OREGON
FISHWORKS
Summer 2013

News from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW)
Fish Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) and Salmon and Trout Enhancement Programs (STEP)

R&E Program helps keep High Lakes fisheries productive

Nearly 350 high Cascade lakes are stocked with trout every other year by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, giving anglers the opportunity to experience high quality backcountry fishing. High lake stocking efforts conducted by ODFW also occur in the Wallowa, Elkhorn and Blue mountains. The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program has been a key funding source for a number of these stocking projects.

High lake stocking in Oregon goes back to 1912, when the Oregon Fish and Game Commission began hiring horse packers to haul rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout fingerlings into remote lakes in the Cascade Mountains. By the 1940s, trout were being dropped from fixed wing aircraft. The state switched to stocking by helicopter because of their greater accuracy and efficiency.

Fish are released into a high lake in the Cascade Mountains using an aerial liberation device funded by the R&E Program.

R&E funds were used to purchase a portable liberation device in the mid-1990s that can hold up to 1,000 juvenile fish at a time and has helped improve the efficiency of stocking by helicopter.

High lakes in these four mountain ranges are stocked in early July in odd-numbered years, primarily with brook trout, which survive better in cold lake water.

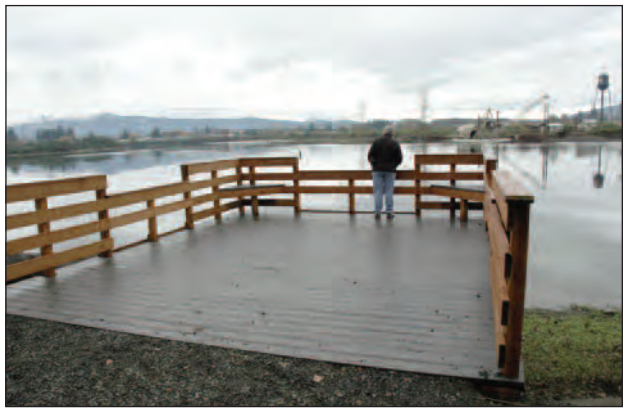
Other high lake stocking projects funded by R&E have included a $4,000 grant for gill nets used for sampling and monitoring trout populations in the Cascades, and more recently, a $30,000 grant to develop a high lakes database. Currently under development, it will initially focus on high lakes in the west Cascades region of ODFW's South Willamette Watershed District but will eventually be expanded to cover all of Oregon's high lakes. When completed, it will include information about lakes' stocking history, creel information and other management data. Anglers will also be able to obtain useful information on fishing the high lakes such as directions, photographs and species available.

The ODFW high lakes stocking program provides anglers with unique fishing experiences in a backcountry setting in the Cascade, Blue, Elkhorn and Wallowa Mountains.

In This Issue

7 R&E Access and Angling Improvement Projects Completed

Funding projects that provide additional and improved angling access and fishing opportunity is an important function of the R&E Program. Oregon anglers now have a number of new or enhanced angling opportunities with the recent completion of seven R&E-funded angling access projects. These are:



Cheadle Lake, a community fishing pond in Lebanon, is one of a number of places where public angling access and opportunity has recently been improved with funding from an R&E Program grant.

No. 11-105, Lakeview District Forest Fishing Docks

The US Forest Service improved fishing access on two lakes on the Fremont-Winema National Forest using a $32,212 R&E grant. Improvements included purchasing and installing a new dock/fishing pier at Dog Lake, where winter conditions had caused damage to the old dock over time, and relocated a dock at Cottonwood Meadows Lake to make access more convenient for anglers and meet ADA specifications.

No. 11-108, Vernonia Pond Angling Enhancement Project

Angling opportunites have been increased at Vernonia Pond, in Vernonia, by installing railings to an existing fishing dock, repairing floatation on one dock and clearing vegetation from the shores of the lake to provide additional bank access. A $34,870 R&E grant helped fund the project.

No. 11-115, Fillet Table at the Port of Port Orford

A $5,000 R&E grant helped fund a new public fish filleting table at the Port of Port Orford.

