
The Snoose Junction Journal

Ballard Trout & Salmon Club Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2

Mar 2002

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Details:

The Snoose Junction Journal is published monthly by:
Ballard Trout & Salmon Club
Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 17549
Seattle, WA 98107

Next Meeting...

Thursday -- Mar 14, 2002

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm

Northwest Senior Center

5429 - 32nd Ave NW in Ballard

"1 Block North of The Locks"

This month's meeting features Herb Shepard from Seattle Sport Fishing Charters, a lifelong man in-the-know when it comes to fishing. He will talk about salt fishing for this year, covering Westport, other ocean areas, and Puget Sound, including areas like Clovis passage and Allen bank. His favorite way of fishing--mooching and jigging. -- Also, Georgia and Andy Batcho will be at this meeting with a special presentation on the upcoming 18th Annual WC-TU Earth Day Auction and Banquet. Don't miss this meeting!

BTSC Membership

A big welcome aboard to our **new BTSC members:** Cynthia Bayley, David Boyle, Jeff Callison, Wade Donaldson, Greg Edmiston, Doug Raff, and Frank Spear. Also, welcome to our new "Transferred In" members: Stephen Copps, Bruce McNicholas, and Roger Sampson.

As of January 31st, there have been 19 membership **renewals** bringing our current total to 290, a significant drop from last year. Eight members are on their last month of suspension, (6 months past due). Please check your renewal date on the mailing label and renew promptly!

Fishing Trip For Sale

Due to a schedule conflict there is an Alaska fishing trip available on **L&M Charters**, with the opening between May 1-10, 2002. It was purchased at the Olympia chapter auction. Sitka, 1 person/ 3 days/ 4 nights. Contact Dick Nye at 360-491-9227 to learn the details if you are interested.

BTSC Garners Awards!

After the January Council Meeting at the Annual Awards Banquet, Ballard's newsletter editor John Ferens accepted the award for **Best Chapter Newsletter in 2001**. We are delighted to have gotten this honor. The on-line availability of our newsletter was probably a part of the consideration.

If you would like to see us do a repeat, help out by sending a short story or article (with **pictures** if possible) to Editor BTSC, PO Box 17549, Seattle, WA 98107.

Also our dedicated member Larry O'Neil was given a **special award** for his outstanding work as Council Membership person since Jan1998.

Since 1992 our chapter has received a Silver Trout award, 2 Membership awards, had 2 members as **Sportsman of the Year** recipients and now a Newsletter Award. We are truly a viable part of WC-TU.

Fish Food Pollution

OLYMPIA - Capitol Lake, an estuary beneath the state capitol campus, has too much **phosphorous** from storm water runoff, from farms upstream and, according to the Department of Ecology, from the net pens full of fish.

A few times a week workers for the Department of Fish and Wildlife row out to four **netpens** in Capitol Lake to feed 200,000 Chinook salmon specially raised to stay in Puget Sound so sport fishers can catch them.

Now the Department of Ecology has decided that these net pens are a source of pollution because the fish food used contains phosphorous, a nutrient that can cause **algae blooms** – a problem that now has two state agencies squaring off.

“The net pen is definitely a source of pollution. It’s not a huge source, but its definitely a source. And when you’re over the threshold, every bit counts,” said Kelly Susewind, Dept. of Ecology. Ecology has denied a **discharge permit** for the net pens.

Department of Fish and Wildlife is appealing. “We think that in terms of phosphorous, which is an issue of concern here, these pens **contribute** a very, very small amount,” said Tim Waters, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Both sides say they are talking, anxious to avoid the image of two state agencies squabbling over salmon swimming in the state capitol’s shadow. But the fact remains, if this dispute isn’t settled soon, the net pens could **shut down** after the fish inside them are released this spring.

The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife may try using a new type of **food** that is lower in phosphorous in an effort to keep those net pens open. (03-01-02)

*from a Scott Miller report
www.king5.com*

Anti-Protection Racket

Fourteen of 25 groups of wild West Coast Pacific salmon and steelhead may lose their protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, following the federal government’s formal acceptance of **petitions to de-list** the groups.

