

# Changes at Snake River dams helping Idaho sockeye salmon

## Success could lead to changes at other dams

By **KEITH RIDLER**  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Structural changes at two Snake River dams in Washington state are helping more endangered sockeye salmon make the trip upstream to central Idaho this year, federal officials say.

The permanent system at Lower Granite Dam and a temporary system at Little Goose Dam pull up cold, deep water for fish ladders to combat high temperatures that discourage fish from completing their journey. The success of the new systems could lead to similar changes at other dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers.

“The strategy of putting cooler water at the top end of the ladder appears to be effective,” said Ritchie Graves of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “It takes a while to learn how to do it correctly.”

The permanent structure installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lower Granite Dam earlier this year cost \$1.2 million and follows the massive die-off of sockeye salmon in the Columbia Basin in 2015. Managers say an unusual combination of low water and an extended heat wave pushed water temperatures past 70 degrees, lethal for cold-water sockeye.

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report released in April cited hot water throughout the basin as the cause for the die-off, but also noted a lack of action by federal managers as playing a role.

The report said one of the factors contributing to the deaths of sockeye salmon was “fallback,” a tendency of fish to successfully climb a dam’s fish ladder but then, running into warm water, decide to go back downstream, often via a dam’s spillway or through the turbines.

Fish that survive use up energy reserves, decreasing their chance of reaching their destination. Officials say fall-



Joe Jaszewski/The Idaho Statesman

**Water pours out of the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River near Pomeroy, Wash. Federal officials say structural changes at two Snake River dams in Washington state are helping more endangered sockeye salmon make the trip upstream.**

back is a problem at many dams in the system. Snake River sockeye have to pass eight of them to get to central Idaho.

“We want to get (salmon) to where they’re going as quickly as possible,” Graves said. “Part of that is making sure there are no delays in the ladder system.”

That led to the fish ladder changes that appear to be working. In 2014, about 25 percent of sockeye fell back at Lower Granite Dam. This year with the new system, that dropped to 5.5 percent.

“The ladder exit shower has worked about as well as we could have hoped for at Granite,” said Russ Kiefer of the

Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The permanent system at Lower Granite Dam pulls up water from about 70 feet deep, which in summer is about 10 degrees cooler than surface water, and uses a spray system near the top of the ladder to create a plume of cold water. A temporary system costing

\$342,000 is in place at Little Goose Dam. Kiefer is a member of a basin-wide technical team considering putting in a permanent system at the dam.

He said similar systems at dams farther downstream would tend to lose their effectiveness as the reservoirs themselves are hotter and pulling up deeper water might not make a significant difference.

Overall this year, Snake River sockeye are doing much better than last year with cooler water temperatures throughout the Columbia Basin. About 1,250 of the fish crossed Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River this year, and about 400 have arrived in central Idaho so far, with about another 100 expected by the end of September.

Last year, an estimated 4,000 Snake River sockeye crossed Bonneville Dam in what managers expected would be one of the best-ever returns to high mountain lakes in central Idaho. But only about 40 fish survived the 900-mile journey.

“This year, Mother Nature helped us out,” Kiefer said.

# Hunting, fishing licenses on sale again after cyberattack

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Hunting and fishing licenses are on sale again in Washington state, after someone hacked or attempted to hack into an outside vendor’s system, exposing several million records containing the personal information of hunters and anglers throughout the Northwest.

Washington halted all license sales after the intrusion was discovered early last week, but resumed them Saturday through its network of 600 dealers across the state, after confirming those sales are secure. Online sales remain suspended because officials

still can’t ensure the online system’s security, the Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

“With many excellent late summer and fall hunting and fishing opportunities rapidly approaching, this is great news for hunters, anglers, and everyone who enjoys Washington’s outdoors,” department director Jim Unsworth said in an emailed statement. “I appreciate our customers’ patience this last week while license sales were unavailable.”

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security are investigating, but the extent of the hacking effort remained unclear Saturday. While Washington officials said they had confirmed that millions of

records were “exposed,” the vendor, Dallas-based Active Network, said it didn’t receive reports or find evidence that personal information was compromised.

