients on Macro invertebrate Production in Salmon Spawning Streams*
- March 2003 - **Bob Leland** and **Bob Gibbons**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife steelhead program managers: *Steelhead Management by Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife: where we have been, where we are, and where we are going*
- April 2003 - **Carl Ostberg**, Western Fisheries Research Center, USGS: Genetics, and the evolutionary history and lineages of steelhead and rainbow trout.
- May 2003 - **Dave Seiler**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Science Division: *WDFW's salmon and steelhead research programs*
- June 2003 - **Nick Gayeski**, Washington Trout and the Wild Salmon Center: *Steelhead Life History and Population Persistence: lessons from Kamchatka*

- September 2003 - **Curt Kraemer**, WDFW Region 4 Freshwater Fisheries Program Manager: *"Fishing our way to recovery: Puget Sound's Comprehensive Chinook Fishery Management Plan"*
- October 2003 - Chili Feed and Auction Fundraiser: *we raised approximately \$5000 for the WSC. Many businesses and individuals contributed and we are very grateful for their support – Thank you!*
- November 2003 - **Pete Van Gytenbeek**, Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission: *making the system work*
- December 2003 - **Lee Blankenship**, Hatchery Scientific Review Group, and **Michael Kern**, Long Live the Kings: *The hatchery reform project*
- March 2004 - **Dr. David Montgomery**, University of Washington: *King of Fish: the thousand year run of salmon*
- April 2004 - **Frank Moore**, former owner of the Steamboat Inn on the N. Fk. Umpqua River and long-time Oregon steelhead advocate; Frank was awarded a WSC Honorary Membership at our April Meeting.
- May 2004 – **Dan Rawding**, WDFW Region 5 Fish Biologist: *The Ecosystem Diagnostics and Treatment (EDT) Model*

The WSC Board established two new awards this year to support research work and recognition in conservation towards wild steelhead. The "**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. The "**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. John Honea at the Center for Water and Watershed Studies and College of Forest Resources at the UW was the first scholarship recipient for his work and research on the effect of marine-derived nutrients in salmonid spawning streams. A notice will be sent out to membership for nominees for the Conservation Award soon.

The WSC has also become more politically active, recently forming a political affairs committee led by Todd Ripley. The WSC has worked on important issues opposing the proposed increase commercial by catch of ESA listed steelhead on the Columbia River, the expansion of the Storedahl gravel mine on the East Fork of the Lewis River, supporting slide protection work for the North Fork Stillaguamish and supporting increased protection for in stream flows in our NW rivers. The WSC was also featured in an opinion-editorial piece regarding the importance of establishing in stream protection in the Columbian news paper in Vancouver WA.

On the lighter side the WSC has been able to print out quality brochures and we also now have WSC hats and t-shirts for a donation to help cover their cost. If you are interested in these items to support our organization please contact Jeff Johnson, VP of Membership. The WSC also had a booth at the Fly Fishing show in Bellevue, WA, a presence at the

Sport Fishing Expo in Monroe, WA and Olympic Fly Show in Sequim, WA. where membership materials and brochures were distributed.

One last note; right now the opposition to the two year moratorium on wild steelhead harvest has chosen to petition the Commission's February 2004 decision. In all fairness, the Commission has decided to open their decision to further public testimony sometime in August. The WSC Board strongly urges you to support your Commissioners by sending a letter supporting their decision and to participate in the upcoming public testimony. It is important for the Commission and the WDFW to hear your voice and your concerns for the continued downward trends of wild steelhead in Washington. Tell the commissioners that one thing we can do as sport fishers is not to intentionally harvest wild steelhead.

With our work, and further increased participation from our membership and supporters, I expect the fourth year of the WSC to be as exciting and more prolific in making positive changes for wild steelhead. If you have not gotten involved please find the time to do so, even if it's to write a letter in regards to an issue or just providing feedback to your Board. As a reminder I will quote Jack Berryman's comment from the year before:

"...we must continue to be more than a fishing club. We must keep being a diverse group, base our positions on the best available science and make the fish our top priority."

