



FALL 2012

Strong Runs

Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Native Fish Society



THE VOICE FOR WILD NATIVE FISH

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STRONG RUNS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 26

Mykiss Caucus – Sasquatch Brewing in Portland, OR
Informal gathering of area volunteers, members and staff.
More info: admin@nativefishsociety.org

Thursday, November 29

Bill McMillan, Bellingham, WA
Bellweather Hotel @ 5:45pm
Check out Bill's new book and support wild fish!
More info: mark@nativefishsociety.org

Friday, November 30 to Saturday, December 1

Wild fish Gathering on Nooksack River
Cast, eat, and learn about wild fish!
More info: mark@nativefishsociety.org

Saturday, February 17 to Sunday, February 18

Fly Fishing Show, Lynwood, WA
Come check out the NFS booth + talk with WA River Stewards.
More info: mark@nativefishsociety.org

Saturday, April 13

17th Annual Benefit Banquet + Auction
Montgomery Park, Portland, OR
The largest gathering of wild fish advocates in the northern hemisphere -- don't miss the best night of your life!
Tickets go on sale January 1, 2013.

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Native Fish Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization.

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Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do -- Wendell Berry

FROM THE HOME POOL

CLEAR LAW, CLEAR SCIENCE & FOGGY ETHICS

SAVE SANDY SALMON CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Mike Moody, Executive Director



Remember visiting a fish hatchery as a child and seeing swarming clouds of fish and chaotic feeding frenzies? Like you, I left in wonderment.

No longer. That childhood recollection is replaced with reality. That reality and the now irrefutable proof that hatcheries cause harm to wild fish. In fact, mainstream biology now regards the presence of hatchery fish in a river as it would any other risk factor to the health of wild stocks. To make it clear, hatcheries are as bad for fish as dams, bad logging practices and habitat degradation.

That's why the Native Fish Society along with McKenzie Fly Fishers have filed a federal lawsuit against the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We do so because after years of unsuccessful deliberations and broken promises we were left with no option. We realize this turns a common misconception on its head. We also realize, regretfully, Oregonians are footing the bill.

For its management of the Sandy River hatchery, NFS is suing ODFW and NMFS for numerous and ongoing violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Last year, less than 1000 each of wild salmon and steelhead returned to the Sandy River. ODFW's management policy to counter these near-extinctions is to release huge volumes of hatchery fish which cause significant ecological and reproductive problems for wild fish. Hatchery fish compete for cover, space and food. They spread hatchery-promulgated diseases and release formalin, made of the carcinogen formaldehyde, into public waters.

Recent studies find steelhead born of hatchery parents in the wild may only produce 1/8 to 1/3 of the offspring of two breeding wild fish. Said another way: hatchery fish are actually reducing the population.

So, year after year, ODFW and NMFS are actually worsening this downward spiral by releasing more and more hatchery fish on top of an ever-dwindling wild run. Paradoxically, ODFW is fully aware of the damage they are doing. In fact, many of these peer-reviewed studies proving that hatcheries hurt fish recovery were authored by past and current employees.

Wild salmon and steelhead in the Sandy are listed for protection under the ESA. That means that federal and state agencies are required by law to bring all public hatchery programs affecting ESA-listed salmon and steelhead into compliance. Oregon law mandates that ODFW implement plans that decrease the adverse impacts of hatchery programs on ESA-listed fish. Their overriding mission is to prevent depletion of these fish.

Not only are we Oregonians paying for this precipitous decline, we must also pay for ODFW's legal defense costs. The most economical solution is simply to shut down the hatchery and redirect production to other fisheries.

Failure to achieve goals matters little. Rather than face the fact and change their behavior, the ODFW has simply chosen to move the goal post. Three times over the last 14 years ODFW has conveniently lowered their "recovery goals" as a response to continuing declines of wild fish, instead of acknowledging the deleterious effects of the Sandy Hatchery on wild fish.

Oregonians have grounds to be outraged. Actions taken by ODFW show an ongoing and blatant disregard for science and law. (Curiously, they have never denied this.) That's why Native Fish Society decided to act by filing a lawsuit. We regret this but felt we have no alternative. Sadly, your tax dollars are being spent on a wasteful, destructive hatchery program and you will also be on the line for funding their defense.

We can save tax dollars while saving the wild fish that make Oregon such a special place.



WILD MCKENZIE TROUT

New Protections for wild, native rainbow trout

Words by Dave Thomas & Arlen Thomason, McKenzie Flyfishers



Chris Daughters

On September 7 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously in favor of a proposal to ban the use of bait for trout fishing in the lower McKenzie River, in a section where the planting of hatchery trout had recently been halted. The proposal's adoption might at first seem routine and unsurprising, since the use of bait has long been restricted in other parts of the river where no hatchery trout are introduced. However, on this river there are substantial and politically connected interest groups that would like to see as much of the river as possible planted with hatchery trout, as well as the removal of most angling restrictions. In fact, when ODFW's local staff proposed a similar change two years ago, it met with such stiff resistance that the Commission decided that the proposal was too controversial and rejected it. So, how did we get this proposal passed?

