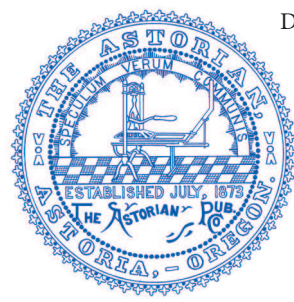


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## OUR VIEW

# Root for robust prospects for Astoria Marine

In business since 1924 and considered one of Oregon's most endangered historical assets, Astoria Marine Construction Co. has the possibility of five more years at its present Jeffers Slough site after a welcome offer of flexibility from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

The 8-acre site, nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its role in World War II and Korean War shipbuilding, plays an essential part in maintaining the Columbia River estuary's fleet of commercial fishing vessels. Without the well-honed skills of Astoria Marine's workers and the esoteric services offered by the shipyard, the basic underpinnings of our fishing industry could come undone.

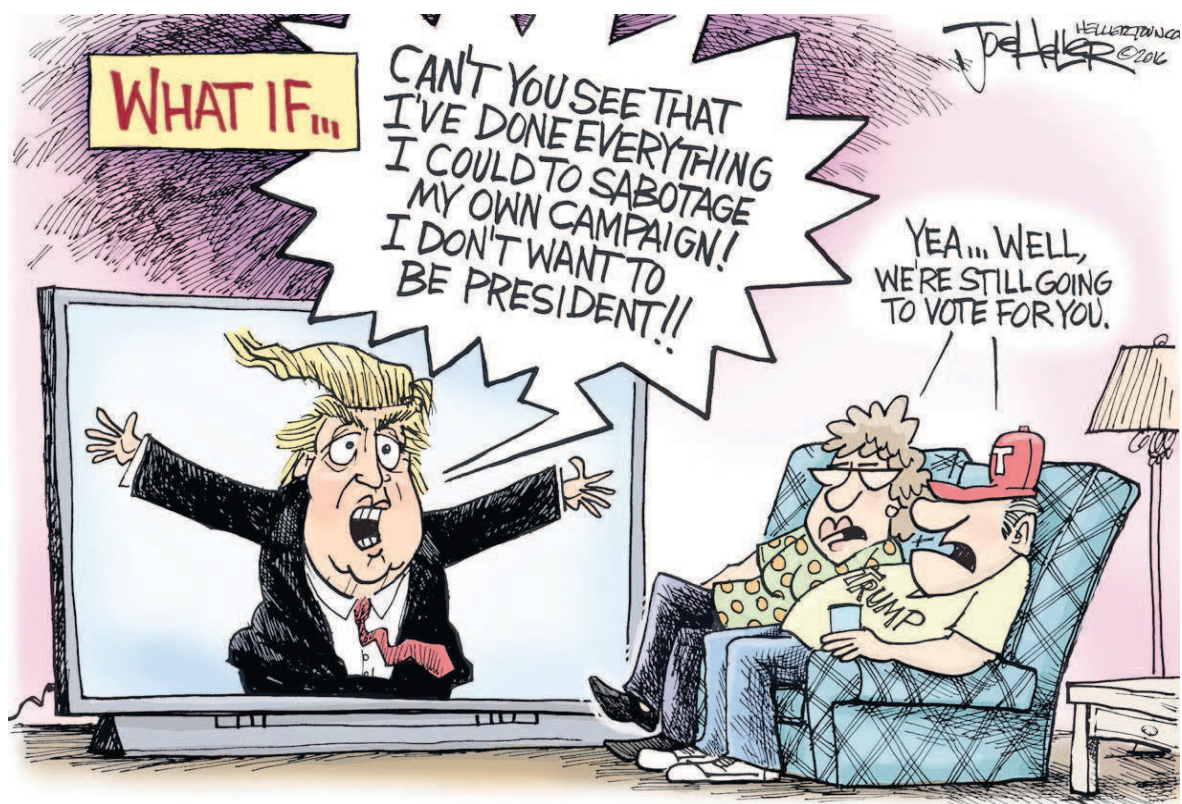
Pollution at the site, said to be isolated and not harming the Lewis and Clark River or surrounding property, is a legacy of past generations when there was a lack of understanding about the long-term consequences of releasing toxic pollution into the environment. Contaminants at Astoria Marine include petroleum, heavy metals, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and organotins. Nowadays, shipyards, including Astoria Marine, take great pains to keep things like old copper-based bottom paint out of the soil, water and air. But particularly in our nation's ferocious drive to win World War II, such considerations fell by the wayside.

