



The Adipose

The Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition
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The President's Forum

As we move into another new year, it is my privilege to share with the membership some of the WSC's plans for 2003 and some of our accomplishments for 2002.

One of our successes was the Steelhead Summit held on November 23rd. Several of the committees formed to look at specific issues are hard at work preparing reports for a February or March distribution. A second Summit is still anticipated for May 2003. Several WSC members are serving in leadership capacities for the various committees.

Peter Dorn has been named our new Vice President for Fundraising and brings a wealth of experience in "money matters." Peter will be organizing more general meeting raffles and is planning a major fundraiser, perhaps an auction, for the spring. He is looking for items for these raffles, so please contact him with donations or suggestions. Peter replaces Richard Hunt, who was also serving as our Secretary, and has done a wonderful job with the raffles. Thanks to Richard for wearing two hats for several months.

The WSC is also embarking on the printing of our first informational/membership brochure to be used to spread the word about our organization and our goals and objectives. We also hope to gain new members. The brochure will be available for distribution and for use at some area fishing shows. Plans are underway to have a WSC booth at the FFF show in Bellevue, February 22-23, for example.

We provided testimony to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife relating to their proposed sport fishing rule proposal change to establish "no annual limit for hatchery steelhead." Our letter stated: "The Wild Steelhead Coalition wholeheartedly supports this rule change because we believe it will be an asset to the survival of more wild steelhead. The more hatchery fish that are removed from the system, the less chance they will have to spawn. However, we do not wish to foster a "harvest mentality" to the point where anglers are catching

and keeping more wild steelhead. By the same token, the Department of Fish and Wildlife should not use this as a rationale for producing more hatchery steelhead and, in this regard, we urge the Department to cut back on hatchery production instead of increasing the limit. The Wild Steelhead Coalition is specifically concerned with the mechanisms of this increase and how catch records will be maintained and monitored to make sure that no angler catches and kills more than the five wild fish currently allowed by law.”

Just recently, Past President and current Trustee Duggan Harman, met with the Northwest Director of the National Parks and Conservation Association to discuss the salmonid policies within Olympic National Park. The WSC will serve in an advisory capacity on some of the issues and provide our advice and recommendations regarding wild steelhead.

It looks like 2003 will be an exciting year for the WSC and we are glad our membership continues to grow. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Sincerely, Jack Berryman, WSC Board President



Redd

photo by Rich Simms

The above photograph shows a typical "spawning redd".

A redd is a nest of eggs by spawning salmonids identified by the area of clean, lighter-colored gravel. Redds are often seen in shallow tail outs as well as other areas. Redds contain eggs that must stay buried in the gravel for over 3 months before they hatch.

From September to June both steelhead and salmon have dug redds and spawned eggs in the stream bed, be careful to watch your step.

The following is a summary, prepared by VP of Science and Education Nate Mantua outlining the January 8 WSC meeting presentation by Jeff Carter, Snohomish County Surface Water Management and Brian Simonseth, Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee

Stillaguamish Basin Presentation

Jeff Carter, an employee of the Snohomish County Surface Water Management office, started the presentation with an overview of the habitat issues now limiting fish production in the Stillaguamish basin. His list was unfortunately familiar and long, including: high summer water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen due to siltation, loss of stream complexity and riparian vegetation; sediment loads that have lowered egg to fry survivals, a 95% loss of the estuary and a 75% loss of freshwater habitat from diking and draining, a growing delta due to an increased sediment load (from massive landslides in the basin), and a non-native spartina (marsh grass) invasion in the estuary. In spite of all these habitat problems, the potential for habitat and fish recovery in the Stilly is thought to be relatively high when compared to other basins in Puget Sound.

In recent years, wild chinook escapements have been in the hundreds. The recovery goals aim to bring 15,000 to 30,000 wild chinook per year back in the future.

Brian Simonseth, now president of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers and a new member of the WDFW Citizens Advisory panel for Steelhead and Cutthroat trout, is also on the Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee (SIRC). The Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee (SIRC) was organized by Snohomish County in 1990 to fix water quality problems in the Stilly, but has since morphed into a salmon recovery committee. Brian noted that the SIRC has already completed 77 different habitat projects, many funded by the state's salmon recovery board.