The Wild Steelhead Coalition is truly doing *something*, in fact a lot of great things, and I am very proud to be associated with such an organization. I am looking forward to the fourth year, how about you?

Rich Simms
200-2004 President
Wild Steelhead Coalition

WSC June 2, 2004 General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Bill McMillan

The Situk & Skagit Rivers: A Comparison of Steelhead, Past and Present
Where: Bothell American Legion Hall
19213 Bothell Way NE, Bothell, WA
Time 7-9 PM

For half a century Bill McMillan has fished Northwest steelhead rivers and observed both abundance and depletion. In early May 2003 Bill had his first experience fishing and observing Southeast Alaska's famed Situk River, well known for its spectacular steelhead fishing. "It was to be my first experience of seeing steelhead abundance rivaling that of Pacific salmon such as chum. But the fact is, I have since found that it

was but a reduced level of depletion. Nevertheless, the experience is one that has suggested how far off the target we may be in setting goals for steelhead restoration in the Pacific Northwest of the Lower 48." In this presentation Bill will compare and contrast Alaska's Situk River with our own Skagit River, and how the history of steelhead abundance and depletion has played out in both systems.

Biography:

Bill McMillan started fishing at age 12, and after some fisheries studies at UW, he decided that he could be more effective with his activism from outside the system. Fish became a primary means for data collection. In 1983 he initiated the first snorkel surveys to document declining wild fish numbers. He managed a research camp on the Kamchatka Peninsula during joint Russian/American research expeditions. Bill is currently very active in many Washington conservation activities. In November 2002 Bill was the WSC's guest speaker on the topic of "Hatchery Impacts on Wild Steelhead Populations".

Steelhead Summit IV Minutes

Report on the May 15, 2004, Steelhead Summit at the Sheraton Inn, Bellevue, WA.

After an introduction by Rich Simms, president of the Wild Steelhead Coalition, Jack Berryman took over as chairman and noted "good news in The Times this morning," a story saying the Bush Administration has apparently decided to keep steelhead and salmon within those protected by the Endangered Species Act. Berryman noted that this is the fourth summit meeting.

Dave Bailey, the man who has put the summits together, explained the schedule for the day and noted there were new attendees but no one from British Columbia. But there were three from Northern California, and one expected from Astoria. Bailey noted that one item that still needs to be determined is a name for the group and suggested the Steelhead Summit Alliance (SSA). He distributed three draft "steering documents" for review: a Who We Are statement; a goal/objectives statement; and procedures for SSA policy development and adoption. The latter two will be revised to reflect suggestions by attendees, then all three will be distributed to all.

Dick Burge took over to run the meeting. He said there are several policies on hatcheries available and that the one that carried the most weight was the work of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group. He introduced Lee Blankenship, a retired member of HSRG who was vice-chair of the group. Blankenship said that to sustain fisheries, over 100 hatcheries had been established in the state, the largest hatchery system in the world. He said that it has been identified as contributor to the current problem, particularly with genetic problems. He said that Rep. Norm Dicks picked up where Slade Gorton left off when Gorton left the Senate in funding and supporting research into how to preserve wild fish, including state and tribal implementation, including third parties.

Blankenship said the group studied the scientific framework, emergency issues papers and operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation, benefit risk assessment and research programs. It divided Western Washington in three regions, the eastern straight of Juan de Fuca, south Puget Sound, and the Stillaguamish-Snohomish Rivers along with the Skagit River and their tributaries. They reviewed more than 100 hatcheries and over 200 hatchery programs. They came up with more than 1,000 recommendations, using scientific rationale on how to meet the goal. Eighteen of

them are system wide and are critical to reform. They set stock goals and recommended ways to improve hatchery programs. On a on regional scale they want to measure success in terms of harvest, conservation and other goals and have clear goals for educational programs.

Operate hatchery programs within context of their ecosystems, operate hatcheries to either genetically integrate relationship with naturally spawning populations but the size hatchery programs must be consistent with stock. To ensure productive habitat for hatchery programs they must emphasize quality, not quantity. To do this they should use in-basin rearing and locally adapted brood-stock, use genetically benign spawning protocols that maximize the habitat.

