



Eli Stillman/The Daily Astorian

Regulations state that anglers can keep only one Chinook salmon a day during the fall season.

High expectations for Chinook this season as fishermen converge

Salmon season is up and running

By ELI STILLMAN
The Daily Astorian

Hundreds of boats have launched into the Columbia River this month for the fall salmon season at Buoy 10.

Predictions are high for the Chinook return, but sample figures show that fishing at the mouth of the river is off to a slower start than recent years.

John North, the manager of Columbia River fisheries with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said that the catch rate was about .1 for the opening week at the popular fishery. This means that for every 10 anglers on the water, only one would bring home a Chinook salmon.

The last three years have had higher numbers during the opening of the fall season. "Last year we had catch rates around .7," North said.

The heavy bite that came at the beginning of August last year kept up through the remainder of the season, as the return totaled over 1 million fish caught.

"Many would say that there's not a lower fishery than



Eli Stillman/The Daily Astorian

Gregg Robinson of Vancouver, Wash. shows off one of the first Chinook salmon of the season.

this Buoy 10 salmon run for quality and volume of fish," said Michael O'Leary, a conservation consultant for the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, a nonprofit organization focused on sport fishing advocacy and protecting fisheries.

While the numbers of the first week this season were what North called "more realistic," as of Tuesday, it appeared that the catch rate had picked up. Even with the slow start, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is confident that this season will yield a high return. "This year's prediction is right

there at 960,000," North said.

To help the number of salmon caught coincide with the end of the season on Sept. 5, anglers must adhere to state regulations. Each angler is allowed to keep two salmon a day, but only one Chinook. Also, on Sunday and Monday, the Chinook must have a clipped adipose or left ventral fin in order to be caught.

"Everybody hates it when we shut down Buoy 10 early, so on all Sundays and Mondays you can only keep clipped," North said.

State projects \$2.7 billion hike in cost of services

Shortfall pegged at \$1.3 billion

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The cost to maintain existing state services in the next two years will climb by 14.3 percent, or \$2.7 billion, according to budget projections released Wednesday.

The state faces an estimated budget shortfall of \$1.3 billion, according to the report by the Legislative Fiscal Office and Department of Administrative Services.

Personnel and pensions,

the state's increasing share of the cost of the federal Affordable Care Act, rising human services caseloads and inflation are driving the costs, the report states.

The projected cost of maintaining state services in 2017-19 is about \$21.7 billion compared with \$19 billion in 2015-17.

Personnel costs alone are projected to increase by 9 percent, according to the report. That includes raises in collective bargaining agreements and salary packages, health benefits and an increase in the rate for the Public Employees Retirement System.

The projections are based

on the state's June economic and revenue forecast and could change with the September and subsequent forecasts.

A Department of Administrative Services spokesperson emphasized in a tweet that Wednesday's projection is only a "starting point."

The state's budget picture could change dramatically if voters in November approve a controversial corporate sales tax measure. The 2.5 percent tax on the Oregon sales of certain corporations exceeding \$25 million would yield an estimated \$3 billion per year in additional state revenue.

Craft3 hires new leader from within

The Daily Astorian

Nonprofit lender Craft3 has chosen Adam Zimmerman as the new president and CEO. He takes over for John Berdes, who died in June of lung cancer.

"Our late CEO John Berdes' passing in June left big shoes to fill at the helm of Craft3 — and while John can never be replaced, the board is confident that Adam is the right choice to guide Craft3 forward," said Steve McConnell, chairman of the Craft3 board of directors, in a release. "As we finalize our next five-year plan later this year, the board believes Adam's leadership capabilities, deep knowledge of community finance and

problem-solving approach are exactly what Craft3 needs."

Zimmerman has worked at Craft3 for 14 years, most recently as the executive vice president guiding organizational growth, consumer lending and brand management. He has been a member of Craft3's executive management team since 2011.

When Zimmerman started with Craft3 in 2002, the organization managed \$8 million with a staff of 10. Craft3 now manages \$164 million with 55 staff.