Brian focused his presentation on 3 major landslides in the basin, and the SIRC plans to restore these areas. The two major slides on the North Fork are at Steelhead Haven and in the Little Deer Creek watershed. The Gold Basin slide is now responsible for heavy siltation in both the South Fork and main stem Stilly. All these slides were brought on by a naturally unstable landscape, logging and the construction of logging roads. A new, large and natural slide took place last summer on Squire Creek. An interesting point that both Jeff and Brian made is that many of the worst slides and poorly designed logging roads in the Stilly Basin are on state forest lands (managed by the Department of Natural Resources).

Brian also discussed some of the other projects the SIRC is overseeing, and these ran the spectrum from acquisition of nearly 4,000 acres of wetlands in the Stilly estuary, to removing dikes to reconnect the North Meander and Jorgensen Sloughs, and replacing many old and poorly designed culverts that are contributing to landslide and fish passage problems throughout the basin. Last

year along Stillaguamish Salmon Habitat recovery efforts received \$2.4 million! The SIRC and their partners are doing some great things for the Stilly, and have been widely recognized as one of the most successful salmon recovery organizations in the state.

The SIRC hosts public meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Silvana from 1-3pm. More information on their organization is available on the web at: http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/swm/salmon_stillyplan/

Our hearty thanks go out to Brian and Jeff for a great presentation.

Nate Mantua, WSC VP Education/Science

Wild Steelhead Coalition Membership Report

The WSC would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members

Hal Smith, Sustaining Member, Redmond, WA

Chris Thompkins, Member, Lake Forest Park, WA

Thank-you this month!

Special thanks to **Ryan Swanson** for a \$150 donation to the WSC through the Corixa Corporation.

Special thanks to **Mike Chamberlain of Ted's Sports Center** for his donation of Action Optics Sunglasses at a recent raffle.

Special thanks to **WSC Board Member Dick Burge & Member Dave Bailey** for the excellent Job of heading up the successful Steelhead Summit. Nice work gentleman!

News & Bits- What's going on in & around the WSC?

WSC Letter to the WDFW- The WSC has sent a letter to the WDFW supporting their proposal to increase the annual hatchery steelhead limit. For more information please contact Jack Berryman at 425-821-1774.

WSC Hatchery Reform Committee-The WSC hatchery reform committee is currently busy researching, defining and drafting the WSC white paper on hatchery reform with a completion date of mid-February. Members of the committee include WSC members Nate Mantua, WSC VP of Science/Education, Jim Starkes, Fisheries Biologist, Carl Ostberg, Steelhead Geneticist, Jacob Vernard, Fisheries Biologist, and Dick Burge, WSC VP of Conservation.

WSC VP of Fundraising- Please welcome Peter Dorn as the WSC's new VP of Fundraising. Peter is very enthusiastic about his position on the board of Directors and is already developing plans for a WSC fundraising event. The following is a brief sketch of Peter's background:

Peter started fishing for sea bass in the San Juan Islands with his father when he was ten years old and they progressed to fishing for salmon off the coast. In the early 70's Peter worked as a deck hand out of Westport, and witnessed the decline of a once great fishery. He worked to pay his way through college as a deckhand on a tender based out of Kenai, Alaska and eventually skippered the tender. A native of Seattle, Peter attended Seattle Prep High School and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Economics. For the past eight years he has been a Financial Advisor, the last four years with Morgan Stanley. In his spare time you'll find Peter on our local rivers catching and releasing salmon, trout and steelhead.

Steelhead Summit Update- The ad hoc committees formed at the Steelhead Summit in November are currently preparing for Summit 2 in May. The committees were formed based on the agenda items developed at the summit. If you would like to participate on one of the committees please phone Dick Burge @ 360-765-3815, email: fskibum@olypen.com or Dave Bailey @ 360-681-7043, email: captain@olypen.com

WSC Membership Renewals- As a "heads up" WSC Membership Renewals will be mailed out by March. Your membership is highly valued and your support is appreciated; we are making a difference for wild steelhead!

Olympic National Park Relationship- WSC Trustee, Duggan Harman met with NW Director for the National Parks Conservation Association and the WSC has been invited to provide input regarding wild steelhead. The National Parks Conservation Association is soliciting input on salmonid recovery efforts as they are related to the Olympic National Park's development of a new management plan.



