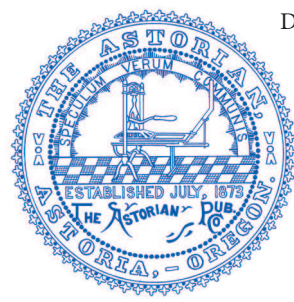


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



DAVID F. PERO, *Publisher & Editor*  
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*  
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*  
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*  
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*  
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*  
 HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*

## OUR VIEW

# Tourism-related DUIs illustrate pinch on resources

Tourism usually brings to mind the idyllic scenes of vacationers relaxing on the beach, strolling through town while visiting shops, enjoying the plentiful recreational activities and frolicking about at the numerous weekend festivals the North Coast has to offer.

The North Coast and the Long Beach, Washington, Peninsula are no longer secret destinations, and the past decade has ushered in a boom of visitors and tourism spending to both sides of the Columbia River. Local leaders who tout tourism growth point to the past two years and the clear financial impact tourism has generated, especially in Clatsop County. According to Travel Oregon, visitors to Clatsop County in 2015 spent \$539.6 million.

While some residents may wish there wasn't as much tourism occurring here, simply put, the tourism bell has been rung and people from other areas have heard it and responded. Like the line from the movie "Field of Dreams" goes, "If you build it, he will come." It's been built and they have come, and while some may wish it was otherwise and the coast could go back to the quiet days before the boom, that train has already left the station and won't be returning anytime soon.

### Need for balance

But there is a great need for balance between the two viewpoints because tourism brings negative side effects as well, like stress on public infrastructure along with traffic snarls, crowded beaches, shopping areas and restaurants that come with those dollars. One of the more serious — and potentially deadly — side effects is an increase in drunken driving and the danger it presents for other drivers as well as the strain it causes for police, prosecutors, probation officers, treatment providers and jail staff.

As The Daily Astorian reported Friday, nearly 40 percent of the DUI cases filed with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office each year within the past five years have involved people who live outside the county. So far this year, the number of DUI cases is on pace to surpass previous years — a figure likely influenced by the transfer of misdemeanor DUIs in Astoria to Circuit Court — and the number of out-of-towners in those cases hovers right at about 40 percent.

As District Attorney Josh Marquis points out, "The citizens of Clatsop County, who pay taxes, are subsidizing visitors in ways that go beyond our streets."

### Tourism taxes

Leaders in county government and the coastal cities need to be mindful and proactive in addressing the delicate balance between the local quality of life and the growth of tourism, along with issues like the DUIs that tourism presents. In all likelihood those issues will continue to grow along with the surge in the number of visitors and tourism spending.

Although it varies by jurisdiction, Clatsop County and cities within it generate revenue from tourism-based taxes, some more than others. In Cannon Beach for instance, more than 60 percent of the city's entire general fund is generated by tourism taxes, and portions of those tax revenues are earmarked for various quality-of-life residential services as well as tourism marketing.

The area's city and county leaders should examine how the tourism dollars that flow into their individual budgets are used, and they should ensure there is a continuing balance between tourism marketing and fulfilling the growing need to address the side effects like DUIs and the stress on public infrastructure.

Tourism and residential quality of life can coexist, but it will take proactive efforts to manage that delicate balance.

### Land of the free

Whatever happened to tolerance? The current presidential campaign strongly implies there are many Americans who would deport the Statue of Liberty, whose famous sonnet advises other countries to "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." I suspect that Donald Trump and his surrogates might prefer this version of the sonnet: "Give me your extreme-vetted and send only your smartest, best-connected and richest white people to our shores. No losers, no Mexicans and no Muslims, please."

That kind of hate speech might get rave reviews from the neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan, but no hurrahs from those of us who encourage admittance of people whose only asset may be the desire for a better life.

Think about it. Where would we be if Trump's opportunistic intolerance of other ethnicities prevailed

throughout our history? Sorry, Albert Einstein, Andrew Carnegie and Alexander Hamilton. Under The Donald's extreme vetting proposal, you wouldn't be admitted. Nor would film director Billy Wilder and Croatian-born Nikola Tesla, who gave the world alternating current.

Since Arnold Schwarzenegger's father, Gustav, was a Nazi and Arnold went AWOL from the Austrian army, serving a prison sentence, we'd have to terminate the Terminator.