To do this we must adaptively manage hatchery programs, incorporate flexibility into their design and operation, and evaluate hatchery programs regularly to ensure accountability for success, he said. The key is genetically segregated hatcheries that have only wild fish spawning with wild fish and hatchery fish spawning only with hatchery fish and manage them as distinct stocks and use hatchery fish only for brood-stock.

In an integrated program we should constantly bring in wild fish and have them drive the genetics of both populations. To lower the risk of straying, they should be managed as one gene pool. Natural selection in the wild drives this process and the controls the fitness of the system. This will help overcome genetic drift with 10 percent of the wild fish added each year.

There should be wild steelhead management zones in each region, representing balance in large and small streams, adult recapture required to develop closed system of brood-stock. Then we must evaluate its effect on the watershed, consistent with goals for other watersheds.



Kaitlin Lovell of Trout Unlimited Shares at Summit IV photo by P. Singletary

The next presentation was by Kaitlin Lovell of Trout Unlimited, discussing that group's hatchery plan. She said TU's intent was to step back from all of the hatchery debates and look at how we got to where we are. The plan was to try to develop new ways of thinking about hatcheries and discover why 70-years ago we adopted a habitat for migratory wildlife and a hatchery model for migratory fish. We think of hatcheries as tributaries in which they are located, hatchery reform should take place both inside and outside the hatchery fence. TU's recommendations are to know

the river ecosystem, work within the river landscape, raise the right fish, mimic the natural landscape, reduce and eliminate harmful and wasteful practices through marking, monitoring and analysis. The best hatchery out there was a six on scale of 10. We need to evaluate whether hatcheries belong in the river. Implementation by replicating conditions outside the hatchery fence on the inside is what is needed.

Ramon Vanden Brulle of Washington Trout focused on hatchery genetic management. He said both Lee and Kaitlin talked about proposed plans in Washington but the only one that will matter is the state plan. We must take advantage of the chance to influence the plans. Washington Trout feels a voluntary program is going to be a very slow process. WT has concerns about where the money is going to come from. We need to make state accountable to the public, he said.

Nate Mantua of the Wild Steelhead Coalition said his hatchery report: "looks an awful lot like the HSRG report." He said an enormous amount of money has been used to make research reports. The goal is to promote better hatcheries for our fish and put a steelhead spin on it. The time to revise that is now. He has signed onto a letter to implement the HSRG report.

A panel discussion followed, featuring Blankenship, Barbara Cairns of Long Live the Salmon, Lovell, Mantua and Nick Gayeski of Washington Trout.

Burge said he wants to explore HSRG and wants to know if the principals provide enough structure. Lee said are they enough to protect resource into the future and they will continue to evolve. He reminded everyone that it is a four-year process so far. It is a huge shift from where we were four years ago.

"We need implementation," Nate said, and it needs the flexibility of a learning process. We need to change behavior as we learn more. "Management has not shown what we have learned." We need to own up to the fact that we don't know everything. Set up programs that will lead to learning.

Kaitlin said we are committed to the reform process. A key question is do we have sustainable resources. "This has forced me to think about bigger and broader things such as ocean conditions and fresh water management systems."

Barbara said LLTK is trying to "take what we are seeing and use it. They are not enough to save all fish." We need to improve habitat at the watershed level. We need to find out where and how decisions are made. We need institutional changes and to hold the feet of the decision makers to the fire.

Nick said Washington Trout is "still extremely skeptical of the approach to integrated production programs." We need to be sure that we are forcing an integrated program. A critical question is what is the fitness of the strain. The devil is in the details. We need to hold the co-managers feet to the fire. "My concern is that we will always do what we always do."

Burge's next question was "Will there be enough money? We need to have watch-dogs out there making sure it happens. You will be the key to making sure it happens. When funds have been cut, you need to grab it and make it work.

