

# Hatcheries releasing fish early because of drought

Deteriorating conditions, water for salmon and steelhead are factors

By HENRY MILLER  
Statesman Journal

State hatcheries in north-west Oregon are releasing fish ahead of schedule because of the drought.

The first week of June, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's North Nehalem Hatchery released 1,550 rainbow trout averaging about 1 pound apiece that had been on the stocking schedule for release in September at about 2 pounds a fish.

Two factors were in play, said Robert Bradley, a fish biologist with the department's Tillamook office: deteriorating conditions at the release

sites and more important, using the water at the hatcheries to raise salmon and steelhead.

"At the time we released our trout ... the lakes were getting borderline, but we were still able to stock the fish," he said. "But looking ahead more than likely they would have been at really warm temperatures at the time the scheduled stocking rolled around.

"But the more immediate need was that (Nehalem) river flows were dropping, and water availability was dropping. And they needed that water to go through the hatchery, the higher priority to use for salmon and steelhead that have to stay there for another year."

Spring Chinook being raised at the state's Trask River Hatchery near Tillamook will be released about a month earlier than planned because of the water situation.

The crew there is recirculating water to the upper part of the hatchery as they mark the fish to identify them as

hatchery salmon prior to the early release.

"We typically release our spring Chinook smolts toward the end of July," Bradley said. "We've already released a few groups of them to free up some space at the hatcheries."

"For instance, in the Trask virtually all of the production will be released by the first of July. We'll probably start releasing some of the fall Chinook early as well."

## Early releases not ideal

While early releases are not ideal, the warmer water actually accelerated growth rates, Bradley said.

Cedar Creek Hatchery near Hebo, which raises spring Chinook, and the volunteer-operated Rhoades Pond on Three Rivers about 6 miles from Hebo, which raises fall Chinook, are in better shape, water-wise and because of raising fewer fish than the state's larger hatcheries, he added.

The spring Chinook at Cedar Creek should be released

on schedule in about three weeks.

Unlike the Willamette River Basin, which depends on melting snowpack — virtually nonexistent this year — to feed the rivers through the summer, Oregon's coastal rivers and streams are fed almost exclusively by rain runoff.

And with the long, dry spring and into summer, flows are the worst that he's ever seen, Bradley said. And the river gauges are confirming his observations.

"The last time that I looked at them and made a comparison it's about a third of the average water flow," he said. "For recorded history we're approaching the lowest flows ever recorded for the given date," and could end up with "some of the lowest flows ever recorded by the end of the summer unless we get a change in the weather pattern."

## Water temperatures creeping higher

While there haven't been the pre-spawn mortalities

that have been seen in Willamette Valley rivers such as the Willamette, Clackamas and Santiams, water temperatures are creeping into the danger zone.

"We're not quite to the level of the Willamette, yet, but we do have some 70-degree water in the lower parts of the rivers," Bradley said. "So it's getting there, and it could become an issue. There's some years when we don't see any 70-degree water."

One problem that already has been seen is that with the dropping rivers and streams, there have been reports of non-hatchery wild fish being left high and dry.

"The biggest concern that we've seen already is the stranding of some juvenile fish trapped in the back-water areas," Bradley said. "There's probably some of that going on that we're not going to know about. They'll probably dry up or birds or whatever will get to them."

With the added stress on

the adult fish because of the weather and water situation, he also had advice for anglers who are pursuing them.

"I think the take-home message this year is that people who are out trout fishing, or fishing for Chinook and summer steelhead, these fish are out in conditions that are not favorable to them," Bradley said. "Anything that's caught and released needs to be handled with care. Early mornings or late evenings are the best times to fish. Fish need to be released as quickly as possible and with as much care as possible."

"At this point it's all about survival. These fish have got to live, the adults that are coming in now whether it's sea run cutthroat or spring Chinook or summer steelhead, they're all living until the fall or the winter before they spawn. And they've got some tough conditions to survive through the next few months."

# Man found guilty in Seaside stabbing

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

A man arrested last August for stabbing another man in the back in Seaside was found guilty on all charges Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Dylan Douglas Snook, 33, of Astoria, was found guilty of 13 counts. The charges included first-degree assault, five counts of unlawful use of a weapon against another person, five counts of menacing and fourth-degree assault. An attempted murder charge



Dylan Douglas Snook

was reduced to attempted first-degree assault.

Snook, represented by defense lawyer Jerry Windawski, originally pleaded not guilty to the charges in August.

His trial lasted three days. The jury started deliberation Thursday night and reached the guilty verdict by Friday afternoon.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Snook was arrested and booked Aug. 18 in connection to the stabbing incident that occurred the day before near the 300 block of Broadway Street in Seaside.

