



The Adipose

The Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition
Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2003

The President's Forum

The State of the Wild Steelhead Coalition: Year 2

I began my association with the WSC during the first year as a Trustee and replaced Duggan Harman as President last spring. I was very impressed with the organization, its Board of Directors, and the accomplishments of the WSC during its founding year. We have also had a great group of Trustees, a very active membership, and regional representatives eager to further the goals of the WSC.

The WSC Board of Directors have been very busy throughout the past year. I believe that the crowning achievement this year was the sponsorship of the First Northwest Steelhead Summit on November 23, 2002 on the University of Washington Campus. The all-day affair was attended by the representatives from nearly 30 angling and conservation groups from California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. We discussed some of the major issues affecting steelhead in the Northwest and began to design plans to implement change. *Ad hoc* working committees were formed for several issues and their reports are currently being written. Updates have been provided on our website and a second Summit is being planned for May or June of this year.

The WSC has also continued to have top-flight speakers at our general monthly meetings and has had two very successful fundraising raffles. Speakers have included PhD's, doctoral students, government officials, fisheries enhancement volunteers and wild steelhead spokesmen such as Bill McMillan. We wrote a Guest Editorial for the October/November, 2002 issue of *Salmon, Trout and Steelheader*, responding to another editorial that argued that there was no difference between wild steelhead and hatchery steelhead. We also wrote and submitted a grant request to Patagonia, updated our website, and have kept involved in several major fisheries issues like the Columbia River tangle net destruction of wild steelhead. We also went on record supporting the Wild Sky Wilderness Bill and permitting anglers to harvest over 30 hatchery steelhead annually.

Our newsletter, *The Adipose*, continues to improve in the capable hands of Preston Singletary and Bob Young and besides our website, is our link to the

membership. We have established a WSC Hatchery Reform Committee under the leadership of Nate Mantua and he and his group of biologists and geneticists will be presenting a document in the next few months. The WSC membership continues to grow

and we had a booth at the Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue, WA where membership materials and a brochure were distributed.

With the consensus statements we hope will evolve from the Second Northwest Steelhead Summit, the information provided by our Hatchery Reform Committee and the data previously assembled in our document titled "Biological and Economic Benefits of Wild Steelhead", we hope to approach the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife once again to argue for mandatory statewide catch and release of all wild steelhead. There will be a major regulation review cycle in 2004 and the WSC will be prepared.

I think the first two years of the Wild Steelhead Coalition's existence have been highly successful and I am optimistic that in the future, we will have an impact on how steelhead are managed throughout the Northwest. To do that however, we must continue to be much more than just another "fishing club". We must keep being a diverse group, base our positions on the best available science, and make the fish our top priority. We have certainly come a long way with the hard work of a lot of fine people, but challenges still lie ahead.

Sincerely, Jack Berryman, Ph.D. WSC Board President

Wild Steelhead Coalition Year 2 Fiscal Report

INCOME	
Individual Dues -	\$2,751.39
Summit II Donations	\$300.00
Auction/Raffle	\$510.00
Total	\$3,561.39
EXPENSE	
	Expenses
PO Box/Year	\$120.00
Postage	\$146.09
Website	\$75.00
Newsletter	\$586.66
Programs, Education	\$300.00
Supplies	\$1,187.87
Summit Expenses	\$2,323.13
Gift	\$184.85
Meeting hall fee	\$385.00
FF Show WSC brochure	\$200.00
Non Profit status	\$10.00
Member dues	\$100.00
Total	\$5,618.60



Skykomish Mist

photo by Tyler Kushnir

March 5 Wild Steelhead Coalition Meeting Report

Guest Speaker: Bob Gibbons, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Presentation Title: Steelhead Management by Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife: where we have been, where we are, and where we are going

Bob Gibbons, manager for WDFW's steelhead programs, spoke for nearly 2 hours about past and present steelhead management practices in Washington, and finished with a few ideas about where he would like to see WDFW steelhead management go in the future. Bob also responded to sometimes pointed questions about past and present WDFW management policies. All in all it was a very informative interaction between the people in attendance and our state's steelhead and resident fish program manager. On behalf of the membership and non-members in attendance, I offer heartfelt thanks for Bob's efforts to share his time and expertise with us. What follows is a recap of Bob's presentation that I gleaned from my notes.

