

Ocean salmon seasons may be shuttered

‘Fishing is our lifeblood. Fishing is our Boeing and our Microsoft.’

By CASSANDRA PROFITA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

To protect fragile runs of coho, regional fishery managers are considering a rare total closure of Oregon and Washington ocean salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon, near Manzanita.

State, tribal and federal fishery managers have three options for non-treaty ocean salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon. Two options would permit some salmon fishing this year, but one would close both recreational and commercial ocean fisheries for chinook and coho salmon.

Managers are not considering a total closure option for salmon fisheries south of Cape Falcon.

Butch Smith, owner of Coho Charters in Ilwaco, Washington, said a no-fishing option would be devastating to coastal communities on the Washington and northern Oregon coasts.

“Fishing is our lifeblood,” he said. “Fishing is our Boeing and our Microsoft.”

He said his recreational fishing charter depends on ocean salmon fishing for about 85 percent of its business, and a lot of other coastal businesses depend on salmon fisheries in one way or another.

Smith, who sits on an advisory panel that helps managers set salmon seasons

coastwide, said the last total fishing closure he can recall off Washington was in 1994; in 2008, ocean salmon fishing was severely restricted and resulted in a disaster declaration. That allowed fishing-dependent businesses to apply for disaster relief funds. He’s hoping that won’t be the outcome of this year’s season.

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SHRINKING GLACIERS

Creeping casualty of climate change



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jon Riedel, a National Park Service geologist at North Cascades National Park in Washington state, discusses the velocity of glacial movement around Mount Rainier during the Columbia Forum on Tuesday.

Washington state geologist points to warming, carbon emissions

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The shrinking of glaciers in the Pacific Northwest is reducing the summer water supply in regional watersheds, according to a geologist for the National Park Service.

Jon Riedel, a researcher with North Cascades National Park, delivered the alarming news at the Columbia Forum, held Tuesday evening at the Columbia Memorial Hospital Community Center.

Using data from his glacier-monitoring studies and the work of other scientists, Riedel discussed how higher global temperatures impact glaciers in Washington state’s national parks and what it means for the wider ecology.

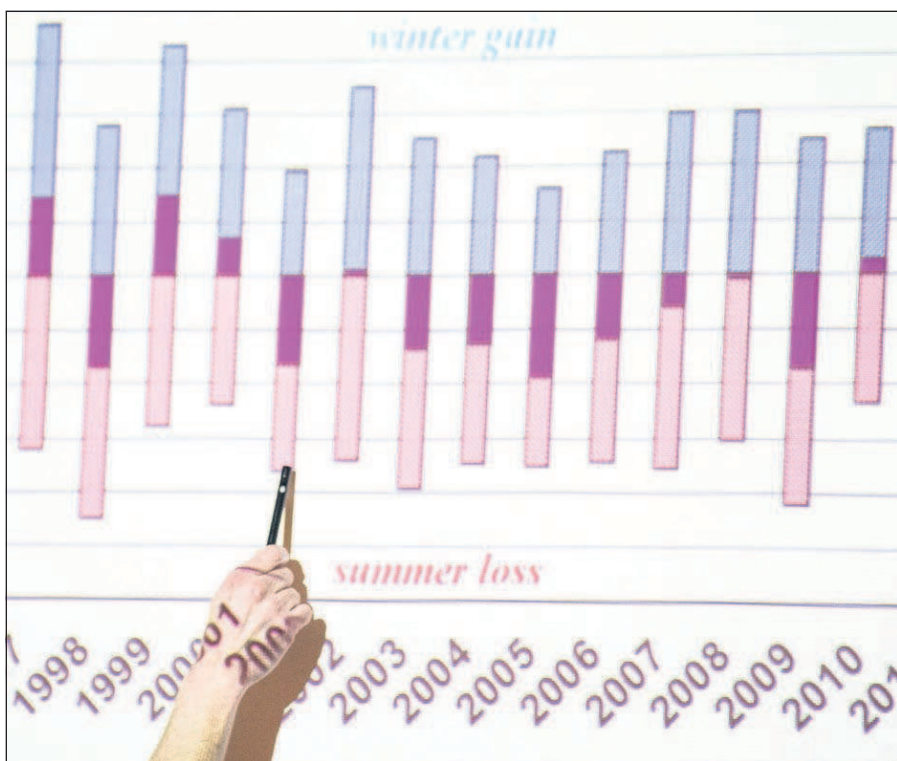
So what happens when a watershed loses its glaciers? Riedel pointed to the Skagit watershed, the largest valley draining into the Puget Sound, as a case study.