Sky Winter Steel

Photo by Duggan Harman

Meeting Announcement
First Wednesday of the month (Feb. 5 2003) 6:30 - 9:30
Bothell American Legion Hall 19213 Bothell Way NE (Hwy 527)

February Program/Guest Speaker: Jon Honea

Center for Streamside Studies and College of Forest Resources
University of Washington

Presentation Title: Effect of Marine-Derived Nutrients on Macroinvertebrate Production in Salmon Spawning Streams

John will report on his studies of the response of macroinvertebrate production in NW streams to salmon spawning activity, particularly marine-derived nutrient (MDN) release. PNW streams are relatively unproductive compared to rivers of other regions and it is not known how the decrease of historically large nutrient inputs supplied by spawning salmon has altered the productivity in these systems. The reduction of nutrient subsidies has likely decreased the suitability of PNW streams to serve as nurseries for juvenile salmonids in large part by reducing the productivity of aquatic macroinvertebrates, a major food source.

Measures of macroinvertebrate abundance and biomass changes over short time periods, used in past studies, do not permit an assessment of the capacity of macroinvertebrates to support salmon production. Estimates of macroinvertebrate production, on the other hand, describe changes in their biomass throughout their lifecycle (usually as $g \cdot m^{-1} \cdot year^{-1}$) and thus are a measure of the total energy available to higher consumers.

Objectives of John's Research:

1. To determine if there are differences in aquatic macroinvertebrate production in an area of stream with spawning salmon compared to one without.
2. To determine if differences in production can be linked to salmon nutrients by using stable isotope analysis.
3. To determine how different functional feeding groups of macroinvertebrates and those available as prey respond to the presence of MDN.

Contribution to Management:

A description of the cycle of MDN from adult to juvenile salmon through macroinvertebrates. A list with ecological roles of macroinvertebrate taxa active in the transfer of MDN. A necessary step toward identifying variables of this interaction that can be monitored to validate conservation and restoration efforts (e.g., taxa presence/absence, density, community composition).

A foundation for further research into the path of MDN from aquatic macroinvertebrates to juvenile salmonids. relating salmon production to disturbance effects on MDN cycle components (e.g., upland erosion resulting in increased embeddedness and so reduced habitat for aquatic macroinvertebrates, and so on).

A question and answer period will follow as well as an overview of other WSC business. Feel free to show up at 6:30 PM to meet some of the WSC Members and hear about how the WSC is working to preserve the legacy of wild steelhead!

For more information contact Rich Simms at www.wscmembership@yahoo.com or phone 425-880-4254.

WSC Board of Directors

President: Jack Berryman
425-821-1774
president@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

1st VP Membership: Rich Simms
425-880-4254
VP_of_Membership@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP Fundraising: Peter Dorn
425-451-3133
VP_of_Fundraising@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP Conservation: Dick Burge
360-765-3815
VP_of_Conservation@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP Communications: Dee Norton
206-362-6593
VP_of_Communications@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP Science & Education: Nate Mantua
206-706-8592
VP_of_Science@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP at-large/ Political Affairs : Todd Ripley
425-868-6565
VP_of_Politicalaffairs@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

Secretary: Richard Hunt
425-745-2539
secretary@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

Treasurer: Don Peterson
425-355-4342
Treasurer@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

WSC Trustees

Jim Tuggle	John McGlenn
Dennis Dickson	Bill Bakke
Frank Amato	Duggan Harman
Mark Milkovitch	Jim Lichatowich

WSC Regional Reps

Region 3: Steve Worley 509-962-2033
worleybugger@elltel.net

Region 4: Rob Endsley 360-676-1321
rendsley@earthlink.net

Region 6: Bob Ball 360-374-2019
rball@olyphen.com

Region 5&6 South: Ron Nanney 360-484-3406
nanney3@willapabay.com

Adipose Contacts

Preston Singletary, Editor

206-524-3151

psinglet@gte.net

Bob Young, Publisher

206-782-7544

fishbum@seanet.com

Rich Simms, Online Version

425-880-4254

VP_of_Membership@wildsteelheadcoalition.com



A Steelheader's World

Photo by Bob Ball

Support 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.

**Wild Steelhead Coalition
218 Main St. Box 264
Kirkland, WA 98033**