-Nate Mantua - VP of Science and Education, Wild Steelhead Coalition

HISTORY:

In Washington there are 3 management regions, the Boldt Case Area (coast and Puget Sound), the Southwest (lower Columbia), and the region east of the Cascades. Each of the regions has distinct issues that shape the way WDFW has managed steelhead over the past 30 years.

In the Boldt Case area, important issues include co-management with the tribes, very little in the way of hatchery supplementation of natural spawners, and no federal ESA

listings.

In the SW management region (below Bonneville), there is no co-management with the tribes, lower Columbia winter steelhead are listed as threatened under the federal ESA and, due to low escapements, WDFW has managed for targeted Wild Steelhead Release since the mid-1980's.

In the Upper Columbia and Snake River region, there is co-management with the tribes, several ESA listed stocks, Wild Steelhead Release has been in effect since 1985 on the Snake and 1987 on the Upper Columbia.

Widespread fin-clipping of hatchery fish didn't take hold until the mid-1980's, and at the time was quite controversial. Prior to the 1974 Boldt Decision, WDFW's management can be described as "passive". Run-sizes and escapements were not tracked, and WDFW focused on setting seasons and bag limits, designating sanctuaries and specifying gear restrictions. The Boldt Decision prompted a suite of changes that include:

- * co-management with tribes
- * management on a river-by-river basis
- * monitoring to estimate run sizes and annual escapements, with a wild fish focus
- * setting escapement goals
- * determining harvest shares (between tribes and the state)
- * monitoring fisheries
- * implementing in-season management actions

In the mid-1970's, there was very little emphasis on protecting wild steelhead. Hatchery fish weren't marked, and there was essentially no data to determine run sizes or escapement. Likewise, it was WDFW's impression that there was not a large constituency for wild steelhead. Monitoring programs started in 1977-78, and this was done to support new management objectives that included: maintaining healthy wild runs, producing hatchery fish for harvest, allocating harvest shares, and providing a diversity of angling opportunities. They also developed separate harvest allocations for hatchery and wild stocks in the same rivers.

Setting Escapement Goals

Boldt Case Area:

The Boldt Decision forced the co-managers to establish escapement goals for each wild stock. A major hurdle in doing so was the fact that little data had been collected. The courts decided that the management goal would be "maximum sustained harvest (MSH)". The co-managers developed spawner-recruit (S/R) relationships based on data they had for 3 stocks: the Skagit, the Queets, and the Kalama. A composite S/R curve was developed by scaling each record to make them comparable. Once this was done, the WDFW scientists and managers settled on a Beverton-Holt curve to represent a composite S/R relationship for Washington steelhead. With the belief that the key limiting factor for steelhead production is freshwater rearing space, the combination of a "scale-able" S/R curve and an estimate of freshwater rearing habitat for each stream allowed managers to estimate river specific escapement goals and carrying capacities for each stream. The target harvest rate under MSH is typically ~40% of the total run-size. However, the MSH run-size is only about 60% of the theoretical "unfished" population. So, in theory, if an unfished stream had an equilibrium population of 1000 spawners, application of MSH harvest policies would typically yield run-sizes of 600 adult spawners. Of those 600 adults, 40% would be harvested (240 fish), and the total number of spawners to meet the escapement goal would be 360. Therefore, the MSH

harvest rate of 40% also corresponds to an escapement that is actually 34% of the theoretical "unfished" escapement.