Nate said he has no idea. We need to make sure. Kaitlin said the problem is how the agencies are funded, through license fees. Nick said we need to show how much money is going into the fish. He said fish are a subsidy and questioned what is the cost of various facilities. Who do we rob to pay for what we don't have. We need to have cost benefit for each hatchery. Our fish are taken everywhere but we have no answer to who catches them. Barbara----it is important to remember that what HSRG was asked to do was to lay a scientific foundation for taking fish into the future. The biggest problem is that there are no clearly defined goals.

Burge asked how can we help to ensure HSRG principals are implemented. Lee responded that we need watch-dogs to keep the agencies from reverting back to what they have always done. We need groups like this to apply pressure. You do make a difference, working the department and

the commission. I learned that I could not do that within the agency, working on the inside, that I had to get on the outside. Nate said we need to have a strong presence; and make it felt. A lot of people think we will go away because that is the history of many groups. Kaitlin said it does come down to money, finding ways of linking funding with reform. Barbara said talking about a campaign, means you follow the inside and outside games at the same time, show them how HSRG has answers for them and allows them to do the right thing. Part of what we need to do is to identify things that we can change. We facilitated a conversation because they rarely talk to each other. How do we make that happen? How do we hold the agencies responsible. Nick--how agencies are funded is the important thing. We need to make them understand that we speak for general public at large. The majority of the public wants a clean healthy environment. Average citizen wants it. Barbara said we have to be very shrewd, working at the same time on the outside and the inside. We must be respectful and know who is going to holler at you so you plan your steps and know what success will look like. And stay with it, don't go away. Lee--the opportunity you have now is that you have independent scientists that are saying this, use it. Berryman wanted to know what went into idea to close hatcheries? Lee said we don't think you can get there. You should close this facility when a hatchery is not working. Barbara said we need to make specific recommendations because some of what we see is a hell of a way to run a railroad. We need to spur systemic change and show how they can get there. There is a hunger for some knowledge. Show them what success would look like. We need to get the state and the tribes involved in change.

Rob Masonis said there has been a lot of discussion and the gory details are ripe with misinformation. The Pacific Legal Foundation position is an example. They ask why we need to protect habitat. Why we need to reestablish wild fish.

Barbara said we agree about misinformation. Russ Brooks of the foundation says reform has already been done. A whole series of things need to be done, such as allowing enough habitat for wild fish as well as hatchery fish. There are not any that meet the standards. Nick said we need to speak to the misinformation. We need to find ESU's that will qualify for ESA protection. Rob said it is important how we work with the public, something that is simple and the public can understand. We need to start with something simple and not come from radical fringe. Ramon asked Lee if HSRG was able to cite any successes and who said all hatchery fish need to be marked for research and tracking. How do we turn hatchery fish into wild fish. There is reason to believe this can happen.

After the break for lunch Barry Berejikian of NOAA discussed the Hamma Hamma steelhead research project.

Several miles of river are available. Ten or so redds have been counted each year. There have been a couple of dozen fish in the river. We are using other rivers for comparison to measure genetic and ecological effects. He said there has been no artificial spawning. Smolts have been reared to natural size and released into the river in natural amounts. We are trying to determine if this works. Other streams in area are used as baselines and are planted heavily. Objectives are to determine effect of supplementation and compare with other streams, checking the effects of current velocity on breeding. Half are reared in a hatchery tank, half in rearing pond, both at age 2. The interim goal of returning more adults is showing up. Don't know yet how many are wild fish. The studies show that the ability to compete with other males is very important. Most of the spawning takes place at night. Conclusions show that supplementation program is increasing redd abundance and that captive rearing of steelhead released as pre-spawning adults appear to exhibit a high level of breeding success.

Committee reports:

Bill Redman of the Federation of Fly Fishers, speaking for the ESA listing/cnr mortality committee, said ESA issues are extremely important and it is time to speak our mind, to give organizations a chance to sign on and then go public with it. See printed note.

Kaitlin Lovell, speaking for the federal ESA policy committee, said the act has two purposes, to provide a means where-by ecological systems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved and provide a program for the conservation of fish. She was joined by Joe Bogaard who talked about three alerts that are being issued.