Last year, the National Marine Fisheries Service began evaluating protected status of 23 of the 25 groups after a federal judge found the agency was wrong to declare Oregon coastal coho a **threatened** species, saying it had only looked at wild populations and not included the number of hatchery salmon in streams.

The current petitions, which will be considered as part of the overall re-evaluation, were filed by farm and property rights groups traditionally opposed to **endangered** species protection measures. Trout Unlimited criticized the petitions, saying they failed to live up to NMFS’ scientific standards and would drain much-needed resources. (02-11-02)

Jeff Barnard, San Francisco Chronicle

Take action to support a salmon protection bill <http://www.gristmagazine.com/grist/dogood/species.asp?source=daily#recovery2>

Coho Arrive

On February 13th about 30,000 coho smolts arrived at our **net pen** off the West end of the dock at Ray’s Boathouse out at Shilshole Bay in Seattle. A big thank you to everyone who helped get the pen ready, especially Larry and Neal, and to those who came to watch and help with the coho delivery from the hatchery.

We are now **feeding** the fish until they are released in May or June. Now is your chance to get on the feeding schedule for your favorite week. Contact Don Miller, at 283-5472, to get on the feeding list. Don will go over the details with you if you haven’t fed the fish before. It really is a lot of **fun!**

We also have reports of a **seal** pup nailing a few of the fish through the netting.

The net needs to be cleaned several times while our coho are in it, in order to keep the algae off of the net as much as possible. We’re already due for the first **cleaning**. Call Larry O’Neil at 206-784-4303 to help.

Earth Day Banquet

The Washington Council of Trout Unlimited celebrates their 18th Annual Earth Day **Auction** and **Banquet** Saturday April 20, 2002 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Featured will be a wide and varied selection of **quality items** from Orvis, Sage and Lamiglas rods, fishing accessories and guided trips, gourmet cooking equipment, restaurant gift certificates, quality garden plants and tools, and much more.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bid on an outstanding selection of items for your own enjoyment as well as **gifts** for friends and family. Funds raised are used to support Trout Unlimited’s state-wide conservation efforts. This is Trout Unlimited’s major fund-raising event for the year. Plan to be at the auction April 20 by 5:30 to be entered in the **Early Bird Drawing!**

The event begins with silent auctions and raffles at 4:30, dinner will be served at 6:30 and the live auction begins at 7:15. For **tickets**, contact Fred Zingleman at 425-487-9023 or fzingle@gte.net. Tickets are \$50.

To **donate** auction items, contact Georgia Batcho, Chairperson, 206-246-1457 or earthday1@mindspring.com. Trout Unlimited is a non-profit group, donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be provided.

<http://earthday1.home.mindspring.com>.

Power Planning Council

The NW Power Planning Council wants **public input** on a science report on fish passage strategies. It summarizes information on the use of barge transportation, water spills at dams, and flow augmentation to aid juvenile salmon and steelhead in the main stem of the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The results will aid the Council as it considers **recommendations** on dam and river operations on the main stem.

You may get a paper copy of the report as **document #2002-03** at 800-452-5161, or get it on-line at: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/2002/MainstemPassageStrategies.htm>

TRCA and BTSC

Fellow TU members, our chapter, by unanimous vote, has added its collective voice to that of thousands of other hunters and fishers by joining ranks in the **TRCA** (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance).

Your personal address information has not been and will not be sent to TRCA. We will get **habitat** issue notices to you via e-mail and through the chapter newsletter for you to act upon as you deem appropriate.

The TRCA is a voice for all sportsmen that will be heard in the political **arena** where our nonprofit groups are not able to have the proper clout, but it is up to you to tell them what is important and give direction. Take a stand for **conservation**, contiguous forests, clean water, abundant wildlife and recreational opportunities.

Mercury Alert!

Mercury is an extremely toxic element that can seriously harm human health and wildlife even at very low levels. Mercury exposure, often from eating **poisoned fish**, can cause mental problems and impaired vision, speech, hearing and coordination. High levels can damage brain, kidney and lungs and can be fatal. Fetuses and young **children** are especially at risk because of their developing nervous systems.