MSH, while based on a fishery science concept, is a political decision that the state is legally obligated to embrace for salmon and steelhead management. There are a few cases where the co-managers have agreed to less intense harvest policies. For example, the co-managers have agreed to cap harvest rates on the Skagit River at 16%. The WDFW position has been to set escapement goals for wild steelhead at or over the MSH guidelines. On the Nisqually River, for example, MSH calls for an escapement goal of 1700, while WDFW lobbied for 2000 (to which the tribal co-managers agreed).

Outside the Boldt Case Area: Most escapement goals are based on the composite S/R model. Recently, ESA listings on the Upper Columbia and Snake Rivers have led to many year-to-year changes in harvest and escapement policies.

WDFW has attempted to address several questions about existing escapement goals, including: 1) do they provide adequate protection? 2) do they allow for the desired level of genetic diversity? and 3) does the spawner abundance serve as a safety net in the face of unexpected run-size declines? The question of Genetic diversity has been addressed in the Quillayute system. Under the Wild Salmonid Policy, maintaining desired genetic diversity calls for a minimum of 2700 spawners. On this system, the escapement goal is 5900. Under the MSH model 5900 spawners should produce an average of 9800 recruits.

Fishery Utilization Goals

The default statewide policy is targeted as Wild Steelhead Release (only hatchery marked fish allowed for harvest). Harvest of wild steelhead is, however, allowed on systems that are consistently seeing run-sizes that exceed escapement goals. There are no directed harvests allowed on stocks that are not meeting escapement goals (for example, recent March/April closures on the Snohomish and Stillaguamish were prompted by extremely low run-sizes). If escapements are between more than 80% of the escapement goal targeted Catch and Release Fisheries are allowed. The sports fishing allocation is a blend of CnR and harvest fisheries. In 2002-03, 18 rivers/streams had targeted CnR fisheries and 17 rivers/streams had targeted wild steelhead harvest seasons.

Based on WDFW surveys, angler preferences for CnR and harvest seasons have changed dramatically since the 1970's. In the early 1970's, very few anglers preferred CnR fishing for steelhead. Later surveys found a rising trend in favor of CnR fishing for wild steelhead: 1986 -- 14%, 1995 -- 42%, and 2001 -- 66%.

While the majority now favors CnR seasons for wild steelhead, WDFW feels that the 34% in favor of harvest seasons form a significant constituency that deserves harvest opportunities.

Angling diversity opportunities are determined based on several pieces of information, including: status of individual runs, public input, angler preference surveys, and biologist recommendations.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In April 1994 WDFW released a "Draft-Steelhead Management Plan" that outlined the goals, objectives, policies, and guidelines of the WDFW for addressing management of the steelhead resource. The primary goal was, and is, to restore and maintain the diversity and long-term productivity of Washington's steelhead stocks and their habitats. The plan's highest priority is protection and restoration of self-sustaining wild steelhead runs and their habitats.

Hatchery programs are major components of the Department's steelhead program, especially for recreation and harvest opportunities. Bob stated that the 1994 Draft plan

has not changed since its release, but he would like to review and modify that plan in the near future with the help of WDFW personnel, the tribes, constituents and members of the WDFW's Steelhead and Cutthroat Citizen's Advisory Panel. WDFW is now examining new policies for such things as "lottery drawings for wild steelhead harvest tags". As Bob put it, the department now sells fewer licenses, but it seems that fishing pressure has actually gone up at the same time. It's as though only the hard-core anglers remain, and their ability to catch fish is relatively high.