In 1959, the summer glacial runoff in the Skagit Basin provided about 171 billion gallons of cold freshwater to the Skagit River and surrounding waterways. By 2013, the amount was 129 billion — a 24 percent decrease. The loss equals about a 100-year supply of water at the current annual use rate in Skagit County.

“That is a pretty dramatic amount of loss,” Riedel said.

Though glaciers cover only 2 percent of the Skagit watershed, they provide 6 to 12 percent of total summer runoff in the valley; it’s twice that amount — between 12 and 24 percent — in August and September.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

National Park Service geologist Jon Riedel points out points of data that show the gain and loss of ice each year at the North Klawatti Glacier in North Cascades National Park.

‘This woman is the devil’

Woman gets 30 years for stealing \$214,000 from Seaside business

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A former employee at Diamond Heating in Seaside was sentenced Tuesday to 30 years in prison for stealing more than \$214,000 from the local business.



Deana Lynn Freauff

Deana Lynn Freauff, 52, was found guilty last week of first-degree theft, six counts of aggravated first-degree theft and seven counts of aggravated identity theft after a trial in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Judge Philip Nelson said the amount she embezzled is close to the most he has ever seen as the longest serving public official in Clatsop County.

“I’ve seen some minor ones, candy bar money from Little League teams,” Nelson said. “In your case, if it’s not the most I’ve seen in 24 years, it’s close to it.”

Seaside Police arrested Freauff in October 2014 after a six-month investigation. The charges date back to January 2011. The company caught on to the theft in April 2014.

Dan Nelson, owner of Diamond Heating, said Freauff started scamming his company from day one.

When she was hired as a financial manager, she was on probation from a 2009 conviction for embezzling more than \$300,000 from two title companies in the Portland-metro area.

Her probation officer should have stopped her from being hired, but she fraudulently wrote a letter to the officer that appeared to be written by Dan Nelson claiming he wanted to hire her even though she stole the money from the title companies.

Nelson never wrote the letter, and wished the probation officer would have followed up with him to confirm. He said he was unaware of her criminal past.

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Principal Roley to take top Seaside schools post

Board approves 11th-hour application

By NANCY MCCARTHY
For The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Sheila Roley is the new Seaside School District superintendent.

Although the deadline to receive applications from potential candidates was Friday, the Seaside School Board unanimously approved Roley’s appointment at a board meeting Tuesday night.

Roley will begin her new job July 1, following the retire-

ment of Superintendent Doug Dougherty. A salary hasn’t been determined, but the job description calls for a range of \$118,000 to \$128,000.

“The qualifications for the superintendent fit Sheila to a T,” said board member Tom Maltman, who noted that 125 community members had told the school board what they wanted in a district superintendent.

“There was a definite concern by teachers, students and the community about a superintendent who would not know the district. This made sense to me.”



Sheila Roley

Roley, 64, has been with the district for 26 years, eight as a teacher and 18 as a principal of Cannon Beach Elementary, Broadway Middle and Seaside High schools. She recently announced her retirement as Seaside High principal, effective June 30.

But last Thursday, Roley contacted school board Chairman Steve Phillips and told him she had “re-evaluated her retirement and put her hat in the ring for Doug’s job,” Phillips said.

Phillips said his first reaction to Roley’s application was excitement about the “opport-

unity” her experience presented to the district.

“But I was genuinely concerned that we had started a process (to search for candidates) and what it would look like to the community,” he said. He also wondered why she hadn’t applied sooner.

Phillips decided to put the board members in two groups to interview Roley. By having the groups meet separately, they wouldn’t have a quorum and would be complying with Oregon’s open meeting laws.

The process was similar to the way the board had interviewed Dougherty when he was appointed superintendent

after serving as a principal, Phillips said.

The two groups had not discussed the interviews until Tuesday’s board meeting, he said.

“My decision was to put this on the agenda,” he said. “I don’t want to waste the district’s money to continue the search and the stakeholders’ time.”

Board member Lynn Ulbricht noted that Seaside Heights Elementary School Principal Sande Brown also planned to retire June 30 and that Roley would provide continuity in the district.

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