A male victim, who had two punctures on his back, reported to officers he was stabbed.

"Snook was developed as

the lone suspect during the initial investigation into the case by Seaside detectives," Seaside Police reported at the time.

Detectives with the department obtained information that Snook was staying at a residence in Astoria. Clatsop County Interagency Narcotics Team and Astoria Police Department detectives assisted in conducting surveillance on the residence.

Seaside detectives located Snook within the residence and took him into custody without incident, according to Seaside Police.

# Campaign launched to reduce underage drinking

The Daily Astorian

North Coast Prevention Works, a local coalition working to prevent youth substance abuse, suicide and delinquency, recently started a yearlong campaign to reduce underage drinking in Clatsop County.

The campaign was created through a \$15,000 award from the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization this spring for the coalition to implement an innovative, science-based approach to health promotion that has a demonstrated track record of changing

perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors related to youth alcohol consumption.

Specific goals of the campaign are to reduce the percentage of Clatsop County teenagers who drink alcohol, reduce the percentage of teens in the county who binge drink and increase the proportion of parents who talk to their teens about the dangers of alcohol use.

The campaign will also help to guide community conversations about underage drinking and to correct misperceptions, according to the coalition. It will be based on existing data

from the 2014 Oregon Student Wellness survey and upcoming surveys of parents and community members. Campaign messages are being developed this summer.

This fall, the coalition said, a variety of informational messages will be promoted in the media. Additional surveys will be conducted in early 2016. Campaign results will be reported in the spring of 2016.

Community partners for the campaign include Montana State University,

the Oregon Health Authority Addictions and Mental Health Division, local schools and Lum's Auto Sales in Warrenton.

For more campaign information, contact Shelly Alford, the campaign coordinator, at 503-440-5877 or npreventionworks@gmail.com.

To contact the coalition, email at npreventionworks@gmail.com. The coalition meets the third Thursday of every month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Warrenton City Hall.

# Congregation Beit Salmon hosts rabbinical internship

The Daily Astorian

Abram Goodstein, a fourth year Hebrew Union College rabbinical student, is here for a two month internship this summer, helping Congregation Beit Salmon launch their synagogue.

"This a tremendous opportunity for the North Coast's Jewish community to create their own traditions," Goodstein said.

The genesis of Congregation Beit Salmon dates back to the High Holiday services held last fall in Astoria. Goodstein asked community members if he could help them with becoming more official, and the core membership of Congregation Beit Salmon responded by raising enough money to sponsor Goodstein's internship.

"Our Jewish community has gathered together to celebrate Jewish holidays, Shabbats and even significant life events ... over the years, but a formal temple hasn't existed in our community since 1960," said Beit Salmon member, Moria Golub. "It's so rewarding to be part of the effort to bring back a permanent Jewish congregation."

Congregation Beit Salmon is working with Goodstein to define their minchag and establish organizational permanence. The details on the events for the upcoming week are as follows:

• Tuesday: Jewish 101 discussion group (topic: "Rabbinic Judaism"), 3 p.m., Clatsop Community College Dora Badollet Library, in the Desdemona room.

• Wednesday: Torah Study in

Seaside at 6 p.m., at community member's home. Call 503-262-8895 for address and directions.

• Friday: Shabbat dinner potluck at 6 p.m., in Astoria. Call 503-791-3173 for address and directions.

• Saturday, July 4 @ 11:00 a.m. Shabbat Services at 11 a.m. in the Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 565 12th St. Flutist Shelley Loring will accompany. A Potluck Oneg (meal) follows the service.

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# Nehalem Chinook salmon season nears

The Daily Astorian

The summer Chinook salmon season approaches for the Nehalem Bay and River, prompting the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to remind anglers about this season's bag limits.

The bag limit for non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the Nehalem Basin for the 2015 season is one per day and no more than five total from July to Sept. 15, according to a news release from the department.

Starting Sept. 16, the daily limit increases to two non fin-clipped Chinook per day, but anglers can only take 10 non fin-clipped Chinook total from the Nehalem and other North Coast bays and streams this year.

Chris Knutsen, a state fish biologist in Tillamook, said that the one-day limit is meant to reduce the im-

pact of fishing on the early-returning summer run.

"The Chinook in the Nehalem Basin arrive earlier than in other coastal basins because they have a long way to go to reach their spawning grounds," he said.

These Chinook must journey nearly 90 miles upstream, according to Knutsen.

Knutsen said it may be especially important this year to reduce fishing pressure.

"Even during an average summer, the water temperatures in the Nehalem can reach levels that are close to lethal to salmon," Knutsen said. "With the current drought, this summer could be much worse."

Meanwhile, there will be no wild coho fishery in the Nehalem Bay because of low projected returns, but hatchery coho will be available.

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