"Craft3 is at an inflection point," Zimmerman said in the release. "We are on the cusp of \$400 million deployed in Oregon and Washington, and have opened

offices that better reflect our role as a regional institution. I'm thrilled with these developments — but they aren't enough. Our late founder John Berdes believed that Craft3 needed to think big to reach underserved communities with the capital they need to be successful. And so I look forward to carrying out John's vision as we move Craft3 into our next era."

In 2012, Zimmerman was appointed by then-Gov. John Kitzhaber to serve on the Oregon Growth Board. In 2013, he was recognized by the Portland Business Journal as one of the region's "40 under 40" business leaders. Zimmerman earned his master's in community and regional planning from the University of Oregon in 2002. He is an Eastern Oregon native and lives in Portland with his wife and two children.



Adam Zimmerman

Vacation rental owners make plea for compromise

Survey says: take a fresh look at new regulations

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Short-term rental property owners are seeking a compromise to new rules in Gearhart that were approved in a first reading of an ordinance early this month.

"Half the voters are against regulations or have no opinion," vacation rental property owner Jim Whittemore said in a letter to the City Council. "The message is, the voters of the city want this process to take more time — that we need a compromise."

Homeowners in Gearhart, including Whittemore, hired a polling company to determine local attitudes on short-term rental housing.

The poll was conducted by Jim Moore Methods, after being contacted by part-time Gearhart resident David Townsend, founder and president of political consulting firm Townsend Raimundo Besler & Usher in Sacramento. Townsend said while he is the owner of a rental property in the Little Beach area of Gearhart, he would not be affected by the new rules.

One-hundred people drawn from voter rolls were surveyed, six of whom said they had rented their home as a vacation rental and 94 who had



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Homeowner Laurie Whittemore addressed the Planning Commission at a May hearing in opposition to rental regulations.

not. All said they were familiar with the short-term rental issue.

"These are decision-makers. They are not vacation rental people in this year," Townsend said. "What they're really saying is, 'Can't we compromise? Why do we have to jam this thing? Why don't we step back, form a committee, sit down and see if we can do some compromise?'"

But the results also show almost two-thirds of Gearhart residents said the city needs to adopt an ordinance to regulate vacation rental units. And slightly more Gearhart residents favored moving forward with new rules — 41 to



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Crowds filled Gearhart's firehouse to hear discussion on short-term rentals earlier this year.

38 percent — even if the "vast majority of vacation rental owners think the process has been unfair and incomplete."

City Administrator Chad Sweet said this week that the survey, which was created without city input, "pretty much says the Planning Commission and City Council are moving in the right direction. It reinforces what we're doing."

The council approved new rules in a first reading earlier this month and could bring them into law with a vote in September. The ordinance would go into effect a month later.

If enacted, permit applicants would be required to complete forms, pay a \$600

permit fee and provide proof of inspection. The ordinance requires a 24-hour property owner representative and permit display, which would list maximum occupancy, parking and the designated representative by the entry door. Each rental would need a \$125 inspection and a posted tsunami evacuation map. Permit holders would need to pay city vacation rental taxes.

Overall, a majority of residents polled supported these measures, however, seven

out of 10 residents disagreed with a provision stating: "Any home currently used as a vacation rental unit cannot be used as a vacation rental in the future unless it stays in the family."

"The voters acknowledge the need for ordinances, many of which are already on the books, but do not want to lose (their) rental homes," Whittemore said.

"The voters are really, 'Let's have some fair regulation,'" Townsend said. "Let's not go overboard and deprive owners of their right to rent their property or sell their house so somebody else can rent their property out."

Opponents to the rules could file an appeal with the state Land Use Board of Appeals or present a referendum challenging all or any part of the ordinance they want to change or remove, Sweet said.

Townsend said a referendum could be filed within the next year.

"We don't want to do that," Townsend said. "The council should do the right thing. There's no reason not to look at what this poll says, not to dismiss it out of hand because you don't agree with it. All the council has to do is step back, take a deep breath, pull some people together and say, 'Where can we make some compromise to bring everybody together?' I don't know why the council and the mayor need to make this so divisive."

On Sept. 7, the council will vote again on the proposed ordinance.

"I expect they will be unanimous again," Sweet said. "But you never know. And they did have time to take this survey under consideration before the first vote."

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