Rick Hargrave, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the state’s network security team similarly “didn’t find any evidence that personal data was taken or viewed,” the Statesman Journal in Salem reported.

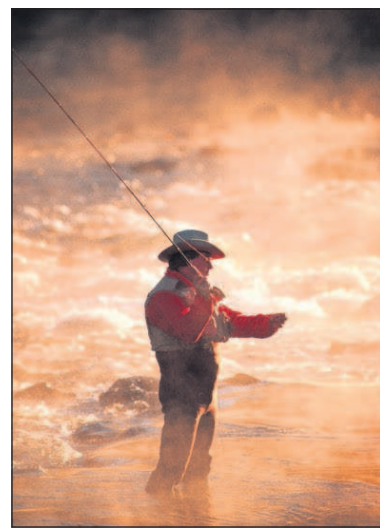
Idaho and Oregon also halted online sales of fishing and hunting licenses, but they allowed in-person sales to continue at businesses and state offices. In the three states, about 80 percent of licenses are sold at those sites, which

include sporting goods stores and tackle shops.

Active Network’s event and activity management software is used by tens of thousands of event organizers nationwide, including marathons and other races. The company said the potential threat was isolated to fishing and hunting licensing systems in the three states.

It didn’t say whether the hacking attempt was successful. The company released a software update to address the threat within 15 hours and hired a cybersecurity firm to conduct a review, it said.

It’s unclear when online sales might resume in the three states. Washington said it would allow sales by phone to



**A fly-fisherman casts his line as early morning mist rises above the Boise River, east of Boise, Idaho. Idaho, Oregon and Washington have shut down online sales of hunting and fishing licenses amid concerns a vendor’s computer system has been hacked and personal information is at risk.**

AP Photo/Troy Maben

resume on Monday. In accordance with its announcement last week, Washington is

allowing fishing and shellfishing without a license through Tuesday.

# Marijuana boom brings jobs, complaints to Josephine County

By **SHAUN HALL**  
Grants Pass Daily Courier

GRANTS PASS — Josephine County’s growing marijuana industry is experiencing growing pains.

The number of medical marijuana grow sites in the county has remained steady from a year ago, at about 2,500.

But growers who sell to retailers have been sprouting up — 38 new state-issued licenses have been granted this summer to people who plan to grow for the recreational market. More applications are pending.

Pivoting to take advantage of retailer preference for indoor-grown marijuana, these new operations are springing up in former pastures and fields

across the county.

“This industry didn’t exist a year ago,” observed Dani Jurmann, standing outside a row of industrial-size greenhouses on Cedar Flat Road near Williams, where he and his family employ nearly 30 people growing marijuana for the recreational market. “The world has changed, and Oregon is at the forefront.”

There’s good and bad happening. The good includes jobs and investments. Jurmann pays employees \$15 an hour to start, plus benefits. He employed contractors and suppliers to get the place up and running. He obtained land.

He also bought big greenhouse fans and framing lumber, and built a gravel road.

That’s where the bad comes

in — some neighbors complain about noise from the fans, and the road had to be moved to avoid annoying a neighbor who complained about the new traffic.

Operating as Shadowbox Farms, Jurmann employs not only gardeners and trimmers, but a compliance officer and a foreman. The operation’s aim, besides providing 6 million servings of product a year, is to provide a living for his family and employees, in a career some might consider a dream job.

It all comes with a price, of course. There’s the competition and the new neighbors, and a county planning department that has told him there’s a need for permits for those greenhouses.

# Bus will help students with after-school activities

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria School District will provide an activity bus this year for students who need to stay after school for either academic support or for extra-curricular activities.

The bus will pick middle school students up at 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, before going to Astoria High School and CMH Field.

The bus will pick up students from both John Jacob Astor and Lewis and Clark elementary schools as their after-school programs begin later in the year.

The activity bus will continue running throughout the school year as long as it is being used by students. Parents may be asked to meet the bus at a centralized drop-off.

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