Three years ago a loose confederation of like-minded citizens from the McKenzie Flyfishers, NFS, Trout Unlimited and the Caddis Fly Shop as well as a number of local unaffiliated anglers came together to support the well-being of wild trout on the McKenzie River. Working with ODFW

staff, this group initiated a five year wild trout population study in the section of the river where the new regulation was subsequently proposed. The intent of the study is to measure the consequences of removal of hatchery-derived competitors on the resident wild trout population. The study just completed its 3rd year.

Knowing that there would be stiff resistance to any proposal to restrict angling practices on any part of the river, in late 2011 we carefully scrutinized ODFW's new process for the development of angling regulations. From there we initiated informal conversations with local ODFW fisheries biologists regarding what proposals they intended to submit and the rationale for those proposals. The latter point is important as the new regulation process has tracks for proposals that are scientifically based (e.g., support fish populations) or are of a social benefit (e.g., increase angling opportunity). There is also an overlying concern that any proposed regulation be enforceable from the perspective of wardens. It's also possible for a citizen to submit a proposal in this process, but the same standards apply and at some point the

proposal would need to be supported by ODFW technical staff, so early consultation is strongly advised.

For the regulation proposal in question, labeled 31S, we assumed that it would be necessary to remain active in the process and respond to any pushback if we were going to see it approved. The public portion of the new angling regulation process started with ODFW's local town hall meetings to describe the process, present the proposals, and collect public comment. Prior to this meeting we briefed our supporters on the content of 31S and made sure we had substantial and knowledgeable participation at the meeting. Following the meeting, there was a period of time specified for comments on the proposed regulation changes. Through communications within clubs, blogs and email lists we initiated a large number of letters and emails in support of 31S. These materials were reviewed at a Commission meeting on August 3 in Salem.


Somewhat to our surprise we discovered that an interest group

(continued on next page)

opposed to 31S had obtained a letter from the Springfield City Council that opposed 31S on the grounds that it would prevent children from angling on the McKenzie River close to the city. This claim was made despite the fact that there is almost no public bank access on this section, and that angling with artificial lures would remain legal. Tactically this move was interesting in that the letter was submitted directly to the Commission at the last minute on the day of the meeting, and the testimony in support of the letter was staged at the very end of public comments so there was no chance for rebuttal. However, we again had substantial representation in support of 31S at this meeting and the Commission did what Commissions do in the face of conflicting testimony--they tabled 31S for disposition at the final meeting on September 7th in Hermiston.

