

Fish in suspected tsunami debris boat quarantined

PORTLAND (AP) — The wreckage of a fishing boat that appears to be debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami was carrying some unexpected passengers — fish from Japanese waters — when it was spotted off the Oregon coast.

Scientists say 21 yellowtail jacks and one Asian striped knifejaw hitched a cross-Pacific ride in the bow of the boat found last week.

Fish washed up in debris can bring parasites and diseases to native species, but biologists say the latest fish pose little threat. Still, they have been quarantined at the Oregon Coast Aquarium and will be available for public viewing.

It's not the first time that dislocated fish were found in Northwest waters.

Last month, a striped knifejaw turned up in a fisherman's crab trap off the Oregon Coast. And in 2013, biologists found five striped knifejaws alive in a water-filled bait box on a 20-foot-long Japanese boat washed up in southwest Washington.

Except for one fish that the aquarium in Seaside agreed to quarantine and exhibit, the rest of those fish were euthanized to minimize the risk of introducing invasive species to Washington.

The latest fish find was made by a recreational fisherman in a 30-foot section of what officials believe was once a 50-foot commercial fishing boat.

The wreckage was discovered about three miles off the coast near Ona Beach, towed to a boatyard in Newport and later moved to a landfill.

When it was still offshore, the boat was inspected by biologists who consulted with the state Fish and Wildlife Department, deciding the fish



A bow, believed by scientists to be tsunami debris, was discovered Thursday, April 14, 2015, about 3 miles off the Oregon Coast near the area of Ona Beach. The wreckage of a fishing boat that appears to be debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami was carrying some unexpected passengers, fish from Japanese waters, when it was spotted off the Oregon coast.



An Asian striped knifejaw swims in a quarantine tank at the Oregon Coast Aquarium on April 14 in Newport.

posed little threat to the Oregon coast ecosystem.

"They are probably not dangerous. They are a warm water fish, so they are not going to spawn in the cold waters of the North Pacific," said John Chapman, an aquatic invasive species expert at Oregon State University.

Still, scientists are not taking any chances and won't be releasing the fish back into the ocean, Chapman said.

During the four years since the tsunami, scientists have found about 300 marine species that have drifted to the Oregon shore inside or attached to debris, Chapman said.

Finding live fish in tsunami debris is significant, Chapman said, because scientists previously predicted that live organisms would not drift across the ocean on floating objects.

The fact that they do means they may be bringing parasites and diseases that could affect native species on the West Coast — something scientists must monitor closely.

"We don't want things to be introduced that are beyond our control," Chapman said. "Those kinds of parasites and diseases can wipe things out."

Already, biologists found that the blue mussel, a common organism on tsunami debris, carries parasites. Thus far, there is no evidence these parasites have become established in native oysters, clams and other species, but the danger exists.

BROWN: Supports creation of \$50 million water development fund

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Brown said.

Kitzhaber and former first lady Cylvia Hayes face federal and state criminal investigations into allegations they used their public positions to benefit Hayes' consulting business. Kitzhaber has maintained that he is innocent. Due to the timing of Kitzhaber's resignation, there will be an election in 2016 to determine who will serve the final two years as governor, before the regular 2018 gubernatorial election. Brown has not said whether she will seek election in 2016, although she was previously widely discussed as a potential candidate in 2018.

"As of today, I have visited eight communities in eastern, central and southern Oregon and the mid-Willamette Valley,"

Brown said.

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The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Columbia fishery managers project strong fall salmon season

East Oregonian

sockeye

Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington are expecting another huge return of fall salmon up the Columbia River in 2015.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is forecasting 925,000 fall chinook and 540,000 coho salmon — shy of last year's run that totaled 1.159 million chinook and more than 900,000 coho, but a whopper nonetheless.

In fact, if those predictions are accurate, it would mark the third-highest chinook returns since record keeping began in 1938. That's good news for anglers looking forward to another successful season on the river.

Here's a breakdown of the summer and fall salmon seasons on the Columbia from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon-Washington border:

Summer chinook and

Anglers can keep fin-clipped summer chinook, steelhead and sockeye from June 16 through July 31. The daily bag limit is two adults and five jacks. Jacks are defined as measurement 12-24 inches long. All sockeye are considered adults, and must be recorded as adults on the combined tag.

Fall chinook and coho

Anglers can keep adult chinook (fin-clipped or not), coho and fin-clipped steelhead from Aug. 1 through Dec. 31. The daily bag limit is three adults, of which no more than two may be coho or steelhead, and five jacks. All coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be fin-clipped.

Seasons may be subject to change based on actual fish returns. For more information, visit the ODFW website at www.dfw.state.or.us.

BRIEFLY

Donations needed to help make Pendleton bloom

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Downtown Association is seeking donations as it again prepares to purchase and maintain 60 flower baskets in downtown Pendleton mid-May through mid-October.

"This 2015 Downtown Showers of Flowers launch and success again depends upon community

support with their gracious donations," said Bill Dochnahl, spokesperson for the association, in a press release.

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the City of Pendleton (sent to 500 S.W. Dorian Avenue, Pendleton, OR, 97801, c/o Finance Department) which is working in partnership with the Association in this beautification effort. According to Dochnahl, a donor check's memo section should read "Showers of

Flowers." The Association will thank contributors in an advertisement for helping to make "Downtown Showers of Flowers" successful again

this year.

For more information: contact Bill Dochnahl at 509-521-7388 or Linda Bisnett at 541-377-0123.



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Congratulation to Stephen Garner,



the winner of The Great EAST OREGONIAN Easter Egg Hunt

He correctly found all 15 Easter eggs that were hidden in the Saturday April 4th edition of the East Oregonian and won a \$25 gift certificate from The Saddle Restaurant.

Thank you to all readers who participated in the hunt.

If you have a great idea for a contest and would like to share it with us, we would love to hear it.

Please contact Jennine by email: jperkinson@eastoregonian.com or bring it by the East Oregonian, 211 SE Byers, Pendleton, Oregon 97801