Norm Ploss, of the Northern California Council - Federation of Fly Fishers, discussing fish passage barriers and California assessment, said over 12,000 potential barriers have been identified and 2552 are classified certain barriers. California central valley once had 6,000 stream miles for salmon and steelhead and that it is now down to 300. An additional 9,912 potential crossings are potential barriers to fish passage owned or managed by CaITrans. Conclusions are that CaITrans and a coastal group need to combine their efforts.

Steve Mashuda, an attorney for Earthjustice on the California central valley steelhead case, said irrigators had decided they didn't want to help steelhead and brought two arguments, one being that hatchery and wild fish are the same. They also said that rainbow trout is a rainbow trout and therefore is a steelhead. Judge ruled for irrigators in one part of case and against them on the other.

Masonis, speaking for the habitat and water issues and hydropower committee, said the Columbia River basin biological opinion due out November but in the course of pushing this, the state and tribes have dropped their standards. This goes well beyond just the Columbia. He said in his opinion requests for water have nothing to do with irrigation but everything to do with water speculation.

Jim Tuggle, speaking for the enforcement committee, explained the Eyes In The Woods program. He said it started with a bow hunting group and it has now been expanded with a stream watch program for fish. There are now classes that teach what information to get and how to get it and what to do with it. It emphasizes the need to be non-confrontational. This is only for serious violations. TU is inviting chapters to bring in the Eyes In The Woods campaign.

Bailey led a discussion on the three steering documents referred to in the morning. He said they should be helpful in providing the SSA with identity, purpose and direction as an unofficial (non-501c3) umbrella group of varied member organizations.

The Who We Are statement was accepted without change. The goal/objectives document was generally accepted with some minor changes. And the procedures for policy development and adoption will be revised per discussion by attendees. All three will be sent to member organizations for final comments when rewritten by the steering committee.

The next Summit is tentatively scheduled for early November of 2004.

Note: The Patagonia Co. graciously and generously sponsored Summit IV with a donation of \$550. to cover the meeting costs.

Thanks to Dee Norton for recording the Summit IV proceedings and Dave Bailey, Dick Burge and Jack Berryman for planning another successful summit!

News Bits

What's going on in and around the WSC

Help the East Fork of the Lewis!

Final hearing on the East Fork of the Lewis gravel pit takes place June 1st at the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin, Vancouver, WA 7PM. Comments can be sent to Josh Warne at email: Joshua.warner@clark.wa.gov Phone:360-397-2375 ext. 4898

Frank Moore Receives WSC Honorary Membership

Frank Moore whom lives on the North Umpqua and is the former owner of Steamboat Inn and has been a wild steelhead advocate for years received a WSC Honorary Membership at the WSC April Meeting. Frank shared his well known Pass Creek video documenting poor logging practices, which was taken back to congress to get improve stream side buffers. Frank also shared his insights about the fight for wild steelhead and the importance to have them in our future.

Commissioner Cahill Steps Down

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Russ Cahill stepped down in April to take a full time position with Attorney General's Christine Gregoire's gubernatorial campaign. Commissioner Cahill was instrumental for proposing and voting for the two year moratorium of harvesting wild steelhead in the state of Washington. We wish Commissioner Cahill the best and thank him for voting in favor of wild steelhead.

New Commissioner Assigned

Holly Ledgerwood was appointed to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission in April. Her bio is available from the Commission's website. Holly, a Pomeroy educator and avid hunter and fisher, was appointed April 2004 to fill a vacant at-large position. Ledgerwood is a wellness and physical education teacher in the Clarkston School District. A member of several outdoor and conservation groups, she currently directs the district's sixth grade outdoor education program.

Hatchery Scientific Review Group

The HSRG has a good website up and running with information about their groups operations and recommendations. Check out www.hatcheryreform.com for more info.

WSC Website

Our website is and will be continually updated please check it out every so often to see the latest news, information and action alerts to help out on.

WSC Board Establishes Two New Awards

The WSC Board adopted the establishment of two new awards to be given out at the discretion of the BOD.