Since the wars of the mid-20th century, Astoria Marine has been a responsible and valuable contributor to our region's economy. Clatsop Economic Development Resources has played a key part in finding at least a short-term path forward for the shipyard while local leaders seek a way for the company's principals, or someone, to develop a new shipyard. This will occur after contaminated soil at the existing location is capped or removed at a cost of \$2 million-plus. The extra time for transition is a noteworthy success for CEDR, which continues to mature into an essential voice for business on the North Coast.

Like the earlier restoration of Pacific Power and Light's old generating plant on the shores of Youngs Bay, the Astoria Marine cleanup has positive potential. Besides the peace of mind that many will appreciate from ensuring toxins are kept away, a thorough visioning process for our area's maritime future can include a variety of paths — from a new service center for vessels, to ideas for how to capitalize on our impressive heritage of fishing, boat building, sailing and ocean commerce.

It is worth noting in connection to the Astoria Marine story that the state of Oregon undercut both its customer base — and Clatsop County's broader economy — with former Gov. John Kitzhaber's poorly considered order to kill the mainstem Columbia gillnet salmon fishery. It will be welcome if DEQ's temporary reprieve for Astoria Marine translates into a more generalized sense of partnership and cooperation on the part of the state in keeping the coast's maritime industries viable and healthy.

It's also important not to lose sight of the fact that Astoria Marine's Tim Fastabend and others with the company have devoted amazing amounts of time, money and personal passion in preserving the shipyard and serving their customers. A 2013 feature on the firm, at the time when the Historic Preservation League of Oregon singled it out for attention and assistance, captured something of what a remarkably historic business it is. It would still be wonderful if a way can be found to keep Astoria Marine Construction Co. and its facility alive in some form.



Damian Mulinix/EO Media Group

Salmon return to the Nemah Hatchery on Willapa Bay in 2015.

# Salmon plan a mismatch

By HOBE KYTR  
 For The Daily Astorian

Have you ever wondered just how that salmon got to your table at the restaurant, or in the grocery store, or on your barbecue at home? Salmon not only have to swim through a lot of water, both fresh and salt, but a lot of regulations as well. But those regulations protect them, ensuring there will be salmon for future generations.

The following outlines how conservation of salmon works, particularly for the Columbia River, the greatest salmon river of them all. It covers a century and a half of how people have coped with changes in the natural environment, fluctuations in fish populations, ocean conditions, pollution, control of fishing operations, as well as a host of other issues, by developing laws and structures that help ensure their survival.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the states of Oregon and Washington each managed its own fisheries in the Columbia River. In order to more effectively manage Columbia River fisheries, both states passed legislation establishing a bi-state compact to manage Columbia River fisheries together in 1915. As required by Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress ratified the resulting Columbia River Compact in 1918.

Columbia River fisheries are managed concurrently under the Columbia River Compact by the joint management staffs of the Ore-

gon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife. Most of the Columbia River is under concurrent jurisdiction. For treaty tribal fisheries, the Columbia River Treaty Tribes are co-managers through the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. The Columbia River Compact also is advised by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fishery management on the Columbia River can be quite complex. Thirteen stocks of salmonids in the Columbia River Basin are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. And since multiple salmonid stocks run at the same time, all Columbia River fisheries are mixed-stock fisheries. The aim of orderly fishery management is to conserve weak stocks, and to target abundant hatchery stocks and healthy wild stocks. Listed stocks and other stocks of concern are defined as bycatch. Unintended deaths of bycatch are known as "impacts." Each fishery is allocated a certain percentage of impacts. When you use up your quota of impacts, you're done. Fishing season is over.

Since the early 1970s, steelhead have been defined as a game fish. Retention of steelhead is prohibited in commercial fisheries. The objective for commercial fisheries is to avoid handling them in the first place. During the mark-selective fishery for spring Chinook, test fishing determines when winter steelhead abundance is low, and adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook abun-

dance is high.

Most hatchery fish are marked as hatchery fish by an adipose fin-clip. The presence of an adipose fin means the fish is regarded as wild, and may not be retained under mark-selective regulations. During the fall Chinook season, big mesh gear is sized so that summer steelhead, which are more torpedo-shaped than fall Chinook, swim right through the net, thus limiting directly handling steelhead. It is arguably better not to handle fish you can't keep, rather than handling them, and risking subjecting them to release mortalities.

