

To help salmon, fish advocates want to kill some gulls

By COURTNEY FLATT
Northwest Public
Broadcasting

There are a lot of predators known to eat imperiled salmon, from sea lions to double-crested cormorants. For a long time, biologists thought gulls weren't a big part of the problem.

Now, they say that was a miscalculation.

"When some analysis was done, the impact of gulls — just in the section from McNary (Dam) to Bonneville (Dam) — nearly 20 percent of the fish taken were taken by gulls," said Blaine Parker, an avian predation coordinator with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

At first, biologists searched for pit tags — which are used to track salmon — near where gulls nested on a series of rocks near the confluence of the Deschutes and Columbia rivers. In the spring, when fish are migrating out to sea, gulls are commonly seen flying from the rocks to the Dalles or John Day dams,



Ronald Woon

Biologists think gulls are eating more juvenile salmon on the Columbia River than they realized. To help salmon, some fish advocates are proposing to shoot problem gulls during salmon migration.

Parker said.

But biologists never found any whole pit tags, just broken ones. Then they realized gulls have a sort of crushing gizzard, like chick-

ens. That organ was breaking all the pit tags. Gulls were eating more juvenile salmon, which meant fewer would make it to the ocean. "So at that point, the

lights came on, and people thought, 'Wow, we have a problem here,'" Parker said.

But, with all the other predators snapping up salmon, there hasn't been

much attention paid to gulls, Parker said. He said gulls are also believed to be eating juvenile steelhead.

The area Parker is concerned about, Miller Island, has up to 6,000 gulls nesting on it during spring salmon runs.

"It's almost like an express line going up the river," Parker said.

The solution he proposes? Lethal control of specific problem gulls, along with nonlethal harassment.

The dams already have bird wire and occasional pyrotechnics to scare away avian predators, but it's not doing enough, Parker said.

"Not all gulls are 'guilty' of eating salmon, but some of them are," Parker said. "And the ones that are routinely up in the (dam) tail-race eating salmon probably need better management ... But just those gulls specifically."

Gulls also steal fish from other birds, like caspian terns, Parker said. That doubles the amount of salmon eaten because the victim

bird must then replace its catch.

At the same time, Parker said some gulls can actually help salmon out. They're opportunistic eaters. Besides scavenging trash and French fries lost on the ground, gulls will eat other birds' eggs. They've helped keep the number of caspian terns at the troubled East Sand Island in check, Parker said. (Government officials have killed double-crested cormorants on the island to increase the survival of juvenile salmon.)

Any killing of gulls — referred to as "lethal management" or "lethal control" by the government — is a tactic the Audubon Society of Portland vehemently opposes.

"It's a continuation of a very unfortunate pattern of killing wildlife to protect other wildlife," said Bob Sallinger, conservation director at the society.

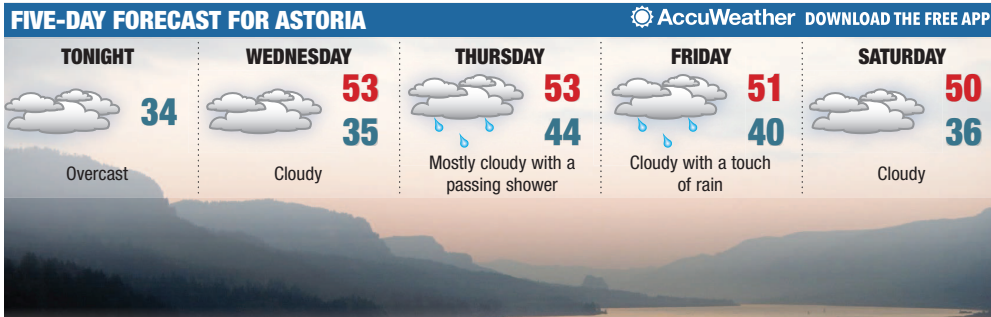
It's not the wildlife that's the problem, Sallinger said, it's the dams. Killing gulls, he said, is "pure scapegoating."

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY
Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., special meeting, Astoria Tran-

sit Center, 900 Marine Drive.
Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Commission, 1 p.m., City Hall, 163 E Gower St.