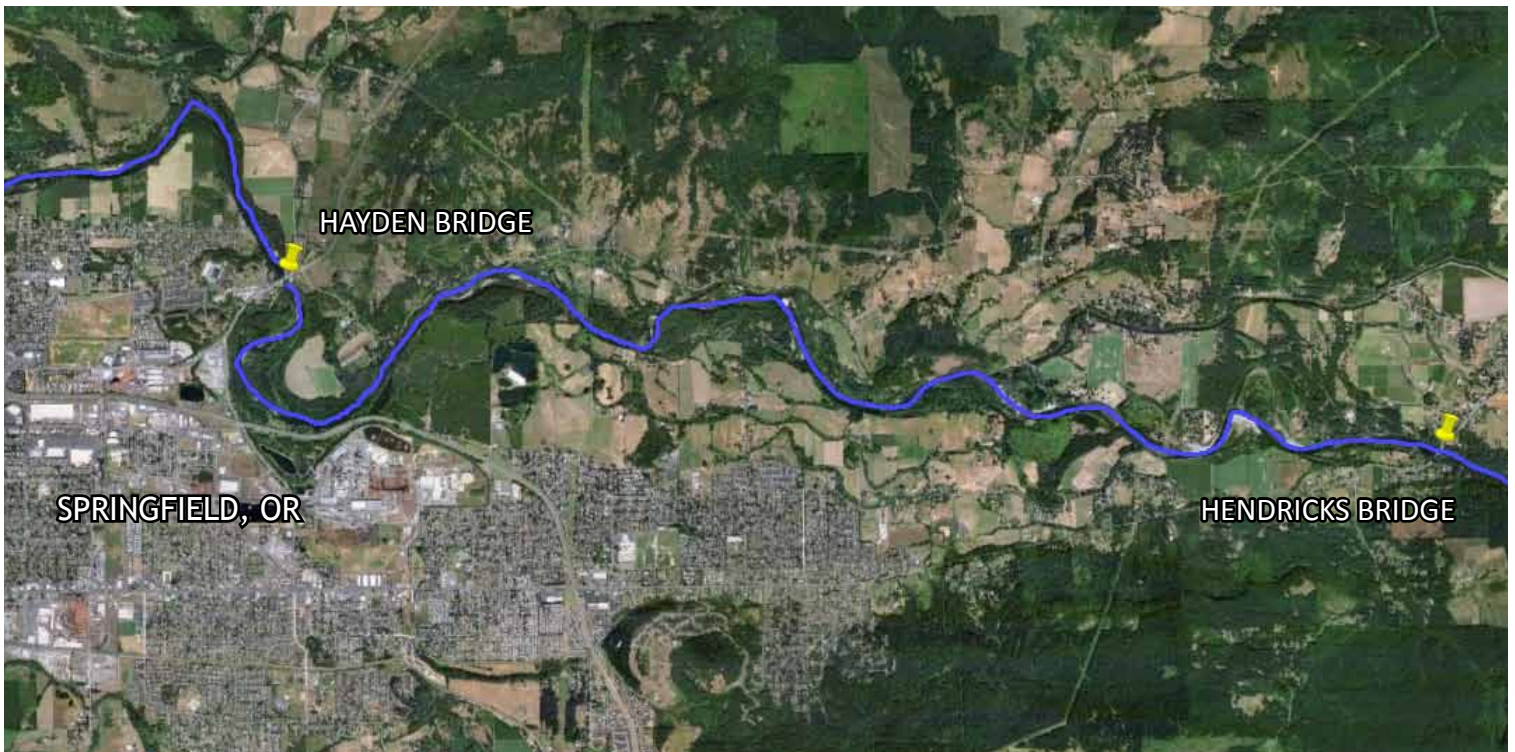
So we started the process again, with solicitations for written support and participation with oral presentations at the September meeting. A critical step was a letter written by the senior local ODFW fish biologist to the Springfield City Council and copied to the Commission. In that letter he cogently explained why their concerns were unfounded. At the Hermiston meeting several of us gave testimony in support of 31S and as stated above, the Commission supported it unanimously. This time there was no opposition testimony, possibly because of the distance involved in traveling from Springfield to Hermiston. After the meeting we reviewed the written comments submitted for all of the proposed regulatory changes, and found that more than half of them were in support of just a single proposal, 31S.

How critical was this show of support for the regulation? Hard to say, but in the future we would do it again.

After watching the whole process play out, we've come up with a few tips for those who wish to propose an angling regulation change or to oppose one. Start early and consult with your local ODFW fisheries biologist. If you can obtain their support, great; but if not, understand their resistance and address it. From there, organize support which materializes both in meeting participation by well-informed people and in submission of written comments. The latter is better done by individual correspondence, in each person's own words if possible, rather than by signing onto a group form letter. Finally, stay engaged with the process to the end. 



MCKENZIE RIVER ~ HENDRICKS BRIDGE TO HAYDEN BRIDGE



Are you interested in attending the biggest and best wild fish party of the year? Check the back cover for info on our 17th Annual Benefit Banquet + Auction, Homewaters: Reflect Hopes.

