

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Good news, bad news on fish stocks

There is good news and bad news in NOAA Fisheries' latest Status of Stocks report. It notes the rebuilding of two local groundfish species and marks new complications for salmon fisheries.

Longtime residents will remember the economic stresses created by stringent controls on groundfish harvests starting after the turn of the millennium.

For communities like ours at the mouth of the Columbia, loss of any major fishery is like removing one leg of a table — our entire economy becomes less stable. Deepwater species like canary rockfish and petrale sole formed the basis of one economic leg, but had been little monitored. When biologists poked into it, they said years of relatively minimal regulation had left the slow-reproducing species on the verge of disaster. This resulted in season closures and years of stringent controls.

The Status of Stocks report notes a milestone: petrale and canary rockfish are considered "rebuilt." This doesn't mean a return to a low-regulation regime, but will result in fewer restrictions for both species and higher catch limits for rockfish. The higher rockfish limits will also improve access to other species with which they share habitat, including Dover sole and black cod.

The bad news is that Pacific Ocean perch and yelloweye

rockfish remain on the overfished list. This means the agency considers there to be unsustainably high level of fishing pressure on a stock. The response will be a reduced level of fishing so these species can rebuild.

The stocks added to the Pacific Northwest list are Upper Columbia River summer Chinook, Grays Harbor fall Chinook, Hoh River coho and Willapa Bay fall "natural" Chinook.

Because stocks intermingle in the ocean, troubles in even a relatively small watershed like the Hoh can create widespread impacts.

Perhaps the biggest wild card in this stocks report is the federal decision to buy into Washington state's determination that escaped Willapa hatchery Chinook now warrant protection as a sort of accidental new kind of "natural" salmon.

If hatchery fish can be redefined as "natural," it begs the question of why agencies continue to draw a firm distinction between the two in the Columbia River. It will be interesting to see how the states and feds talk themselves around this point.

Visitors abound as festival season begins

The season of the festivals has begun. In many of our communities — Astoria, Long Beach, Seaside and Cannon Beach — these annual events bring thousands of visitors who spend money. Their economic impact is palpable.

The season started last weekend with the Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival. Like most of these events, this festival began modestly 34 years ago, in an empty fish processing plant on the river — with families eating crab on tables covered with newspapers.

Next weekend will be Loyalty Days in Long Beach, Washington. This festival goes back six or seven decades. Many other communities once hosted this festival theme. It was a product of the Cold War with the Soviet Union — meant as a response to the May Day parades in Red Square.

On Mother's Day weekend, Astoria's Sunday Market will begin its six-month sea-

son. The market has become the equivalent of a sustained festival, drawing visitors once a week.

Astoria's cruise ship visits present a different sort of festival. The cruise ship hosts make Astoria a unique stop for the disembarking visitors. Twenty-two ships will come our way in spring and fall. The beauty of the cruise ship traffic is that it comes without vehicles.

As summer progresses, the festival calendar will be filled by Cannon Beach's Sandcastle Contest, Seaside's beach volleyball weekend and the Long Beach Kite Festival.

One of Oregon's oldest festivals is the Astoria Regatta in August. The festival that puts that biggest load on the county's transportation network is the Hood to Coast Relay, which terminates in Seaside in August.

This assortment of festivals brings vitality to our region. It also brings considerable revenue.

Softening on Trump? Just remember this

Washington Post Editorial

Do you remember when Donald Trump crudely mocked the disability of a *New York Times* reporter, and then lied about having done so?

No? That's just as the Republican candidate might hope.

Now that he is nearing the Republican nomination, he says he will become more "presidential." After winning the New York primary, he referred to "Senator Cruz" instead of "Lyin' Ted." You can expect multitudes of office-seekers and sycophants to follow Chris Christie's craven path to believing, or pretending to believe, in a presidential Trump.

So it is important to remember. Remember that Mr. Trump said that Mexicans crossing the border are rapists, though "some, I assume, are good people."

Remember that Mr. Trump falsely claimed that thousands of American Muslims had celebrated the destruction of the World Trade Center on 9/11.

Remember that Mr. Trump insulted Carly Fiorina for her appearance: "Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that?"

Remember, now that Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly has sought to make peace with Mr. Trump, that he insinuated that she had asked him a tough question because she was menstruating: "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever."

Remember that he called her a bimbo, sick, overrated and crazy.

Remember that Mr. Trump lashed out at Ms. Kelly in the first place because she had recited some of the other names he has used for women he disliked: "fat pigs," "dogs," "slobs" and "disgusting animals." . . . You once told a contestant on "Celebrity Apprentice" it would be a pretty picture to see her on her knees."

Remember that Mr. Trump, who never served in the armed forces, said that Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was "not a war hero." Mr. McCain, after being shot down over North Vietnam, endured 5 1/2 years of torture and solitary confinement as he repeatedly refused offers of liberation unless all of his fellow prisoners would also be freed. "I like people who weren't captured," Mr. Trump said.

Candidate clash of the injured titans

By CHARLES M. BLOW
New York Times News Service

If trends hold and the parties' front-runners become the parties' nominees, November is going to be an epic election: a hobbled titan (Hillary Clinton) versus a mortally wounded one (the real estate developer).

The upcoming contests only buttress the possibility that those two will be the last man and woman standing.