Bid Gule gule (goodbye) to controversial TV Dr. Oz, who hosted Trump on his Sept. 15 show. Oz's Muslim parents are from Turkey and Mehmet speaks fluent Turkish. Whoa!

And (drum roll, please) we'd say sayonara to The Donald himself. Trump's grandfather, Friederick, was a draft-dodger who fled Germany to America, where he applied for citizenship in 1892, and lied about his age. Oops! Schadenfreude.

Others not admitted might include British-born Charles Chaplin and nov-

# Anchovy fishery is riddled with conflict

GUEST COLUMN

By DEBORAH JAQUES  
 For The Daily Astorian

The Daily Astorian article ("Anchovies pick up where sardine left off in Astoria" Sept. 20) painted a pretty rosy picture about the uptick in local commercial anchovy harvest. I was also initially excited to see fish going up the conveyor belt on the Riverwalk; it's nice to see a fishing town at work.



The people at Sea-A and fishing crew from Kodiak are friendly and show pride in their

work and product. Our anchovy wealth has also been reflected by the magnificent seasonal occurrence of marine birds and mammals feasting in our Columbia River Estuary, including brown pelicans and humpback whales again.

After being astonished to see that the new anchovy purse seiners were actually fishing in the river as far up as the bridge among the Buoy 10 fishermen, returning salmon, surfacing whales and foraging seabirds, I got an uneasy feeling and investigated further. I did internet research, listened in on the recent Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting, and contacted state officials and salmon fishermen.

As it turns out, this year's Columbia River anchovy fishery is riddled with conflicts. It is a massive extraction of these forage fish, unprecedented in decades, primarily for export to Asian markets.

At this scale, the fishery is potentially harmful to our local ecosystem, established local bait fishing businesses, ESA-listed salmon stocks, and is directly counter to state and federal efforts to reduce salmonid predation by seabirds. The anchovy take limits are not based on current scientific data regarding stock size; fisheries managers are only guessing at the ability of the stock to support the allowable catch. Since these fish have been a relatively untapped resource for commercial fishermen, absence of a stock assessment was not a pressing issue until market conditions changed, and the small, but mighty, fleet from Alaska came in to exploit the stock at its center of abundance.

This is taking place in the midst of unusual oceanographic conditions that may be constricting the range of anchovy and creating unusual densities of mature, egg-bearing fish in estuarine waters.

### 'Last resort'

Anchovy have been described as a fishery of 'last resort' by the California Wetfish Producers Association. Something to turn to after other species decline and fisheries are shut down. Following the closure of the West Coast sardine fishery, increased pressure on anchovy was fully expected. According to some analyses, the central stock of anchovy based off southern and central California has plummeted largely due to environmental change, yet fishing has continued.

The profit on harvest per ton of anchovy is Oregon is higher than it is in California, so it is not surprising that some purse seine boats shifted efforts north. The efficiency of the fleet to capture their daily capacity in our estuary is increased by the use of the use of spotter planes, cues from



Deborah Jaques/Submitted Photo

**Pelican swarm around a salmon-fishing boat in the Hammond Boat Basin in August. The author was conducting pelican surveys.**

pelicans, predictability of bait-fish movement with the tides, shoreline and freshwater boundaries, and ability to transfer excessive catch from one boat to another in relatively calm waters.

This new anchovy fishing effort has been described by a local salmon fishermen as akin to "shooting fish in a barrel," as well as a "train-wreck in motion." Until recently, the Oregon fishery has taken place in the absence of an observer program to monitor bycatch, including ESA-listed salmon.

### Harvest limits

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council sets federal harvest limits for coastal pelagic fish species and has set the acceptable biological catch for the northern stock, from San Francisco to the Canadian border, at 9,750 metric tons. This year that quota may be met over a period of a few months, and nearly all of it will have come from one place, our Columbia River estuary and mouth waters.

States have the right to reduce federally allowable take within their waters.

The state of Washington places priority on the ecosystem value of marine forage species. To protect the food web and existing small bait fisheries, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife years ago adopted regulations that impose daily and weekly possession limits for anchovy. The limits preclude development of the type of large-volume fishing operations that are taking place in Oregon this year. Washington rules limit the catch, possession or landing of anchovy to 5 metric tons daily and to 10 weekly.