THE BEST-RESTORED WILD FISH RIVERS

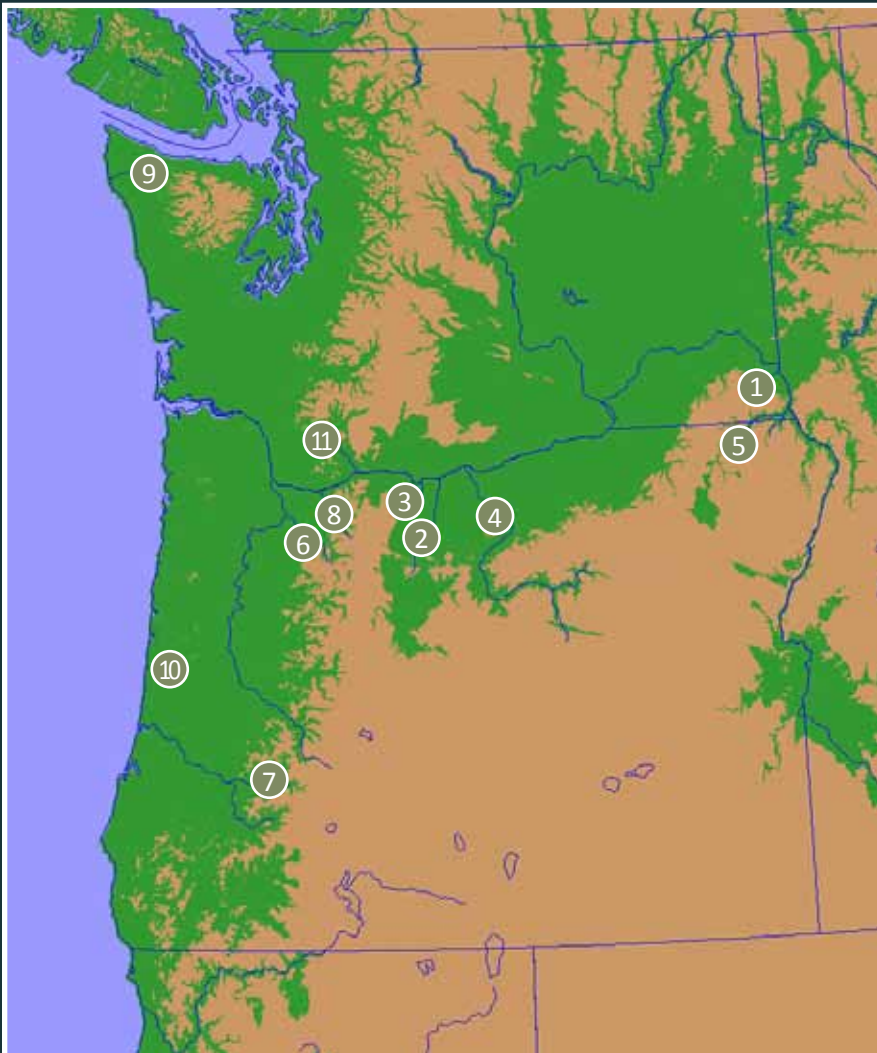
The Northwest is seeing dramatic improvements in the health of many of its rivers and wild fish populations. The Native Fish Society wants you to know about it, so we have created our inaugural list of the **11 Best-Restored Wild Fish Rivers in the Pacific Northwest**. We wish to celebrate those rivers enjoying a healthy resurgence. This list will annually acknowledge the good work being done by countless organizations and individuals, many of whom are volunteers. This list will shine a light on their successes for wild, native fish.

Not surprisingly, NFS River Stewards actively work on nine of this year's 11 best rivers.

Selection criteria used by NFS requires that each river:

- (a) Have no direct hatchery influence on the species designated
- (b) Have no-kill or restricted-kill protections
- (c) Must have achieved or is close-to achieving self-sustaining populations of the species designated

2012 11 Best-Restored Wild Fish Rivers in the Pacific Northwest



1. **Asotin Creek, Washington**
species: Summer Steelhead
2. **Lower Deschutes River, Oregon**
species: Resident Rainbow Trout
3. **Fifteen Mile Creek, Oregon**
species: Summer Steelhead
4. **John Day River, Oregon**
species: Summer Steelhead & Spring Chinook
5. **Joseph Creek, Oregon**
species: Resident Rainbow Trout & Summer Steelhead
6. **Molalla River, Oregon**
species: Winter Steelhead
7. **North Umpqua River, Oregon**
species: Winter Steelhead
8. **Sandy River, Oregon**
species: Fall Chinook
9. **Sol Duc River, Washington**
species: Winter Steelhead
10. **Ten Mile Creek, Oregon**
species: Winter Steelhead
11. **Wind River, Washington**
species: Summer Steelhead



20 HOURS

Words by Tom Derry, NFS Director of Wild Steelhead Funding

Loren Irving

Eric Clapton is playing loud on my truck radio, it's September 8th and my son Josh and I are about to cross the border into British Columbia on our annual steelhead trip to the Skeena region. At the border we are told to pull over and go into the immigration office. Four grueling hours later, I'm told by the Canadian officer that she has no choice but to deport me due to a technicality when my family relinquished our landed immigrant status to Canada in 1978.

I told her I had crossed the border at least once every year since then and had never had this issue brought up. I told her of my obligations in Canada, hosted weeks at Babine Steelhead Lodge and Frontier Far West – both great donors to NFS – and about our plans to stay at our shack on the Kispiox River. Nothing helped; everything I said just made matters worse. She told us it would take a minimum of 7 months to process the documents necessary for me to enter Canada again. I could see the rivers of the Skeena locked in ice by that time.

Twenty hours later my son and I sat in the same Portland driveway that we started from; no music on the way home – just road noise and disappointment. None of the fees or restrictions directed at non-residents

of B.C. have bothered me, even the no fishing on weekends rule that was put in place this year I was okay with. I know it is a privilege to fish in Canada and not a right, but being turned back at the border was too much.

All this jogged a memory from a few years back when my friend, Yvon Chouinard had said, "When the oil is gone and it gets so hard and expensive to travel you had better have looked after your homewaters." Well, this year Yvon's words really hit home. After all, it could be a number of things that prevent us from traveling north: politics, regulations, development in the Skeena headwaters.

Why do I go north every year in the first place, I wondered? It's not just the fishing. Every time I look up from the river and see the leaves turning and the snowy peaks, I always think I must be the luckiest person in the world. Perhaps it's the opportunity to escape from real life for a while with good friends who think the same as I do; it's as if nothing else matters but wild fish and rivers. Maybe I don't know exactly the reason why I go north; maybe that's the best way.