As of Sunday, The Huffington Post's Pollster average of polls had the real estate developer leading Ted Cruz by almost 30 percentage points in Connecticut, 19 points in Pennsylvania and 20 points in Maryland. All three states vote on Tuesday. The real estate developer is leading in Rhode Island and Delaware as well — states that also vote on Tuesday — but those states don't have the same volume of polling to make the results as reliable.

That same site had Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders by 26 points in Maryland, 15 points in Pennsylvania and six points in Connecticut. She, too, was leading in Rhode Island and Delaware.

We seem to be watching the prequel to a foregone conclusion.

Now the question is: How would these two candidates square off in a general election?

As *The New York Times* reported last week, Paul Manafort, the real estate developer's new campaign chief, seemed to suggest on a tape obtained by the paper that up until now, the real estate developer's incendiary style was just an act.

This is how the paper reported the contents of the tape:

"Mr. Manafort acknowledged Mr. Trump's deep unpopularity — his 'negatives,' he called them — but invoked Ronald Reagan's initial polling deficit in 1980 to claim Mr. Trump's deficien-



AP Photo/Charles Krupa
 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses supporters at a campaign event at Crosby High School in Waterbury, Conn., Saturday.

Remember how Mr. Trump threatened a Chicago family who donated to a PAC opposing his candidacy: "They better be careful, they have a lot to hide!"

Remember that Mr. Trump threatened and disparaged not just reporters who angered him but freedom of the press overall with a vow to "open up" the libel laws.

Remember that Mr. Trump vowed to ban Muslims from entering the country, though he never explained how he would enforce this edict.

Remember that Mr. Trump promised to round up 11 million undocumented immigrants and deport them, in what would be the largest forced population movement since Pol Pot's genocide of the Cambodian people, though he never explained how he would go about doing so.

Remember that he cited "Operation Wetback" as a humane model for such a roundup.

Remember that Mr. Trump promised to order American soldiers and intelligence officers to torture their prisoners.

Remember that Mr. Trump, unlike virtually every scientist in the world, is "not a great believer in man-made climate change."

Remember Mr. Trump's answer when asked whether there are racial disparities in law enforcement: "I've read where there are and I've read where there aren't. I mean, I've read both. And, you know, I have no opinion on that."

Remember that Mr. Trump said he would like to punch a protester in the face.

Remember that Mr. Trump waxed

nostalgic for "the old days," when protesters would be "carried out on stretchers."

Remember that Mr. Trump said he would consider paying the legal fees for supporters who attacked protesters at his rally.

Remember that Mr. Trump defended his campaign manager after the campaign manager roughly grabbed a reporter and then denied having touched her and called her "delusional" when she complained.

Remember that Mr. Trump threatened to "spill the beans" on Mr. Cruz's wife to retaliate for an independent PAC ad that angered him.

Remember that Mr. Trump lied about President Obama's birth certificate. Remember that he lied about Mr. Obama planning to admit 200,000 Syrian refugees. Remember that he lied about President George W. Bush trying to silence him because he supposedly opposed the Iraq War. Remember that

he lied about the unemployment rate, the cost of building a border wall, the amount he could save by changing Medicare's drug plan and many other things.

Remember that Mr. Trump vowed to kill the innocent children of suspected terrorists.

"Winning is the antidote to a lot of things," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said earlier this year. As Mr. Trump marches toward 1,237 delegates, others will emulate that amoral embrace.

So remember. Winning is not an antidote to bigotry, violence, ignorance, insults and lies.

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Charles Blow

Exit polls in New York, where the real estate developer won by massive margins, revealed that even among Republican voters, 22 percent said that they would be scared of his presidency and another 14 percent said they'd be concerned about it.

Only 8 percent of Democrats said they'd be scared of a Clinton presidency, with 25 percent saying they would be concerned about it.

In fact, naturalization applications are on the rise, specifically because Latino immigrants are nervous about the potential presidency of the real estate developer. As *The New York Times* reported last month:

"Overall, naturalization applications increased by 11 percent in the 2015 fiscal year over the year before, and jumped 14 percent during the six months ending in January, according to federal figures. The pace is picking up by the week, advocates say, and they estimate applications could approach one million in 2016, about 200,000 more than the average in recent years."

The article continues: "While naturalizations generally rise during presidential election years, Mr. Trump provided an extra boost this year."

If Clinton lacks enthusiasm among her fans, that lack is likely to be more than made up for by voters' enthusiasm for anyone but the real estate developer.

It's too far from November to make predictions about the outcome of a race. We still have to learn the definitive outcome of each party's nominating process.

There could be a surprise in Clinton's emails or in the real estate developer's taxes — should he ever release them. There also is a tremendous war chest of super PAC money on the sidelines waiting to get into the race, and there's no way to know how that will shape the election.

Nothing is settled and inevitable, but at this point one must say: Advantage Clinton.

Will the real demagogue please stand up!

Maybe you are simply backing a man who has hijacked your passions and your party.

But on the substance, Manafort seems to suggest that his guy, the ultimate branding machine, simply needs one more rebranding, that his problems pale in comparison to those of Clinton, his likely opponent.

Maybe. Maybe not.

As *The Wall Street Journal* noted in a recent poll, Clinton's unpopularity — as measured by poll respondents saying that they either have somewhat or very negative feelings toward her — hit a "dubious new record of 56 percent."

The only problem for Republicans, however, is that "an astounding 65 percent" feel that way about the real estate developer, leading the paper to conclude that he and Cruz "may be the only two Republicans who could lose to Hillary Clinton."