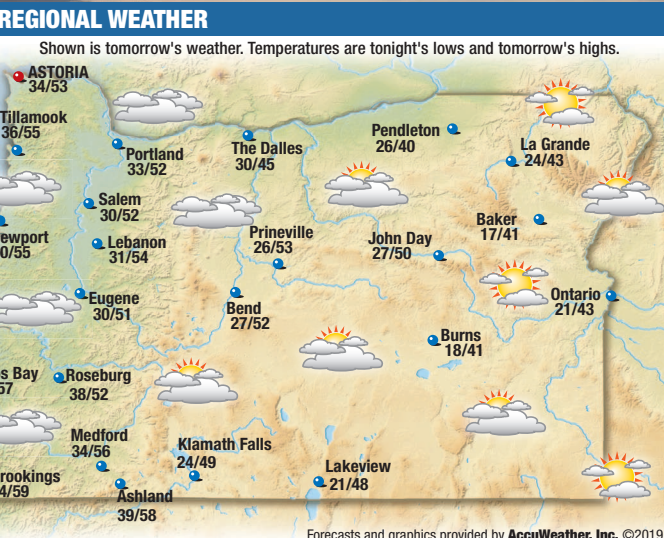
ALMANAC
Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

High/low	54°/40°
Normal high/low	51°/38°
Record high	64° in 1940
Record low	11° in 1969

Precipitation

Monday	0.00"
Month to date	4.33"
Normal month to date	9.31"
Year to date	4.93"
Normal year to date	9.31"



SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 5:16 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 7:41 a.m.
Moonrise today 2:36 a.m.
Moonset today 12:35 p.m.

Phase	Date
New	Feb 4
First	Feb 12
Full	Feb 19
Last	Feb 26

UNDER THE SKY
Tonight's Sky: Mercury at superior solar conjunction.

TOMORROW'S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks

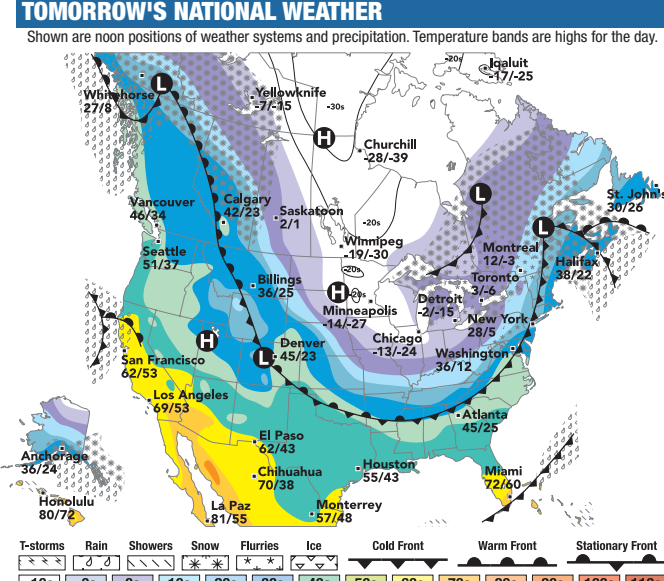
Time	High	Time	Low
8:52 a.m.	8.9 ft.	2:38 a.m.	3.3 ft.
10:27 p.m.	6.9 ft.	4:09 p.m.	0.7 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	44 24 sn	45 25 pc
Boston	35 32 c	35 7 sn
Chicago	3 -24 pc	-13 -24 s
Denver	33 13 pc	45 23 s
Des Moines	3 -21 s	-7 -19 pc
Detroit	14 -10 c	-2 -15 pc
El Paso	55 36 c	62 43 pc
Fairbanks	26 6 sn	15 -13 pc
Honolulu	80 70 r	80 72 sh
Indianapolis	15 -8 c	-1 -6 s
Kansas City	25 -7 pc	6 3 pc
Las Vegas	66 48 pc	65 47 pc
Los Angeles	72 51 pc	69 53 s
Memphis	37 22 s	31 22 pc
Miami	69 52 s	72 60 pc
Nashville	34 19 pc	26 16 pc
New Orleans	49 34 r	52 42 c
New York	41 23 r	28 5 sn
Oklahoma City	46 20 s	44 28 s
Philadelphia	41 26 r	30 7 sn
St. Louis	25 -6 pc	8 5 pc
Salt Lake City	38 21 pc	38 24 s
San Francisco	62 51 pc	62 53 r
Seattle	53 34 pc	51 37 c
Washington, DC	42 24 r	36 12 sn