No. 11-130, Cleawox Lake Fishing Dock

The old fishing dock at Cleawox Lake on the coast in Honeyman State Park was replaced. The old dock was becoming unsafe, and was being impacted by a migrating sand dune. A $72,812 R&E grant helped fund the project. ODFW stocks about 20,000 rainbow trout in the lake each year.

No. 11-154, Town Lake Dock Replacement

An aging dock at Town lake, a community trout fishing destination near Tillamook, was replaced. A $7,327 R&E grant was used to purchase materials.

No. 11-160, Warmwater Fish Habitat Structures

A $25,536 R&E grant helped the ODFW Warmwater Program purchase materials to build 500 spider block habitat structures that are being placed in lakes and other waterbodies throughout the state to improve habitat for warmwater gamefish species.

No. 11-173, Cheadle Lake ADA Fishing Platform Access Trail

An eight-foot-wide, 160-foot-long paved access trail from the boat ramp at Cheadle Lake to an existing ADA fishing platform was constucted with help from a $11,000 R&E grant. Cheadle Lake is a popular community fishing pond in Lebanon for trout and warmwater species.

Calendar 2013

July 15	STAC Mini-grant applications due
July 26	R&E Board Meeting, Cycle 2, Lakeview
Aug. 23	STAC Mini-grant applications due
Aug. 30	R&E grant applications due, Cycle 3
Sept. 6	R&E Projects Review Cycle 2 Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeeting, Medford
Sept. 20-21	STAC Meeting, Tillamook
Nov. 1	R&E Board Meeting, Cycle 3, Coos Bay
Dec. 6	R&E Projects Review Cycle 3 Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeeting, Portland

Fish and Wildlife Commission approves 48 New R&E Projects in March and June

March 2013 Commission Approvals

Restoration Projects

No. 11-151 Wizard Falls Starter and Reuse Supply Ponds, Phase 2, $84,500

No. 11-152 Klamath Hatchery Maintenance Bundle, $20,500

No. 11-153 Indian Creek Hatchery Walkways, $14,000

No. 11-154 Town Lake Dock Replacement, $7,327

No. 11-158 Grande Ronde Watershed Monitoring Equipment, $8,600

No. 11-159 2013 Northeast Oregon Spring Chinook Creel Surveys, $8,531

No. 11-161 Diamond Lake Creek, $5,621

No. 11-162 Wallowa District Backcountry Fish Sampling, $6,205

No. 11-163 Coos-Coquille-Tenmile District Cycle 8 Request, $3,600

No. 11-164 Springfield Field Office Project Supplies, $3,840

No. 11-165 John Day District Spring Chinook Creek, $11,500

No. 11-168 Deschutes Basin River and Lakes Monitoring, $13,050

No. 11-171 Elk River Hatchery Tractor Replacement, $30,000

No. 11-176 Rogue District Fisheries Management Equipment, $8,640

No. 11-177 ODFW Mid-Coast Field Equipment and Supplies, $2,680

Enhancement Projects

No. 11-150 Lofton Reservoir Rotenone Treatment $18,661

No. 11-157 Saltwater Fishery News Alerts & Descending Devices, $28,291

No. 11-160 Warmwater Fish Habitat Structures, $11,400

No. 11-166 Williamson River Trophy Redband Trout Habitat, $16,992

No. 11-167 Umatilla Fish District Electronarcosis, $500

No. 11-170 Portable Fish Cleaning Station, $1,100

No. 11-173 Cheadle Lake ADA Fishing Platform Access Trail, $11,000

No. 11-174 North Coast Watershed District Access Improvement, $6,700

No. 11-175 2013 Kids Fish Camp at Camp Angelos $4,500

June 2013 Commission Approvals

Restoration Projects

No. 13-001 Phillips Reservoir Creek Survey 2013 (Phase 2), $9,380

No. 13-002 Lower Crooked River Creel Survey (Phase 2), $30,954

No. 13-004 Salmonid Life History Research & Monitoring, $53,549

No. 13-009 Klamath Hatchery Supply Line Replacement Project, $71,665

No. 13-010 Salmon River Weir Replacement Project (Phase 2), $188,937

No. 13-011 Coos Fall Chinook Monitoring: The Final Chapter, $80,585

No. 13-012 Coastal Wild Coho Fisheries 2013 Creel Surveys, $139,931

No. 13-025 Restoration Emergency Account $50,000

Enhancement Projects

No. 13-003 Increasing Catch of Santiam Steelhead by Scatter Planting (Phase 2), $54,000