What I do know, however, is that our rivers were great. Before the Skeena was the sacred place of steelhead

dreams, it was the Wind, Greys, Deschutes and Grande Ronde. Further back even – the Eel, Klamath and Skykomish. Fishermen before us left good jobs and moved to these rivers just to be close to their incredible wild fish. I think back to the stories I heard about Jack Hemingway and Jimmy Greene moving to the Grande Ronde just to be closer to the wild summer steelhead they considered second to none.

I also know that many of our rivers are still great. This summer I caught some of the best wild fish of my life on the Deschutes, and pretty soon the John Day River would be getting good – perhaps after that I would head down to the Umpqua and fish for arguably the largest run of wild winter steelhead in North America. The best fishing experience of all is right out my back door, in a very special river where NFS has done so much good work. When I catch a wild winter steelhead from one of the Molalla's wintergreen pools it is an experience that remains with me – every leaping fish a treasure and testament to the river's recovery. It tells me that our rivers respond to good stewardship.

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PATHOGEN PRIMER

The Scoop on IHN Virus: Words by Hamish Rickett, River Steward of Pathogens

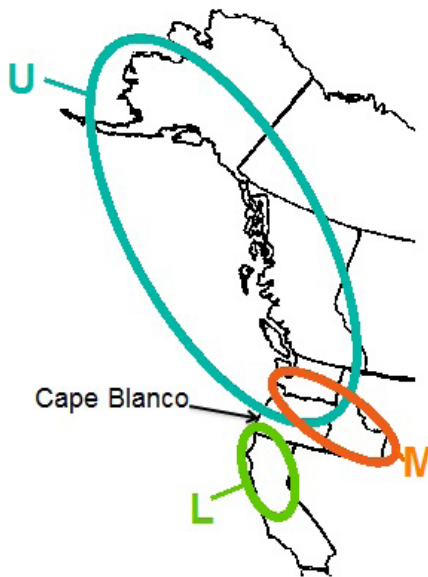
I am in the unique position of being the only River Steward without a river. In my discussions with Mark (NFS's steward of River Stewards) he suggested that with my science background (I'm a physician by training) that I should work on exploring issues in the scientific literature that affect native fish in the Pacific Northwest. Recently, I had read a number of news articles about a virus that has caused a number of large fish kills in hatcheries and net pens. Intrigued, I set out to learn more. What follows is what I learned—a primer on IHN (Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus).

Some have called Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHN) the most important viral pathogen of salmonids in North America. Indeed, IHN has been causing widespread mortality in fish hatcheries and farms since the 1950's and more recently in aquaculture net pens. While this disease is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, it still illustrates some of the dangers of past hatchery practices and remains an ongoing concern as highlighted by media reports covering some of the more recent outbreaks in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

IHN is a virus that infects five species of Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon and several trout species. It has been known to infect other species but that significance is unclear.

The IHN virus enters fish through the digestive tract, gills, or skin, particularly at the base of fins and lateral line, and then infects the kidney and spleen (the major blood forming organs in fish). Often the first sign of infection is a sudden increase in mortality—typically seen in juvenile fish in the hatchery or farm setting—but signs may include abdominal distension, bulging eyes, skin darkening, pale gills (anemia), hemorrhages as well as abnormal behavior (periods of lethargy alternating with bouts of frenzied activity). Mortality can be up to 95% depending on a number of factors, such as age, density, stress, temperature and species. Fish are more vulnerable when stressed, in high density, when young or when spawning. Clearly this has special significance for the hatchery, farm and

net pen environment. While spawning fish may become infected, they do not typically die from the virus. It is almost exclusively the fry and juvenile fish that die (except adult Atlantic salmon which may be killed by the virus as well). The virus is shed through urine, feces and sexual fluid in actively infected fish; and by decomposing bodies of infected dead fish.



Transmission is primarily from fish to fish through water (horizontal transmission) but in rare instances can be from parents to offspring (eggs). There is no cure or treatment for the disease. Nor is there an effective vaccine available in the US.

IHN is endemic to the Pacific Northwest and has three general groups (or clades which is the technical term) distinguished by genetic typing. These three groups correspond to its geographic distribution and also its

predilection and virulence in different salmon species.

The U group corresponds to its “upper” geographical distribution and is endemic north of the Columbia River up into Alaska and over to Russia. It primarily infects sockeye/kokanee.

The M group corresponds to its “middle” geographic distribution and is endemic to the Columbia River and Oregon south to Cape Blanco and primarily infects rainbow trout/steelhead but can also infect Chinook. Lastly, the L group corresponds to its “lower” geographic distribution and is endemic south of Cape Blanco in Oregon down into California and primarily infects Chinook.

This distribution generally corresponds to migratory patterns while in the marine (ocean) phase.