"Conservation Award" 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" 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.

The BOD just made its Scholarship Award to Jon Honea and the UW's Center for Water and Watershed Studies to support his research on stream nutrients for salmonids. Jon had presented this research at one of the WSC's General Meetings and will do another presentation at a future WSC Meeting.

The WSC Board is currently accepting nominee recommendations from membership for the Conservation Award Winner. Please submit your recommendation by email at wscmembership@yahoo.com or write your submission to Wild Steelhead Coalition, 218 Main St. Box 264, Kirkland WA. 98033 by June 30, 2004

*Jack W. Berryman
WSC Past President*

Thank-You!

- We would like to thank **Patagonia** for their generous donation for Steelhead Summit IV!

***WSC Receives a Growth Spurt!
Please welcome our new members!***

Individual memberships:
Kerry Stratton, Mt Vernon, WA
Craig Hollow, Seattle, WA
Jeff Griffin, Bellevue, WA
Daniel Page, Yelm, WA
Vern Olson, Camano Island, WA
Joe Parke, Snohomish, WA
Steve Probasco, Raymond, WA
Stuart Smithers, Seattle, WA
John Cunningham, Wenatchee, WA
Chris DeLeone, Shoreline, WA
Chris Barrow, Woodinville, WA
Bob Barnes, Bellevue, WA
Marsha and Mike Schaefer, Shelton, WA
Arnie Lusic, Kingston, WA
Michael Feiger, Paulina, OR.

WSC Financial Update

Many, in fact almost all of you, have recently paid your membership dues and/or made a donation to the WSC. We thought it would be worthwhile to update you on what has been done with your money.

As you probably know, the WSC was very active in bringing about the recent ruling by the Fish and Game Commission requiring the release of all wild steelhead for the next two years. We feel this was a big step in achieving the goals of our organization.

Here is a brief summary of what our monies have been used for.

The new sletter, The Adipose, costs about \$150 an issue. Its value is in the disseminating of much of the information we have assembled to support our position on the status of wild steelhead.

We spent about \$1500 on fund raising and spreading the word about us and our goals. To this end we took space at the recent flyfishing show in Bellevue. Other expenses were incurred for printing brochures and obtaining merchandise to further fund raising and membership..

In our efforts to educate the Commission members in regards to the seriousness of the declining stocks of wild steelhead across the region and the urgent need to for reducing the harvest the fish, we spent about \$1600. These expenses included procuring and producing documentation in support of our position as well as across the state travel to meet face-to-face with a majority of the Commission members.

The recent Steelhead Summit IV, conducted at the Sheraton Hotel in Bellevue, WA, was sponsored by us. This was a very productive gathering (see article) and we feel the expenses incurred, about \$1000, were funds well spent.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition "Scholarship Award" of \$500 was recently awarded. This award is presented to an individual or group that, through their research and scholarship, recognizes the significance of wild steelhead for Northwest culture or the scientific importance of wild steelhead in the management of all steelhead for optimal propagation and survival.

Other business expenses including meeting facilities, speaker fees, postage, copies, etc. have amounted to about \$2000.

The generous support and donations of all our members and supporters has made possible the expenditure of some \$7000 for the activities and materials to bring about the gains we have made toward fulfillment of our mission statement of returning wild steelhead to the waters of the Pacific Northwest. The recent ruling requiring wild steelhead release during the next years was a substantial step in that direction.

*Sincerely,
Bob Young
WSC Treasure*

The Upcoming 2-Year Moratorium Hearing

In early February of 2004 the F&W Commission passed a 2-year moratorium on the harvest of wild steelhead. Prior to the vote, Director Koenings surprised everyone, by announcing the Department of Fish and Wildlife was going to develop a new steelhead management plan within 2 years.

Soon after the Commission decision, the City of Forks filed a petition to the Commission to review the rule under the APA process. In late April the Commission voted to accept the petition and schedule a hearing to reconsider the moratorium. The hearing has not been scheduled, but it is believed to take place on either August 14 or August 28.