No. 13-005 STAC Mini-grant Program, $50,000

No. 13-006 STEP Fish Food Program, $207,711

No. 13-007 STEP Classroom Incubator and Chiller Units, $25,000

No. 13-008 Deschutes High Lakes Chub Removal Internships Opportunity, $4,978

No. 13-013 Beck-Kiwanis Pond Warmwater Fishery Rehabilitation, $20,045

No. 13-016 Ana Reservoir Hybrid Bass Supplementation, $1,300

No. 13-018 Bilger Creek Restoration, $21,732

No. 13-024 Happy Creek Reconnection Project $32,000

No. 13-026 Enhancement Emergency Account $50,000

No. 13-027 South Langlois Creek Restoration $18,787

No. 13-029 Powers Pond Weed Removal, $14,300

Download project applications and descriptions at:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/projects

The STEP Volunteer

For, By and About Salmon Trout Enhancement Program Volunteers

2013 STEP Conference Explores Restoring Trout and Salmon

Held at the Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville April 6 and 7, the 2013 STEP Conference attracted 135 attendees who came to learn how they could help restore and improve Oregon's trout, steelhead and salmon fisheries.

Kicking off the conference included a Tribal welcome along with opening messages by acting ODFW Fish Division administrator Bruce McIntosh and STEP coordinator Kevin Herkamp.

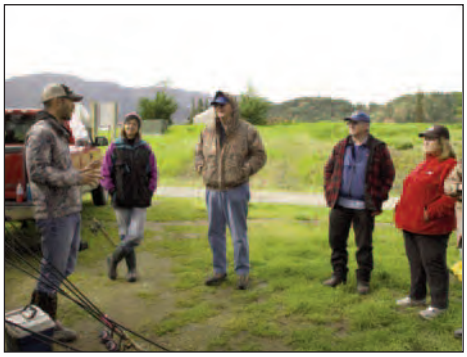
Attendees browse at one of the many display booths featured at the STEP conference.

Especially timely was speaker Bill Bradbury's talk on the impacts that a warming climate will pose to trout, salmon and steelhead and the challenges fisheries managers will face in continuing to provide for healthy fish populations and angling opportunity. Bradbury, who is chair of the NW Power and Conservation Council, has a special connection to STEP because when he was a state legislator he was the chief sponsor of the bill that established the program in 1981.

Seminars and lectures encompassed a broad range of subjects including volunteer outreach, current fish research along with lots of practical advice on habitat restoration, protecting fish from invasive species, working with students and ways to put more fish into streams and rivers.

Bill Bradbury, current chair of the NW Power and Conservation Council, was a featured speaker. As a former Oregon legislator, he was chief sponsor of the legislation that created STEP in 1981.

Field trips included an on-site seminar on habitat restoration at nearby Jordan Creek, a tour of the Canyonville Acclimation Pond and steelhead angling advice from a local guide.



Conference-goers get some steelhead fishing advice from a local guide on one of the field trips.

STEP Conference Recognition Awards

A total of 19 Individuals, businesses and organizations were recognized for their contributions to STEP at the 2013 STEP Conference. They include:

- ❖ Association of Northwest Steelheaders
- ❖ Paul Merz, Coos River STEP
- ❖ Tom Slechta, South Coast Anglers STEP
- ❖ Tom Diefenbaugh
- ❖ Clyde Haga, Coos River STEP
- ❖ Becky Goehring, Florence STEP
- ❖ Amy Bartlett, Siuslaw News
- ❖ Depoe Bay Kids Zone
- ❖ Wayde Dudley, Longview Hills Fishing Club
- ❖ Bill Henning, Florence STEP
- ❖ Rainland Flycasters
- ❖ LeRoy Schultz, Tualatin Chapter Assosciation of NW Steelheaders
- ❖ Chris and Gary Underhill, Curry Anadromous Fishermen
- ❖ Leo Poole, Bureau of Land Mgt.
- ❖ City of Canyonville
- ❖ Douglas Timber Operators
- ❖ Gary Slay, Umpqua Fishermens Association
- ❖ Darrell Tufly, Umpqua Fishermens Association
- ❖ Ron Stumpf, Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP

Profile: Canyonville Acclimation Pond

A cooperative project between ODFW, Umpqua Fishermen's Association and the City of Canyonville, the Canyonville Acclimation Pond along Canyon Creek is a busy place for a good part of the year.

While the property is owned by ODFW and the city controls the water source, volunteers from the Umpqua Fishermen's Association accomplish the day-to-day tasks.

The facility acclimates 60,000 winter steelhead annually that contribute to the fishery in the mainstem and South Umpqua rivers. After those fish are released into Canyon Creek between February and April, the hatchery hosts 300,000 fall Chinook salmon

Volunteers measure and weigh winter steelhead fry at the Canyonville Acclimation Pond.

fry, where they are fin clipped — often by local students — then released into the Calapooya River system by early summer.

The volunteers also run an active fishing and aquatic conservation education program and host about 400 students each year.

STEP Volunteers Monitor Salmonberry River for 20 Years

Since 1993, STEP volunteers have been walking the banks and wading the Salmonberry River, a tributary of the Nehalem River on the North Coast, collecting a variety of data on the river's wild winter steelhead population. The result has been an extensive, long-term database profiling this important wild steelhead stream.

The project began in 1993 when a group of anglers started doing spawning surveys for winter steelhead and fall Chinook. The goal was to collect data on a healthy steelhead and salmon watershed so that the information could be used to benefit other streams. Constant bad weather and high water finally made the group give up the Chinook surveys, but they kept the steelhead surveys going, also adding water temperature stations and macroinvertebrate surveys.

The monitoring project has been successful for so long because of the many volunteers and fishing organizations that help out.

"We manage to keep a pretty high level of volunteer involvement," said Ian Ferguson, who has been one of

STEP volunteers survey the salmonberry for winter steelhead redds and spawning fish.

the project's leaders since 1994.

The volunteers do winter steelhead surveys two weekends each in April and May, and monitor water temperatures from May to September. They produce reports with the data they collect and provide it to the ODFW, along with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Forestry.

What began as a temporary project is still going strong. Said Joyce Sherman, one of the project's founders, "We got hooked, and here we are 20 years later, still at it."

New STAC Mini-grants

MG 11-47	Monroe Fish Trap Basket, ODFW-Corvallis $1,435
MG 11-48	Watershed Enhancement Supplies, Florence STEP, $1,054
MG 11-49	Hatchery Equipment for Noble Creek Hatchery, Coos River STEP $520
MG 11-50	Juniper Creek Gabion, ODFW-Hines $1,325

ODFW Headquarters is Moving

ODFW will be in its new Salem Headquarters building after August 18. The new address is:

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302-1142

Phone numbers remain the same.

2013 R&E Legislative Report now available

Click here to download

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If you do not have access to e-mail or internet, please contact Debbi Farrell at 503-947-6211 and ask to be kept on the hardcopy mailing list.

STEP 2011 - 2012 Annual Report now available

Click here to download

R&E and STEP help Restore Gold Lake's Rainbow Trout Fishery

Gold Lake, a rainbow trout fishery located in the Cascade Mountains near Waldo Lake, was slowly invaded by brook trout that migrated from nearby lakes starting in the 1940s. By 2008, 86% of the trout caught during fish surveys were brook trout, which proliferated in the lake's cold water and became the dominant species.

Because anglers preferred to fish for the lake's larger rainbow trout and the brook trout were outcompeting them, an ongoing brook trout removal project began in 1975 using trap nets. Since then, about 26,000 brook trout have been removed from Gold Lake.

ODFW fisheries biologists place nets in the lake over two days in the summer to capture rainbow and brook trout to obtain information about the population structure and condition of the fish. A multi-week trapping effort targeting brook trout in their spawning areas is conducted in the fall, with captured fish taken to nearby Charlton and Shadow lakes.