Hatcheries were once managed under the regional fish management programs then switched to management under hatchery programs, and the latest trend is to bring them back to the fishery management programs. That would allow for better coordination with other fish management activities (harvest, allocation, wild stock protection). The WDFW has not embraced the use of wild brood stocks for steelhead hatcheries. There are a few native broodstock programs, including one for Lake Washington that aims to bolster the very low numbers of natural spawners in the Cedar River. Other native broodstock programs are aimed at increasing harvest opportunities and/or increasing the number of spawners in systems like Snider Creek, the Wynoochee, the Green, the Satsop, and the Skookumchuck. WDFW started hatchery enhancement programs in the 1950's and 1960's, and chose to use relatively early-returning Chamber's Creek spawners as a preferred broodstock for many hatcheries. The early returning spawners have a few key attributes that are valued by WDFW: 1) the return and spawn timing is distinct from the bulk of wild winter-run spawners in Puget Sound and coastal streams, so using Chambers Creek fish allows for temporal separation between hatchery and wild stocks (both in terms of harvest and spawner interactions); and 2) early spawning fish make it possible to rear a hatchery steelhead to smolt size in a single year; the typical spring spawning wild stocks have offspring that smolt after 2 years in streams, and it is difficult (if not impossible) to get late spawned and late-hatching juvenile steelhead to smolt after a single year in hatcheries. Hatchery programs have not wanted to take on the expense and other challenges of rearing juveniles for 2 years.

Other things the WDFW is looking at include "wild fish sanctuaries", where hatchery production would be eliminated. However, cutting existing hatchery production has proven to be politically extremely difficult, even in cases where hatcheries are known to suffer from very low production at relatively high costs.

And finally, other issues Bob hopes the WDFW steelhead program can address include:

- * research into the limiting factors for wild fish production; determine why Puget Sound winter run steelhead have suffered drastic productivity declines and how those might be halted or reversed
- * research into hatchery broodstock
- * track angler preferences: once angler preferences exceed 90% in favor of CnR fishing for wild steelhead, Bob would back statewide wild steelhead release with no exceptions
- * restore the complete WDFW steelhead program that existed in the 1980's; at that time, that included a significant research unit and extensive monitoring programs; today the activities have been reduced to monitoring and management, with very little research, as budget cuts have forced staff reductions

Bob did not go so far as to ask those in attendance to lobby our policy makers on behalf of WDFW steelhead programs. However, the message seemed pretty clear (to me at least) that one way interested anglers and conservationists can help the department improve its ability to meet the goals of protecting and restoring wild steelhead and their habitat is through political pressure.

Nate Mantua, WSC VP Education/Science

Wild Steelhead Coalition Membership Report

The WSC would like to extend a warm welcome and thanks to its new members:

Bob Triggs, Member, Port Townsend, WA
Kevin S. Harris Ph.D., Member, Bothell, WA
Michael F. Abbott, Member, Concrete, WA
Chris Scoones, Member, North Bend, WA
Jim Carlson, Member, Issaquah, WA
Patrick Wood, Member, Port Angeles, WA
Ken Cox, Sponsor Member, Mill Creek, WA
Rob Masonis, Member, Seattle, WA
Bert Brehm, Sponsor Member, Port Angeles, WA

Thank-you this month!

Special thanks to **Lower Columbia Fly Fishers** for a \$250 donation to the WSC for our efforts of furthering fish management

Special thanks to **Outdoor Emporium, Rich Simms and Frank Amato** for the raffle donations at our March Meeting.

Special thanks to **Leland Miyawaki** for designing and developing the WSC brochure as well as delivering copies.

Special thanks to all who helped at the WSC booth at the Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue, WA and to **Juro Mukai** who invited the WSC to share his booth at the show.

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

WSC Letter to the WDFW- The WSC sent an action alert to its membership and friends alerting a proposal to allow a wild steelhead harvest on the Chehalis River System. WSC sent a letter to the WDFW urging the department to move forward on option 3 of the proposal which will provide a C&R regulation for wild steelhead and extend the season to April 15. **However it was slipped under the radar screen that an extended wild steelhead harvest will take place on the Upper Quinault.** The following note is the outcome of the decision thanks to all who took the time and effort to write the WDFW.

During the last meet of the Advisory Group we had discussion concerning whether to have a limited wild winter steelhead harvest or an extended season with C&R opportunity on the Chehalis, Satsop and Wynoochee rivers this season. It has been decided that an extended C&R fishery will be approved. Draft regulations will look like (not all the correct wording is there):

- Chehalis River; April 16-30, 2003 mouth to Weyerhauser bridge, WSR
 - Satsop River & East Fork; April 1-15, 2003, mouth to bridge at Schafer State Park, WSR
 - Wynoochee River; April 1-15, mouth to 7400 Line Bridge, WSR
- Any questions or comments please call Bob G. (360-902-2329) or me.