Hold on to those dates if you can. There will be considerable opposition to the moratorium including strong complaints already registered from Washington tribes. We will all have to get out and speak loud to keep the moratorium.

Here is what WSC is doing to prepare for the upcoming hearing:

1. Les Johnson, VP Communications is distributing the WSC Fact Sheet and graphs to reporters. We will meet with any that express an interest.
2. We are writing a second white paper on the condition of the stocks and the problems with the present management system. It will include all the information in the fact sheet and more. The paper will include all the graphs WSC has previously made available on our web site and a few more on Puget Sound and SW Washington that are in preparation by Larry Doyle.
3. We will prepare testimony as we did for the last hearing, based on the condition of stocks, the states public preference for WFR, and other important points. We will also be encouraging supportive fishers and organizations to testify on the behalf of wild steelhead.

The WDFW management plan will involve two processes: First, the Department is presently writing a science based white paper that is designed to cover the status of the stocks, the biology of steelhead, artificial production, productivity (survival rates, PPP, stock recruit functions, limiting factors), fisheries management, and research. That paper is already in progress and a first draft is expected June 15. Only the WDFW and the tribes are invited to participate in writing the white paper. The draft white paper is to be completed on June 15 and the final by July 31, 04.

The management plan will be initiated sometime after early August. Some of the significant dates we should watch for include:

Development Meetings:--planned for Aug 1 through 15 Oct.

Outline and Format---by Nov 30

First draft---by March of 05

SEPA Process: The State Environmental Protection Act process for a EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) has a starting date of May 1, 05 (scoping notice) and a completion date of April 06. However, the WDFW may choose to not run the plan through SEPA.

The second draft of the management plan is due out in June/July of 05. There will then be a comment period and a second Public hearing. The final draft of the plan is due in September or November of 05. There will be a public comment period and then the final plan is to be out in January or February of 06. The final plan is then scheduled for approval by the director and Commission in April, 06. This will be a long drawn out process. When completed, the new Steelhead Management Plan will stand for a long time. We should consider all these dates as general and watch for the actual times to be announced by WDFW.

*Dick Burge
WSC VP Conservation*

WSC's Hatchery Reform Activities

There are two Hatchery Reform efforts underway. First, our draft hatchery policy is beginning to take shape. The current document draws very heavily from recently published blue-ribbon panel hatchery reform reports. Two key reports that are being used to shape our draft policy are:

- 1.) The 2004 Hatchery Reform Scientific Review Group's Final Report, available on the internet at <http://hatcheryreform.org>
- 2.) Trout Unlimited's report on "a landscape view for hatchery reform" available on the internet at <http://www.tu.org>

If any members would like to comment on and/or contribute to the development of the Wild Steelhead Coalition's hatchery policy paper, please contact me via email and you will receive a copy of the latest draft. We hope to have this project finished sometime this summer.

Our second new hatchery reform activity has linked our efforts to those of a broader community of parties interested in the implementation of significant hatchery reforms. Beginning in early April, the WSC board of directors voted unanimously to begin sending a representative to "hatchery reform coalition" meetings hosted by Long-Live the Kings staff, but aimed at building a community of organizations in support of implementation of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group's recommendations. At the meeting, participants decided that a new "coalition" wasn't really necessary, but instead having hatchery reform meetings organized by Long Live the Kings would provide a valuable venue for learning about various opportunities to support hatchery reform and to organize targeted letter writing campaigns in support of whatever issues the individual groups wish to. To that end, the WSC co-signed an April 23, 2004 letter to the state and tribal co-managers that expressed support the co-managers in their implementation efforts.

The letter also identified the Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) and Resource Management Plans (RMPs) as important documents in which the co-managers should demonstrate their commitment to implementation. NOAA fisheries has initiated a public comment period (ending July 12) on development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for two hatchery Resource Management Plans (RMPs) submitted by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Treaty Tribes (the co-managers). One RMP is for Chinook programs, and the other is for all other salmonid programs.

We will stay involved in this process through the hatchery reform coalition meetings and email contacts.

Nate Mantua

WSC VP Science/Education

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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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