Under former Oregon Gov. Kitzhaber's plan for fishery reform, impacts formerly allocated to the commercial fishery have been incrementally transferred to the recreational fishery. But this did not increase participation in recreational fishing. Instead, participation in recreational fishing in the Columbia River has actually decreased below levels that existed before the Kitzhaber plan began to be implemented.

Since limiting impacts for the commercial fishery decreases the amount of target species available for harvest, fewer locally sourced fish are provided for the fish consuming public to buy. The result has been hatchery surpluses and over-escapement to the spawning grounds. The populations of Washington and Oregon are growing, and demand for locally sourced salmon has never been higher. The result of the Kitzhaber plan is mismatch between supply and demand, and wasted fish that used to be available for consumers to buy.

Hobe Kytr is Salmon For All's administrator.

# When facts, logic and history don't matter

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — And now, less than six weeks from the election, what is the main event of the day? A fight between the GOP presidential nominee and a former Miss Universe, whom he had 20 years ago called Miss Piggy and other choice pejoratives. Just a few weeks earlier, we were seized by a transient hysteria over a minor Hillary Clinton lung infection hyped to near-mortal status. The latest curiosity is Donald Trump's 37 snuffles during the first presidential debate. (People count this sort of thing.) Dr. Howard Dean has suggested a possible cocaine addiction.

In a man who doesn't even drink coffee? This campaign is sinking to somewhere between zany and totally

insane. Is there a bottom?

Take the most striking — and overlooked — moment of Trump's GOP convention speech. He actually promised that under him, "the crime and violence that today afflicts our nation will soon — and I mean very soon — come to an end."

Not "be reduced." End.

Humanity has been at this since, oh, Hammurabi. But the audience didn't laugh. It applauded.

## Not spur of the moment

Nor was this mere spur of the moment hyperbole. Trump was reading from a teleprompter. As he was a few weeks earlier when he told a conference in North Dakota, "Politicians have used you and stolen your votes. They have given you nothing. I will give you everything."

Everything, mind you. "I will give you what you've been looking for for 50 years." No laughter recorded.

In launching his African-American outreach at a speech in Charlotte, Trump cataloged the hor-

rors that he believes define black life in America today. Then promised: "I will fix it."

How primitive have our politics become? Fix what? Family structure? Social inheritance? Self-destructive habits? How? He doesn't say. He'll will it. Trust him, as he likes to say.

After 15 months, the suspension of disbelief has become so ubiquitous that we hardly notice anymore. We are operating in an alternate universe where the geometry is non-Euclidean, facts don't matter, history and logic have disappeared.

Going into the first debate, Trump was in a virtual tie for the lead. The bar for him was set almost comically low. He had merely to (1) suffer no major meltdown and (2) produce just a few moments of coherence.

He cleared the bar. In the first half-hour, he established the entire premise of his campaign. Things are bad and she's been around for 30 years. You like bad? Stick with her. You want change? I'm your man.

It can't get more elemental than that. At one point, Clinton laughed and ridiculed Trump for trying to blame her for everything that's ever happened. In fact, that's exactly what he did. With some success.

## Time bomb

By conventional measures — poise, logic, command of the facts — she won the debate handily. But when it comes to moving the needle, conventional measures don't apply this year. What might, however, move the needle is not the debate itself but the time bomb Trump left behind.

His great weakness is his vanity. He is temperamentally incapable of allowing any attack on his person to go unavenged. He is particularly sensitive on the subject of his wealth. So central to his self-image is his business acumen that in the debate he couldn't resist the temptation to tout his cleverness on taxes. To an audience of 86 million, he appeared to concede that he didn't pay any.

"That makes me smart," he smugly interjected.

Big mistake. The next day, Clinton offered the obvious retort: "If not paying taxes makes him smart, what does that make all the rest of us?" Meanwhile, Trump has been going around telling Rust Belt workers, on whom his Electoral College strategy hinges and who might still believe that billionaires do have some obligation to pay taxes, that "I am your voice."

When gaffes like this are committed, the candidate either doubles down (you might say that if you can legally pay nothing, why not, given how corrupt the tax code is) or simply denies he ever said anything of the sort. Indeed, one of the more remarkable features of this campaign is how brazenly candidates deny having said things that have been captured on tape, such as Clinton denying she ever said the Trans-Pacific Partnership was the gold standard of trade deals.

The only thing more amazing is how easily they get away with it.