In April 2001, the Washington State Department of Health issued a statewide fish **consumption advisory** warning women of childbearing age and children under six not to eat any shark, swordfish, tilefish, king mackerel, or tuna steaks because of **concerns** about mercury. Nationwide, 41 states have issued over 2,200 fish advisories for mercury.

The Washington Legislature is currently considering S.6533, the Mercury Reduction and Education Act, which would reduce mercury in Washington state by **banning** mercury in consumer products such as thermometers, thermostats, and vehicles and establish safer, more effective recycling and **disposal** systems.

Write or call 800-562-6000 to leave a toll-free message for your **legislators** urging them to support S.6533.

Ric Abbett, President WC-TU

C.A.S.T. at Greenlake

Ballard Chapter will be working with C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) for Kids to put on an event at **Greenlake** this April 27th. We will need about 30 members to volunteer and help for a few hours, or the whole 5 hours scheduled (8:30am - 2:30pm). This will be a great chance to **teach** what you know about basic trout fishing and knot tying as well as the proper care of water and environment.

We would like to set up a display on how much **fun** fishing and club activities can be. If you have some favorite photos or some diverse fishing tackle to show off, or would like to help with the **display**, please contact Neal Ogle, Project Chair, at 425-743-7789, or Larry O'Neil at 206-784-4303. We are open to your ideas, comments and questions.

This event is supported / sponsored by Seattle Parks and Recreation, WDFW, C.A.S.T. for Kids, TU, Washington State BASS Federation, Zebco, and Eagle Claw. Each kid will receive a T-shirt and a **rod and reel** combo. There is a \$5 cost per kid to enter this event. Registration forms need to be in by April 19th.

Damn the Manatees, Full Speed Ahead

Secretary Norton ignored the objections of a supervisor in one of her own agencies when she decided to allow boat manufacturers to test **watercraft** at high speeds inside sanctuaries for endangered Florida manatees. That's according to a letter uncovered by Defenders of Wildlife and other environmental groups.

In the letter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Field Supervisor David Hankla strongly opposed such a plan by the state of Florida. Defenders of Wildlife litigation director Mike Senatore called it "a classic exemption carved out for a **politically** well-connected industry." Speeding boats killed at least 81 manatees last year alone.

What can you do? Legislation that would harm **manatees** is moving through the Florida Legislature. To learn how you can help, go to <http://www.helpmanatees.org>

Double-Header!

Originally a steam railroad term, maybe you've had two fish on at once, what we call a double-header. Now, a Silverdale fish gives new meaning to both double-header and **salmonella**. This story was an *AP* news item.

"For Terry Donison's science class, the two-headed salmon was an **odddity** that everyone expected would be temporary. A month later, the fish, dubbed Sam and Ella, is still alive."

"Shortly after the eggs hatched, Donison discovered one baby salmon had two heads. The oddity quickly became the focus of her class. But the **prognosis** for the salmon was grim: Two-headed animals born in nature usually die soon after birth."

"It appears to be very **healthy** and very active," said Donison, whose classroom at Ridgetop Junior High School in Kitsap County is home to Sam and Ella's tank. Central Kitsap Kiwanis provided the supplies and eggs as part of its Salmon in the Classroom project.

"Shortly after hatching, the fish settled into the gravel at the bottom of the tank. This week, as Donison was moving rocks at the bottom of the tank, she was shocked to find Sam and Ella **alive**. Sam and Ella is now about an inch long and swimming around with the other fish."

"Donison plans to move the fish to a smaller tank where it can live alone and not **compete** for food. While Sam and Ella's counterparts will be released into Clear Creek at spring break, Donison plans to keep the two-headed salmon as long as possible."

"I suppose I'll be sitting here with an **eyedropper** nursing it," she said. "If I need to, I will." (02-28-02)

From The Seattle Times

Salt Water Fishing in 2002
This Month -- March 14th

www.ferensoft.com/btsc

Ballard Trout & Salmon Club
Meetings the 2nd Thursday of Odd-Numbered Months |
7:30 P.M. @ Northwest Senior Center
5429 - 32nd Ave NW in Ballard
"1 Block North of The Locks"

Ballard Trout & Salmon Club
Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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