Bob Leland, Steelhead Program Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501
lelanrfl@dfw.wa.gov

Steelhead Summit 2 - A date and location has been set for Steelhead Summit 2 for May 3, 2003 (Saturday) 8:00 am to 5.00 pm, REI 222 Yale Ave N Seattle, WA Ad hoc committees were formed from the organizations and clubs in attendance at the first Steelhead Summit in November are currently preparing to present progress for the follow up Summit in May. The committees were formed based on the agenda items developed at the first summit. If you would like to participate on one of the committees please phone **Dick Burge @** 360-765-3815, email:fskibum@olympen.com or **Dave Bailey @** 360-681-7043, email: captain@olympen.com

WSC 2003-2004 Membership Renewals- WSC Membership Renewals have been mailed out and the WSC is offering a \$5 discount if renewals are received by March 31. Deadline for membership renewals is April 15, 2003. Your membership is highly valued and your support is appreciated; **we are** making a difference for wild steelhead!

WSC at Fly Fishing Show- WSC Member **Juro Mukai**, from Fly Fishing Forum offered to share his booth at the Fly Fishing Show at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, WA. This provided the WSC it first public appearance and stimulated much interest in our organization.

New WSC Trustee- At the February BOD meeting **Les Johnson** was elected has our new trustee. As many know, Les is one of the founding board members of WSC and provided senior leadership to the WSC. Les is filling the Trustee vacancy left by **Mark Milkovich**. Thanks to Mark for his service as a Trustee and we look forward to Les' continued contribution to the WSC.

Upcoming WSC Presentations- The WSC will be presenting to the Gig Harbor Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers on April 8, NW Fly Anglers on April 17 and Four Corners Fly Club in Bellingham on June 26. If you know of a club or organization that would like to hear more about the WSC contact **Jack Berryman** at 425-821-1774.

C&R Project- Initial planning and design is taking place on developing a step by step pictorial process of correct C&R procedure for wild steelhead. If you would like more information regarding this project or would like to help out contact **Rich Simms** at 425-880-4254 or email at wscmembership@yahoo.com.

WSC Brochures- The WSC has just completed designing a brochure and is looking for a printing supplier. If you know of a resource please contact **Leland Miyawaki** at 206-264-0609 or **Jack Berryman** at 425-821-1774

Action Alert !
Wild Steelhead Release Rules Proposal for Olympic National Park!

Olympic National Park is proposing several changes in regulations governing recreational use and harvest of fish and shellfish within the park. These changes are in response to recent trends in the abundance of fish and shellfish populations in the Puget Sound/coastal region and National Park Service policies regarding the preservation of natural processes and ecosystems. The proposals and a brief explanation are enclosed. These changes only apply to non-tribal, recreational fisheries within Olympic National Park. We are inviting comment or information that may not have been considered in developing these proposals. Please address your comments to:

Superintendent
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362

To be considered in the final decision regarding implementation of these proposals, comments should be received by **April 18, 2003**. Those proposals that are adopted will become effective May 1, 2003. If you would like additional information regarding these proposals, you may write to the Superintendent. For fish related issues, call John Meyer at 360-565-3075.

1. Release wild salmon and steelhead caught in those portions of the Queets, Salmon, and Quinault Rivers and Goodman Creek occurring within Olympic National Park.