In 2011, the R&E Program provided a $14,000 grant for an additional trap net, a backpack electrofisher and a holding tank for transporting the brook trout. This has improved the efficiency of brook trout removal. The additional net permits biologists and STEP volunteers to capture brook trout at multiple spawning locations and the backpack electrofisher is used to disrupt brook trout spawning. In addition, the transport box helps the fish arrive at their new locations in good condition, enhancing those fisheries where anglers prefer to fish for brook trout.

ODFW intensified brook trout removal efforts over the last several years with key assistance from STEP volunteers, and the McKenzie Fly Fishers Club in particular. Over the next five years, ODFW will monitor the lake's brook trout population to see how effective the removal effort has been.

The R&E Program funded the purchase of a new trap net and other equipment for removing brook trout from Gold Lake.

Oregon FishWorks/The STEP Volunteer
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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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STEP on the Web
www.dfw.state.or.us/STEP

R&E Program on the Web
www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE

ODFW Northwest Region

Restoring and Enhancing your Fishing Access and Opportunities

Summer 2013

The 25-Year Recreational Angling Plan, developed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is designed to ensure that Oregon anglers can count on having high quality fisheries throughout the state over the next quarter century. The plan provides a road map and direction to that end through its array of goals and a directive that states: *"To enhance, develop and promote diverse and productive recreational fishing opportunities that are consistent with the conservation needs of native species; provide balanced economic and social benefits; and connect Oregonians with fish, water and the outdoors."*

Fish biologists in each of ODFW's four regions — High Desert, Northeast, Northwest and Southwest — are working to implement the 25-Year Recreational Angling Plan to improve fishing opportunity and quality in their regions. This series will highlight some of the ways that each region is working towards those goals, with this issue focusing on the Northwest Region. The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program and the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program are important players in these statewide efforts to improve and increase angling opportunities in Oregon.

Santiam Steelhead Creel

Creel surveys are an important tools for fisheries managers. They can be used to gauge angler satisfaction and preferences, and to collect data used to determine the catch composition, catch rates, fishing pressure and other data used to make management decisions. A creel survey currently being conducted on the North Santiam River, and funded by a $73,705 grant from the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program, will help fish managers determine if a new summer steelhead smolt release method may improve angler harvest and assess any possible impacts it might have on wild winter steelhead.

A creel survey funded by the R&E Program will help determine if scatterplanting steelhead on the North Santiam River will increase angling opportunities.

Normally, hatchery summer steelhead smolts are acclimated at a single hatchery acclimation facility on the river so the fish will return to the hatchery and not spawn in the wild. However, because of ongoing improvements to the acclimation facility, it has not been operational for several years. In response, ODFW fisheries managers decided to 'scatterplant' the hatchery smolts at four locations on the river beginning in 2011. Prior to a release, each of the four groups was marked to identify their original release location. This is the first year these scatterplanted summer steelhead will return to the North Santiam River and anglers and creel surveyors will be able to identify them based on their marks.

The creel survey will also collect information on the total number of steelhead caught, time spent fishing, catch location, fishing gear type, number of anglers fishing per location per day and other data. Researchers will then use statistical tests to compare the harvest locations of scatterplanted fish and non-scatterplanted fish. They hope the scatterplanted fish will be caught over a much larger area than fish released at the acclimation facility, a method that tends to concentrate harvest near the acclimation facility.

If the creel survey results show that scatterplanted summer steelhead are caught over a larger area and that they help improve angler harvest rates, it will suggest that scatterplanting is one way to increase fishing opportunity on the North Santiam. In addition, increased harvest of hatchery summer steelhead would also leave fewer hatchery fish in the river to compete with wild steelhead.

Salmon River Fish Hatchery Weir Replacement

A new, improved weir at the Salmon River Hatchery will ensure a reliable supply of water and help the hatchery meet its goals for producing salmon, steelhead and trout.