Scientists postulate that there may be some shared marine viral reservoir or that transmission can occur in this marine phase based on genetic studies that show a relatively stable U group that is remarkably constant from Washington to BC to Alaska and even into Russia. The L group also shows very stable genetics. This suggests that the U and L groups have existed for a very long time in stable host/virus relationships.

This is different from the M group, which appears to correspond to a more recent history. Rainbow trout generally are resistant to infection with the U and L group viruses. However, scientists postulate, based on the large

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genetic variability of M group viruses found in Idaho rainbow trout farms, that at some point the virus adapted from sockeye to cultured rainbow trout, and then under the artificial environment of the trout farm with its accelerated life cycles, intense crowding and stress, the IHN virus diversified into the M group we see today. This coupled with the anadromous wandering of the steelhead (sea-going form of the rainbow trout) has allowed the M group viruses to spread occasionally to other sites in the Columbia River basin, including Oregon and Washington.

More recently, there have even been outbreaks of the M group virus in coastal watersheds of Washington. This is unusual since the U form predominates there. Its source seems to be in the Columbia River basin, but the route of transmission is uncertain. Genetic analysis of the M group continues to show large genetic variability that is ongoing and likely fueled by conditions typically found in trout farms and hatcheries. IHNV related to the M group is also found in Europe, and IHNV related to the U group is found in Japan. These international cases almost certainly arose from the shipping of infected fish eggs or fry from the Pacific Northwest decades ago. IHN was not naturally found in these areas prior to the shipping of fish products from the Pacific Northwest.

As scientists and fisheries managers have learned more about this disease they have put into place strict isolation and biosafety protocols to prevent just this type of spread. Whereas Oregon lost over 1.5 million hatchery fish to IHN in 2006, that number has fallen with improved handling, isolation and biosafety measures. However,

losses of juvenile fish due to IHN, and prevalence of infection in adults, both fluctuate significantly from year to year.

Interestingly, it has been shown that wild fish are often the cause of hatchery IHN outbreaks. Returning adult fish (wild and hatchery bred) can infect hatchery stocks with IHN if they are able to get into the water supplying a hatchery. There are many examples of this wild to hatchery spread of IHN (die offs of hatchery fish at the now closed Butte Falls fish hatchery in Oregon for example). Examples of hatchery fish infecting wild fish with IHN are much less common. It is not known whether this is due to the native fish being more resistant to infection in their natural environment (less dense, less stress, etc.) or this being a less efficient mode of transmission or that it is just harder to study wild stocks and their various life histories. There are some examples of IHN outbreaks in wild fish but these have only been in sockeye and kokanee. There are no documented outbreaks in wild Chinook or steelhead. That is not to say they don't get infected, but large-scale outbreaks have not been documented.


Again, wild stocks are much harder to study and it is unknown if IHN has had any hand in the decline in some native stocks. Clearly, much is left to learn. Scientists and fisheries managers at the state, federal and tribal level are, however, conducting large-scale sampling and surveillance programs watching for this disease and have been doing so for 20-30 years.

Most watersheds in the Pacific Northwest have tested positive for IHN at some point. There are very few that have not and even these may simply

be due to inadequate sampling.

One unique population may be the kokanee (land-locked sockeye) found in Lake Whatcom in Washington. A geologic glacial uplift prevented these fish from migrating back to the sea thousands of years ago. As of yet, they have never tested positive for IHN.

While IHN is endemic in the Pacific Northwest, not all the different strains are equally endemic in their geographic distribution. This is one issue to watch carefully in the future because the different groups of IHNV cause disease in different salmonid species. Net pens and their potential to harbor large numbers of infected fish may also be an issue as they are not isolated from native stocks and their proximity to migrating juveniles may have the potential to create problems for them at a particularly vulnerable period. With respect to the M group of IHNV, hatcheries and trout farms may be an important ongoing reservoir. The continued genetic variation in the M group seems to suggest this.

IHN also has significance when it comes to our own practices and behaviors as recreational anglers. Returning fish carcasses to watersheds, while an excellent way to enrich the waters, could inadvertently spread the disease if they are not returned to the same watershed in which they were caught. The same goes for cleaning of fish and leaving entrails—we should not be transporting them between watersheds as this has the potential to spread disease. 

I wish to thank John Kaufman and Gael Kurath for their assistance in the preparation of this article.



Alexandra Morton



(20 hrs, continued from pg. 7)

And yet I couldn't give up on B.C. without a good try. So, I hired an immigration attorney in Vancouver, B.C. to get this mess cleaned up (Dennis McCrea & Associates if you ever have issues in Canada).

Sixteen days of heartache later, my son and I were back on our way north. Once we crossed the border I could feel all the anger and frustration from earlier beginning to fade and as we drove out the north end of the little town

of Hope I knew again that I loved this part of steelhead country.