National Park Service policies promote quality fishing with an emphasis on catch-and-release of wild, fish populations. However, wild and hatchery-produced salmon and steelhead that occur within Olympic National Park are subject to allocation sharing ordered by the United States District Court, Western District for Washington. These sharing formulas divide the harvest of certain stocks of salmon and steelhead between treaty and non-treaty fisheries. Olympic National Park has allowed the recreational fisheries in the park to harvest some wild salmon and steelhead in conformance with these guidelines. In recent years, wild salmon and steelhead were allowed to be harvested in the Queets, Salmon (a principal tributary to the Queets River), and upper Quinault Rivers and Goodman Creek since these areas are subject to the court's sharing formula. However, wild stocks of salmon and steelhead have declined in recent years, and Olympic National Park is concerned with the future maintenance of self-sustaining populations of wild salmon and steelhead in these drainages and their contribution to natural ecological processes. Recent studies of salmon, trout, and char spawning behavior suggests that they play a very important role in the maintenance of productive, diverse ecosystems including future production of anadromous fish. The park is especially concerned with recent trends in survival of wild steelhead and maintaining future productivity of wild coho in the Queets River. Emergency closures of the winter steelhead season have been required in recent years in order to achieve spawning escapement objectives and, with the exception of the 2000-2002 brood years, Queets River coho have remained at the lower end of the desired spawning escapement range.

Olympic National Park is proposing to allow the recreational fishery to retain hatchery-origin salmon and steelhead in the Queets, Salmon, and upper Quinault Rivers and Goodman Creek but to the extent possible, prohibit the harvest of wild fish. Complete protection of all wild fish will be difficult in the Queets, Salmon, and Quinault since only a

portion of the hatchery origin salmon and steelhead in these rivers are marked with a fin clip. It is desirable to remove as many of these hatchery-origin fish as possible before they have an opportunity to breed with wild salmon and steelhead. Steelhead harvest in the Queets, Salmon, and Quinault would be limited to those fish with an adipose or ventral clip (generally a small proportion of the hatchery releases in these rivers) or dorsal fin height less than 2 1/8 inches. The dorsal fin height would only be used as an indicator of origin from November—January since few hatchery steelhead are available after January. Recreational harvest of steelhead in the park portions of Goodman Creek would be restricted to adipose-clipped hatchery fish only. Dorsal fin height is not a good indicator of origin for chinook and coho salmon so harvest of these species in the Queets would be restricted to the lower river (below Hartzel Boat launch) and Salmon River during times of high hatchery salmon abundance. Discussions with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the tribes are on-going regarding allocation of harvest and fishing opportunity on salmon and steelhead in these rivers and future management may be influenced by these discussions.

In the coastal portions of the lower Hoh and Quillayute rivers within Olympic National Park, harvest of wild salmon and steelhead would continue to be allowed in conformance with recreational fishing rules adopted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Since these reaches are very short, wild-release rules within the park portions of these two river sections would have little benefit to spawning escapement, result in confusion among anglers, and enforcement problems.

Meeting Announcement

First Wednesday of the month (April. 2 2003) 6:30 - 9:30

Bothell American Legion Hall 19213 Bothell Way NE (Hwy 527)

April Program Speaker: *Carl Ostberg*, Western Fisheries Research Center, USGS

Presentation Title: Genetics, and the evolutionary history and lineages of steelhead and rainbow trout.

Description: Carl will provide an elementary back ground on the genetic Methods and techniques that are commonly used to examine the diversity between and within populations. He will also discuss the evolution and radiation of the species and provide some interesting examples local to the state of Washington . This discussion will shed much light on the reality of conservation management with respect to genetics and help answer questions pertaining to hatchery and wild interactions, differentiating wild progeny from wild X hatchery progeny, kinship, and divergent populations, to name a few.

Bio: M.Sc. in Zoology from Washington State University, 1997, where Carl studied chromosomal and DNA differences in rainbow trout/steelhead in western Washington. Carl currently works as a fisheries biologist at Western Fisheries Research Center, US Geological Survey where his main focus is examining hybridization between various cutthroat trout subspecies and rainbow/steelhead.

*For more information contact **Rich Simms** at www.wscmembership@yahoo.com or phone 425-880-4254. Also visit the site at www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com for information regarding the WSC.*

McDermott Announces Salmon Planning Act

A bill to partially remove four Snake River dams has been introduced in Congress by Seventh District Representative Jim McDermott and Representative Tom Petri of Wisconsin. McDermott is a Democrat and Petri a Republican. Called the Salmon Planning Act, H.R. 1097 is similar to a bill that failed to pass the 107th Congress.