Just one of the three new boats working the Columbia this year has been aiming for about 85 tons per day, as reported in the Daily Astorian. The accumulated tonnage of catch to date is not publicly available due to confidentiality concerns.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was apparently caught off-guard by this year's anchovy fishery and is moving forward on temporary adjustments to the rules, partly in response to testimony at the recent Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting where concerns were raised about ESA-listed salmon and local depletion of prey resources for dependent predators.

### Cormorant cull

Meanwhile, in a few days, federal Wildlife Services agents will resume shooting double-crested cormorants

in the Columbia River in response to a mandate from the NOAA under the guise of the ESA. The ODFW is one of the many state and federal agencies that developed and support the seabird control plan.

The bellies of the dead birds will probably mostly contain northern anchovy, but nobody will be looking at that.

The culling continues a now nearly 20-year-long campaign against birds, originally designed to reduce Caspian tern consumption of salmon smolts upriver and encourage greater reliance on northern anchovy in the estuary. Our government agencies are now allowing depletion of this same northern anchovy breeding stock, so it theoretically follows that breeding terns and cormorants may increase consumption of salmon in the coming years, which could result in more birds being killed and displaced.

How much sense does a large-volume commercial anchovy fishery make in light of the millions of tax payer dollars invested in controversial cormorant and tern control measures? These measures also result in harassment of brown pelicans and other nontarget animals that are not fairly disclosed.

The anchovy stock based off of the Columbia River is clearly critical to many marine wildlife species who migrate thousands of miles annually to feed on the fish in late summer-fall. Over 80 percent of all brown pelicans surveyed by the USFWS in Oregon and Washington occurred within the Columbia River Estuary in mid-September this year. Pelicans tend to know where the anchovy are.

The warm water Blob and other ocean anomalies that reduce productivity, have probably only led to greater importance of our estuary to fish and wildlife in the California Current system. Please contact the ODFW marine resources department and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council if you want urge more thoughtful stewardship and long-term protection measures for northern anchovy and the rich biodiversity that depends on it.

Public comments to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are accepted at [odfw.info@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.info@state.or.us)

Public comments to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council are accepted at [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

*Deborah Jaques is an independent wildlife biologist, owner of Pacific Eco Logic consulting, based in Astoria, and brown pelican specialist.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

elist Aldous Huxley, author of "Brave New World," and Haiti-born John James Audubon, whose father sired a number of mixed-race children.

That's just my short list of some who might be denied residence in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Since diversity and inclusiveness are what "make America great," we should admonish those who divide, demean, and demonize others. Otherwise, we make a mockery of "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

DR. ROBERT BRAKE  
 Ocean Park, Washington

### Age gracefully

"Aged we will all become," they say, "if we're lucky." But when we arrive on those weakened, eroded shores, where is the wisdom that is supposed to arrive in tow? For there is no wisdom in depending upon two legs, when three or four, or motor and

wheels are necessary.

Life is something you show up for, and where is the wisdom in not showing up for it because foolish pride won't let you accept the aid and assistance to do so? Where is the wisdom in an old person not wanting to appear old, then complaining how native tribes and Eastern societies hold their aged in high esteem?

Alas, where is the wisdom, after having lived a life fully able, to resent or deny the disabling nature of age, when others were never allowed the gift of being so able, or knew such a briefer moment in it?

Do you remember youth and all of its glories? Would you deny youth its glory, because you have aged out of it?

Let youth glory, let it lend a hand, as you once lent a hand.

Show up to the life you have, that is still possible, by whatever means you can. If it takes an extra hand or leg or motorized wheel or diaper, there's no shame in this. There is

only shame in prejudice toward the disabled, toward the aged, toward yourself.

A friend talks about seeing, in his Montana childhood, the old Indians who fought Custer in their youth. "They always rode with a long pole," he says, which they used to help them mount and dismount their horses. I wonder if these veterans of Little Big Horn were embarrassed by their pole?

M. ALEX "SASHA" MILLER  
 Astoria

### Homeless solution

I keep hearing about how much of an issue the homeless population is causing all around the area. A workable solution would be to put them to work, for pay. If they won't work, then make them leave the area. This worked when we had the Civilian Conservation Corps, and it would work now.

CLEVE ROLFE  
 Seaside