My trip to British Columbia this year was not about catching as many steelhead as I could, after all I love these fish, dream about them and spend most of my waking hours trying to protect them. Despite my border issues, I enjoyed my time this year more than any season in recent memory. And just as much, I'm glad to be back in Oregon, looking forward to winter and my work at the Native Fish Society protecting wild fish in our homewaters.



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By designating the Native Fish Society as a beneficiary of your estate you join a growing number of like-minded visionaries creating a visible legacy that confirms your enduring commitment to restoring wild salmon and steelhead.

Small or large estate, philanthropic minded people can reduce taxes and leave more for both family members and their favorite charitable organizations.

HOW DO I ACCOMPLISH THIS?

The easiest way to donate retirement assets is to designate Native Fish Society as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. You can specify either a defined percentage or a specific dollar amount.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM GIFTING A RETIREMENT ASSET TO NFS?

For those in a position to make gifts currently, it's possible to realize significant income tax savings. Strategic gifting of appreciated, and therefore highly taxed, retirement assets may reduce, even eliminate taxes.

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CONTACT US

For more information, please contact Executive Director Mike Moody at 503.496.0807 or mike@nativefishsociety.org

WHY BALLOT MEASURE 81 DOESN'T HELP WILD SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Words by Jim Myron
NFS Wild Fish Lobbyist

The details matter for wild fish in latest gillnet ban proposal


In late July, the Native Fish Society published a statement in opposition to Measure 81, a measure originally sold as conservation for wild salmon and steelhead by removing nonselective gill nets from the Columbia River. While NFS agrees that the use of gillnets in the mainstem of the Columbia River should be phased out and replaced by more selective fishing methods, we support Governor Kitzhaber's approach as it provides an opportunity to move this debate beyond the current battle over which constituency gets to catch salmon – the recreational or commercial fishery – to one that provides some real conservation benefits for naturally spawning wild fish in the Columbia River.

In our statement on Ballot Measure 81 we pointed out several flaws including:

- Nothing in the measure ensures that more wild fish will survive to reach their natal spawning streams. By NOT including any provision in the measure to assure that more wild fish reach the spawning grounds, any conservation benefits that the measure's proponents are touting would never materialize.
- Washington's commercial gillnetters would not be affected and would be able to continue to gillnet salmon from the mainstem of the Columbia River. Without a joint effort by both states there can be no lasting solution.
- The measure would guarantee an increased number of fish that could be caught per year in the recreational fishery. In years of low salmon and steelhead returns this number would not be lowered to protect naturally spawning wild fish. This provision points out clearly that the real interest of the proponents of the measure is to take away fish from the commercial fishery and provide those fish to the recreational fishing industry – an allocation battle and not a matter of conservation.
- The measure would make it legal for the commercial industry to use alternative fishing methods that are now banned, but it provides no financial incentive to assist the fleet in converting to other fishing methods.
- The measure ignores the issue of reducing the capacity of the commercial fleet through a voluntary permit buyout program. Any lasting solution must include the purchase and retirement of permits from willing sellers.
- Tribal interests may view the measure as a way for the recreational industry to catch a larger percentage of hatchery fish in the lower river, reducing the fish available for tribal catch in the upper river.

We believe that continued improvements must be made in Columbia River fisheries in order to increase the number of wild salmon and steelhead reaching spawning grounds. A lasting solution must include provisions that specify how many wild fish must safely reach their spawning grounds in order to sustain and recover wild runs. Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife departments need to establish these spawning goals for each watershed and the species therein. Future commercial and recreational catch limits must be correlated to the size of fish returns and the number of fish needed per river to sustain healthy wild populations. If we make sure to protect the needs of wild fish first, we're ensuring the long term health of our salmon and steelhead runs and the industries that depend on them.

We are hopeful that the Columbia River Fisheries Management Workgroup, the process established in response to Governor Kitzhaber's request, is able find a better solution to the allocation issue and provide the forum for initiating these wild spawner goals.

The Native Fish Society urges the voters of Oregon to reject Ballot Measure 81 and to support the work of the Columbia River Fisheries Management Workgroup and Governor Kitzhaber in resolving these critical issues. 