This bill declares that salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia and Snake Rivers are on the brink of extinction because of a number of factors including hydroelectric projects, harvest management practices, habitat damage, altered stream flows and hatchery practices.

The bill states that, since construction of the Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams, salmon and steelhead populations have dropped severely and all runs of those fish in the Snake River are either extinct or listed under the Endangered Species Act. It cites a federally funded study in which a group of state, tribal, federal and independent scientists have found that partial removal of the four dams "...is the surest way to protect and recover Snake River salmon and steelhead." It also cites a federal court ruling that the dams violate water quality standards under the federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The bill calls for the National Academy of Sciences to analyze salmon recovery efforts and to determine whether they are likely to achieve recovery of these runs. The academy is to report its findings to the Secretaries of Commerce, Army and Interior, and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. It also calls upon the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to study the economic impacts of partial dam removal on communities near the dams, up and down stream from them and as far away as the Pacific coastal communities which rely upon commercial and recreational fishing. The study is to include the impacts on employment, irrigation and energy production, as well as the economic impact of allowing the fish runs to go extinct. If the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior and the administrator of the EPA find that partial removal of the dams is necessary to restore the fish runs to meet requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Water Pollution Control Act, the Army Corp of Engineers is authorized to partially remove them.

The bill, which provides \$4 million for the work and mandates that preliminary engineering, design and construction is to be completed by Dec. 31, 2003, was announced by McDermott's staff to three Trout Unlimited members. Sam Mace, Wildlands Fisheries Coordinator, Portland, John Milanovich, president of the North Bay Chapter in San Francisco, and Dee Norton, vice-president of the Northshore Chapter, Bothell, and vice-president for communications of the WSC, were in Washington to lobby members of Congress from West Coast states. They were able to contact the staffs of 27 members of Congress, and in some cases the members themselves, and to place their concerns before them..

Wild Steelhead Coalition Board Meeting 2/25/03

The meeting was held at the Edmonds Public Library. In attendance were Jack Berryman, Rich Simms, Peter Dorn, Don Peterson, Dick Burge and Richard Hunt with Todd Ripley arriving approximately one hour late. Nate Mantua and Dee Norton had excused absences. Dave Bailey was in attendance as an invited guest. The meeting started at 6:04.

- 1) **Membership report:** Rich Simms said we picked up 7 new memberships at the fly fishing show in Bellevue, one sponsorship, one family and 5 singles. We also received \$250 from the Lower Columbia Fly Fishers for our efforts and dedication in protecting wild steelhead. Membership renewals will be mailed out around March 3rd along with a year 2 update from Jack and a 2002 financial statement from Don. If you signed up after October your membership fees are good for the next year. If you renew your membership by the end of March you will receive a \$5 discount. We have received corporate giving from Rich Simms, Kevin Kent, Peter Dorn, Don Peterson and Bruce Gray. We now have approximately 160 members.
- 2) **Treasurer's report:** Don Peterson reported we are financially OK with \$6,300 in the bank. Don produced an income and expense report, which will be distributed with the renewal notices. Don also stated he needs to do a tax filing with the IRS.
- 3) **Hatchery Reform Committee:** Nate wasn't at the meeting so Dick reported the committee was still reading abstracts and writing their drafts.
- 4) **Report on WDFW Steelhead & Cutthroat Advisory Committee:** Dick reported that WDFW Director Jeff Koenig said that expected budget problems might necessitate the cutting of 80 positions. Dick also reported the committee discussed the possibility of having a wild kill season on the Chehalis system as expected returns will be above minimum escapement. Dick said there were 3 options presented but it appeared the state was leaning toward a wild kill season the end of March with an expected take of around 200 fish. Dick said the committee voted 9 to 8 in favor of the kill season. Dick said he supported having an extended cnr season with hatchery retention. The board discussed and agreed that a letter would be written to the Region 6 office protesting a kill fishery on the Chehalis system and supporting an extended cnr season with hatchery retention. Todd Ripley will write and send the letter.
- 5) **Summit 2 Plans:** The Summit 2 committee has not met yet; it appeared that May 3rd or May 10th were the 2 best dates for the summit. Todd was directed to find and secure a meeting place ASAP and The Mountaineers and REI were suggested as possible sites. Peter volunteered to help Todd research the two suggested sites. Todd Ripley is going to draft a letter to the participating groups requesting funding help for Summit 2, we have received \$300 from the FFF to help fund the summit.
- 6) **Summit 1 committee updates:** Dave Bailey and Dick Burge reported that the committees were making good progress and pushing for February 28th for outlines and March 31st for rough drafts.
- 7) **Fundraising report:** Peter Dorn said he has some donated items and there will be a raffle at the March 5th membership meeting as we hope guest speaker Bob Gibbons will draw a large group. Peter also spoke about planning an auction/chili feed (?) at the June 4th membership meeting. We have several grant requests still pending, one with Patagonia and one with N.W. Women Flyfishers. We discussed using funds to produce a video and/or a pamphlet on proper catch and release techniques.