A new weir planned at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery on the coast will help the hatchery produce fish more efficiently, improve wild adult and juvenile downstream and upstream passage in the Salmon River and protect the hatchery's water supply. The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program contributed $35,000 towards the cost of the new design and purchasing fish screen materials, and an additional $154,000 to help fund construction.

One purpose of the weir is to divert spawning salmon and steelhead ascending the river into a collection pond where they are either selected to be used for broodstock production, or, if they are wild fish, put back into the river. Water backing up against the barrier is also diverted into the hatchery and serves as the hatchery's main water source.

However, the old weir, partially constructed of wood, has been deteriorating for some time, going back to when it was initially damaged by major flooding in 1996 and does not meet current state fish passage standards.

The new weir will be more efficiently designed and made of concrete, which will extend its lifespan. It will also make it possible for hatchery staff to collect enough fall Chinook salmon to meet its broodstock and fish production goals and will ensure an adequate supply of water to the hatchery. In addition, the new design will include fish ladders for both juvenile and adult fish to use for upstream and downstream passage. The upstream passage improvement will open up access to a large amount of high quality spawning habitat in the Salmon River basin.

The Salmon River Hatchery annually raises about 200,00 fall Chinook salmon, 200,00 Columbia River coho salmon, 80,000 steelhead and 46,500 legal size rainbow trout.

Wild fish in the Salmon River includes fall Chinook and coho salmon, winter steelhead, a small number of chum salmon and cutthroat trout.

Learn More about the 25-Year Recreational Angling Plan

The 25-year Recreational Angling Plan has two primary goals.

Goal 1: Provide diverse, stable, and productive angling opportunities: The Department seeks to maintain and restore naturally produced fish to provide opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive recreational fisheries and to manage non-native fish and hatchery-based fisheries to optimize user benefits.

Goal 2: Increase angling participation: Diverse, stable and productive angling opportunities form the basis for increased angling participation. We need to retain our current angler base; recruit new anglers, especially young people; and anticipate future demands for angling opportunities from a growing population.

A copy of the 25-Year Recreational Angling Plan may be found on the ODFW website at:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/programs.asp

For additional information on STEP contact Program Coordinator Kevin Herkamp, (503) 947-6232. For more information about the R&E Program contact Program Coordinator Josie Thompson, (503) 947-6259.

The Fish Workshop

Summer 2013

Ocean Salmon Management

The ocean salmon fishery has long been a vital economic driver of Oregon's coastal communities, harvesting a valuable renewable natural resource that benefits the entire state. But managing salmon in the ocean off the Washington, Oregon and California coasts is a complex task that involves determining how many salmon can be harvested by both commercial fishers and recreational anglers without harming the population overall. This includes estimating how many wild and hatchery salmon will survive and return to their natal streams each year, and whether it is enough to support inland freshwater recreational and tribal fisheries, hatchery broodstock collection goals, and also ocean salmon fishing opportunities, while still protecting and conserving wild salmon populations.

History of Commercial and Recreational Ocean Salmon Fishing

Commercial Ocean Salmon Fishing

The commercial salmon troll fishery in Oregon dates back to about 1912, and by 1919 there were up to 2,000 boats trolling for salmon in the ocean off the mouth of the Columbia River. Coho was the predominate species caught.

The catch, or 'landings', in the early years averaged two to four million pounds of coho harvested annually. During the following decades, the coho catch fluctuated depending upon ocean conditions and other factors. From the mid-1970s into the 1990s, low ocean survival for coho salmon led to increased management restrictions and reduced harvest for coho, which meant that Chinook became the dominant species in the commercial catch.

Initially, entry into the troll salmon fishery was open and by 1980 there were about 4,300 vessels participating. Since then, the number of salmon troll permits has been reduced to 1,000 for both economic and conservation reasons, although only 40 to 60 percent of permit holders typically fish during any given season.

Oregon's ocean salmon fishery is a valuable economic resource.