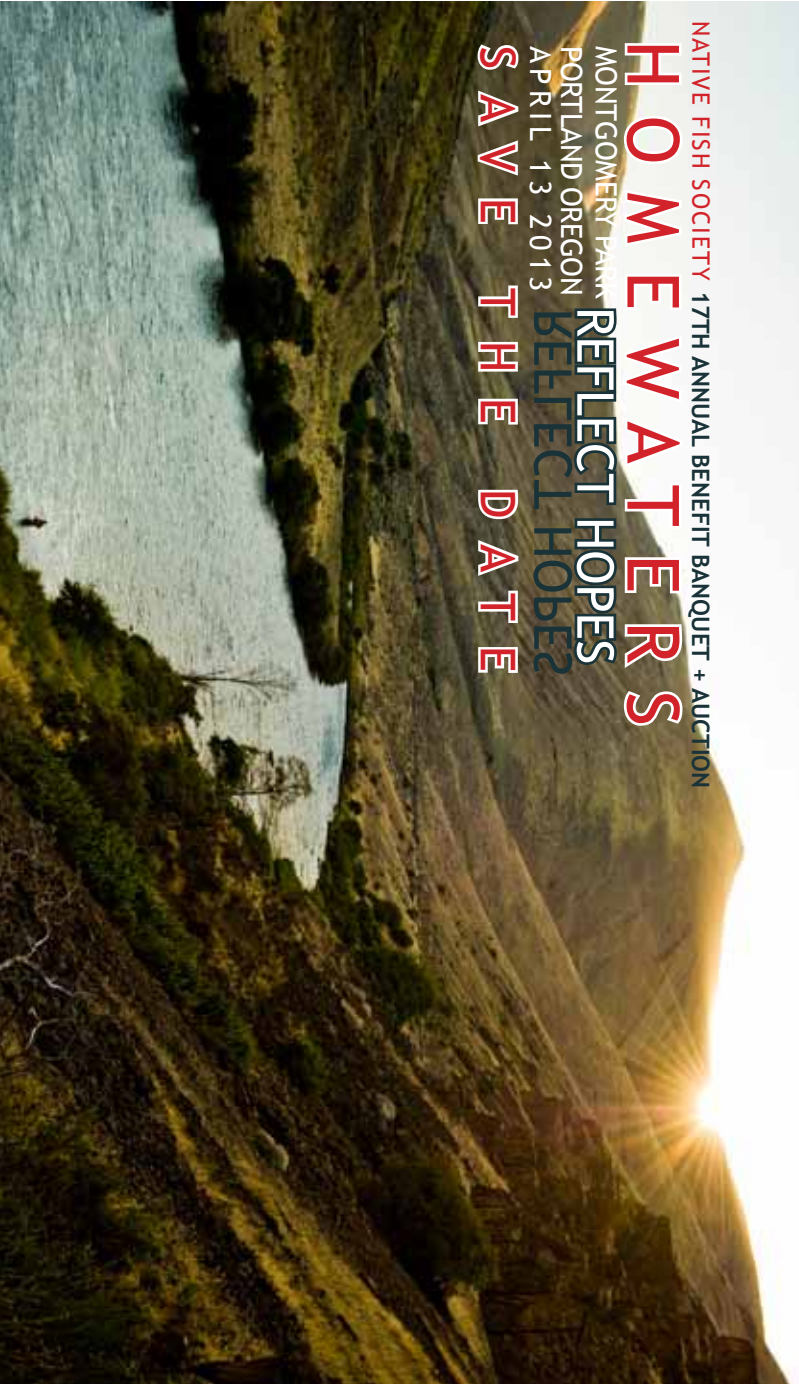
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| Rob Bowler , N. Umpqua | Steve Lent , Team Gorge | Jake Robinson , Coos Bay |
| John Bracke , Nestucca | Steve Light , Lower Deschutes | Rob Russell , Nehalem |
| Dick Bushnell , Salmon | Matt Lund , Siletz | Mark Schmidt , Molalla |
| Chris Daughters , McKenzie | Michael Mathis , Snake River | Marty Sheppard , Sandy |
| Tom Davis , Upper Deschutes | Lower Hell's Canyon | Mia Sheppard , John Day |
| Tom Derry , Molalla | John McConaughy , Washougal | Joyce Sherman , Salmonberry |
| Peter Donahower , Columbia Gorge | Matt McQueen , Klickitat | Rob Sims , Lower Deschutes |
| Streams | Ed Megill , Skagit | Jason Small , S. Puget Sound |
| Pat Dunham , John Day | Spencer Miles , Nestucca, Tillamook | Kyle Smith , Calapooia |
| Paul Engelmeier , Mid Oregon | Bay Rivers | Rick Snyder , Grande Ronde |
| Coast | Bart Mills , Johnson Creek | Keith Stonebraker , Clearwater |
| Ian Ferguson , Salmonberry | Ed Miranda Jr. , Wood, Williamson | James Thurber , S. Oregon Coast, |
| David Gee , Hood | & 7 Mile Creek | Lower Umpqua |
| Conrad Gowell , Siletz | David Moryc , Sandy | Peter Tronquet , Rogue, Umpqua & |
| Jeff Hickman , Clackamas | Jim Myron , Crooked | Illinois |
| Mark Homeyer , Skykomish | Scott Nelson , Calapooia | Walt Weber , Lower Columbia Tributaries |
| Chris Johnson , Nooksack | Chip O'Brien , Pudding | Cullen Whisenhunt , N. Santiam |