- 8) **General meeting membership speakers:** Dick Burge and the board discussed how important it will be to not let the Bob Gibbons meeting get sidetracked in heated arguments. We thought Nate should call on the questioners and be a buffer in order to keep the meeting productive.
- 9) **Trustee update:** Jack Berryman said Les Johnson accepted his nomination to the board of trustees. Jack said the following trustees have agreed to continue: Frank Amoto, Jim Tuggle, Dennis Dickson, and Jim Lichatowich. We are still waiting to hear back from Duggan Harman, John McGlenn and Bill Bakke.
- 10) **Catch and release techniques:** Rich Simms spoke about producing a video and/or pamphlet detailing proper catch and release techniques as part of an educational outreach for anglers. The board agreed it would be an important program. We may be able to receive some help or an endorsement from WDFW. Rich said he spoke to Bob Ball about providing pictures and video to fill out a story board provided by Rich.
- 11) **STS article opportunity:** Jack said Nick Amato would provide the WSC with the opportunity to publish an article to rebut several editorials in recent issues of STS on hatchery and wild steelhead. Jack said he and Nate discussed the possibility of using the paper the hatchery review group is producing as the article.
- 12) **Adipose update:** Preston Singletary will stay on as editor until a replacement can be found. Thanks for your efforts Preston. Bob Young will stay on as publisher. The BOD will be looking for a new editor to take over the duties of "The Adipose".
- 13) **Regional Reps.:** We discussed providing the regional reps. with additional WSC materials including the PowerPoint presentation. Rich said some of the reps. asked for a slide presentation. The board voted to produce brochures and a slide presentation. The vote was 7 to 0 to provide the materials. Todd Ripley will get printing quote for brochure, Richard Hunt will acquire file from Leland Miyawaki. The BOD will ask the reps to write a small article for the Adipose.
- 14) **Next BOD Meeting:** We will have our next board meeting April 2nd at 6 before the membership meeting. It will be held at the American Legion Post in Bothell.
- 15) **Upcoming WSC presentations:** We have a presentation April 8th at the Gig Harbor chapter of PSA; Todd Ripley volunteered but, we need another volunteer or two for this presentation. Jack and Rich will do the April 17th presentation at the Northwest Fly Anglers. We have been requested to give a presentation to the Four Corners Fly Fishing Club in Bellingham, WA June 26th
- 16) **Wild Sky Bill:** Rich said the Wild Sky Bill is being reintroduced to Congress this session and Steve Wrye will follow up on this issue.
The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Richard Hunt
WSC Secretary*

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

Les Johnson

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



Starting a Steelhead Day

Photo by Beverly Carlson

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**