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	41 17 pc	41 23 c
Bend	43 27 pc	52 30 c
Brookings	56 44 pc	59 43 c
Eugene	50 30 pc	51 33 c
Ilwaco	53 37 pc	52 40 c
Klamath Falls	53 24 pc	49 26 c
Medford	58 34 pc	56 38 c
Newberg	53 31 pc	53 33 c
Newport	56 40 pc	55 40 c
North Bend	57 41 pc	57 41 c
Olympia	49 27 pc	48 31 c
Pendleton	38 26 pc	40 29 c
Portland	51 33 pc	52 33 c
Roseburg	53 38 pc	52 38 c
Salem	53 30 pc	52 32 c
Seaside	54 35 pc	53 38 c
Spokane	33 20 s	33 23 c
Springfield	52 33 pc	54 35 c
Vancouver	51 30 pc	52 32 c
Yakima	44 23 pc	40 25 pc



DMV selling gray whale license plates

The Daily Astorian

The Department of Motor Vehicles is offering gray whale license plates to support Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute.

The state will begin taking applications on Friday for the plates, which feature a gray whale swimming beneath a lighthouse.

In addition to regular fees, the gray whale plate has a \$40 surcharge at first order and at each registration renewal. Customers who purchased one of the Marine Mammal Institute's vouchers in advance may submit it with their applica-



tion in lieu of the surcharge. Surcharges help fund marine mammal research and education at the institute.

Vanity and amateur radio operator versions will be available on the gray whale plate. DMV cannot reserve specific number-letter configurations and does not sell sample versions of the plates.

Apply for the gray whale plates by mail, at DMV field offices, online or through licensed vehicle dealers when purchasing a car. Customers cannot apply online if they are submitting a prepaid voucher and cannot replace vehicle plates through state Department of Environmental Quality emissions testing stations.

ON THE RECORD

- DUII**
- At 12:44 a.m. Monday, Olavi Elias August Nauha, 24, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police for driving under the influence of intoxicants after reports of a vehicle recklessly driving over 70 mph and crossing the centerline near McDonald's on Marine Drive. His blood alcohol content was 0.09 percent. He was also charged with reckless driving. A passenger was cited for minor in possession by consumption.
 - At 11:57 p.m. on Sunday, Christofer Hauer, 23,

- of Knappa, was arrested by Warrenton police near the intersection of Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101 and cited for DUII.
- At 7:29 p.m. on Sunday, Courtney Lisa Smith, 39, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police near 59 W. Marine Drive for DUII. Her blood alcohol content was 0.15 percent.
- At 7:29 p.m. on Sunday, Jason Wesley Ficken, 39, of Astoria was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on 35000 block of Fourth Lane and charged

- with DUII.
- At 9:45 p.m. on Saturday, Richard Gale, 62, of Warrenton, was arrested near the Mini Mart on E. Harbor Drive by Warrenton police for DUII.
- Assault**
- At 5:24 p.m. on Saturday, Joseph Gruhlkey, 31, of Astoria was arrested by Warrenton police at the Walmart in Warrenton and charged with assault in the fourth degree. Gruhlkey allegedly pushed an employee after he was instructed to not open merchandise in the store.

BIRTHS

Jan. 16, 2019
FRANK, Chelsey and Greg, of Warrenton, a girl, Briar Jo Frank, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Older sibling is Jett Frank. Grandparents are Don and Renee Gustafson and Cindy Junes, all of Astoria, and Tim and Karen Malinen, of Warrenton. Great-grandparents are Donna Gustafson, of

Astoria, and Joanne Seelig, of Warrenton.
Jan. 6, 2019
NOVAK, Catherine, and REIS, Michael, of Astoria, a boy, Cormac Lir Novak-Reis, born at home. Grandparents are Mary and Richard Novak, of Surprise, Arizona, and Nina Romero and Chris Skatell, of Gig Harbor, Washington.

DEATH

Jan. 26, 2019
KENYON, Karen, 80, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. A memorial will be held at a later time. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

LOTTERIES

OREGON	Monday's Megabucks:	Estimated jackpot:
Monday's Pick 4:	5-7-16-19-26-48	\$100,000
1 p.m.:	4-3-3-1	Monday's Keno: 05-12-16-17-19-23-27-29-36-37-40-41-45-49-54-58-60-62-68-74
4 p.m.:	0-1-0-9	Monday's Lotto: 09-34-35-37-41-46
7 p.m.:	3-0-3-6	Estimated jackpot: \$3.6 million
10 p.m.:	9-0-8-3	Monday's Match 4: 08-09-17-24
Monday's Lucky Lines: 1-6-11-13-18-23-25-32	WASHINGTON	
Estimated jackpot: \$31,000	Monday's Daily Game: 9-6-5	
	Monday's Hit 5: 03-08-18-27-36	

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