Recreational Ocean Salmon Fishing

Although recreational anglers had been fishing for salmon in estuaries and river tidewaters for years, it wasn't until the late 1940s and early 1950s, as small boat safety improved and more small boat basins were constructed in coastal harbors, that the charter and private boat fleet began fishing further offshore. Primarily targeting coho, the recreational catch spiked with a record-breaking year in 1976 with 538,400 angler trips that harvested 501,300 coho and 79,300 Chinook. Because of the continuing decline in coho numbers, ocean salmon sport fishing was limited to Chinook beginning in 1994, although in 1998 a selective fin-clipped only coho fishery was initiated to provide some recreational fishing opportunities, while still allowing coho stocks to rebuild. Because of recent increases in the wild Oregon coastal coho population, a limited, non-selective recreational coho fishery was opened in 2011.

Managing the Ocean Salmon Fishery

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), based in Portland, has jurisdiction for managing Chinook and coho salmon fisheries over the 317,690-square-mile ocean exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The Council was created by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 and consists of state, federal and tribal representatives. In addition, there is a Salmon Technical Team that analyzes salmon data and evaluates proposals for season structures and their effects on salmon, and a Salmon Advisory Subpanel made up of various fishing, tribal, conservation and public representatives.

Two key features of the Council's Salmon Fishery Management Plan focus on ensuring that enough salmon survive to return to their natal streams to spawn, and that harvest is allocated among commercial, recreational

and tribal fisheries. In addition, stocks of wild salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act must also be protected.

Each year, the PFMC follows a public process involving a series of technical and public meetings scheduled between November and April during which they examine the most recent data used to estimate salmon abundance, receive public input, and develop recommendations for the upcoming year for salmon fishing season lengths, harvest limits and allocations to different fisheries. Those recommendations are then submitted to the federal National Marine Fisheries Service and the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

In addition to the federal government and states, another entity involved in ocean salmon management is the Pacific Salmon Commission. Since a number of salmon stocks swim regularly between U.S. and Canadian waters, the PSC was formed by the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada to ensure the conservation of salmon stocks and appropriate sharing of the harvest. It is comprised of representatives from the U.S. and Canada and makes recommendations for ocean salmon management.

The ODFW Ocean Salmon Management Program

West coast state fish and wildlife agencies collect important data that is used to manage ocean salmon fisheries. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Ocean Salmon Management Program (OSMP) helps serve these management needs.

The OSMP has two ocean sampling components — the Commercial Troll Salmon Project and the Ocean Recreational Boat Survey. Project samplers collect data to estimate catch and fishing effort and average commercial salmon catch weights. They also help with the recovery of coded wire tags, which help determine the hatchery of origin and the collection of other fishery data.

ODFW coordinates a public meeting in late February or early March each year to present the information they have collected, including estimates of the status of various coho and Chinook salmon stocks, and to consider any issues that might put constraints on seasons and allowable harvest for the coming year. Public comment is also taken at this time to determine how recreational anglers and commercial fishers want to structure the ocean salmon season for that year. Oregon's commercial and recreational salmon fishing advisors to the PFMC and voting members of the PFMC usually attend this meeting. Public input from this meeting provides Oregon PFMC representatives with guidance for developing ocean salmon fishing recommendations that best meet the goals for Oregon's fishing communities.

Oregon's Ocean Salmon Fishery

In recent years, the wild Oregon coastal coho population has increased enough to allow for a limited, non-selective ocean sport fishery in September. Good ocean conditions have been the driving force behind the increase, but instream habitat improvements made over the last few decades have also had very positive effects on the coastal coho "population".

The majority of Chinook salmon caught in the commercial and recreational ocean fisheries south of Depoe Bay are from the Sacramento River system, though in some years fish from the Snake, Rogue, Chetco and Klamath river runs can substantially contribute to the catch. The northern Oregon coast commercial and recreational fisheries are primarily driven by Columbia River stocks. Most Chinook produced in coastal streams from the Elk River north migrate to waters off Alaska and Canada. These north migrating Chinook return and contribute to local commercial and recreational fisheries beginning in late August, if they weren't caught in Alaskan or Canadian waters first.

Learn More About Ocean Salmon Management

For more information about ocean salmon management visit the web sites for the ODFW Ocean Salmon Management Program at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/overview.asp, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council at http://www.pcouncil.org and the Pacific Salmon Commission at http://www.psc.org.

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