

Cormorant harassment aims to protect young fish

Harassment, or “hazing,” of double-crested cormorants is set to begin soon in several areas along the Oregon Coast in an effort to improve survival of juvenile salmon.

Double-crested cormorants are fish-eating waterbirds that occur throughout the state. The species is an Oregon native, and is particularly prevalent on the state’s estuaries during April through October.

Research indicates cormorants can consume significant numbers of juvenile salmon during this time period.

To reduce the threat to young fish, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is

working with several nonprofit and local governmental organizations to haze cormorants on six coastal estuaries over the next two to four months.

Hazing will involve driving the birds from locations where juvenile salmon are seasonally concentrated, toward areas where non-salmon fish species are more abundant. Workers will use boats and on some estuaries, small pyrotechnics, to accomplish the task.

Hazing is intended to increase the survival of both wild-spawned and hatchery salmon juveniles as they migrate to the ocean. Some of these spring migrants represent

species that are experiencing conditions of conservation risk, including coho salmon, which is federally threatened in Oregon under the Endangered Species Act.

Hazing workers are being provided by the Clatsop County Fisheries Project, Port of Nehalem, Port of Bandon, North Coast Salmon and Steelhead Enhancement Fund, and Alsea Sportsmen’s Association.

ODFW will provide a portion of the funding and program oversight, and may conduct some hazing operations itself to protect hatchery releases on the lower Columbia

River and other locations.

ODFW has coordinated the cormorant hazing project for the last nine years, although cormorant hazing in some form has occurred at some Oregon estuaries intermittently since 1988.

Hazing will continue through May 31 on the Nehalem, Nestucca, and Coquille river estuaries, and on Tillamook and Alsea bays. The program will continue through at least July 31 on the lower Columbia River, where hazing will occur at a variety of locations, including Young’s Bay, Blind Slough, and Tongue Point.

Coastal Gem Walkers announces April jaunt

The Yachats Coastal Gems walking group invites the public to join the group on April 3, in Florence, to explore both sides of Honeyman State Park along the shores of Woahink and Cleawox lakes in a beautiful and peaceful park setting.

Dogs are allowed on walks but must be on a six-foot non-extendable leash to walk with us and owners must carry and use appropriate cleanup materials.

The 5K (3.1 miles) walk is rated 1B for fairly level footing on natural trails. The 12k (7.5 miles) [all three sections] walk is rated 2B for those

same trails and a couple of easy hills.

We cheerfully walk at your pace and leave no walker behind. Walking sticks and sturdy shoes recommended. Call Maryann at 541-961-4279 for more information or email us at yachatscoastalgems@ gmail.com.

The Yachats Coastal Gems will meet first at the Sportsman, located at 249 Highway 101, at 9:45 a.m. then drive to the walk at 10 am. Though the group often carools, do not leave vehicles in the Sportsman parking lot during the walk.

Little from 1B

Consider the instate rivalry between Oregon and Oregon State University. My choice dates back o the days of Dan Fouts. He was a record-setting quarterback for the Ducks. He went on to play for the San Diego Chargers.

Oregon State, under Dee Andros, ran a boring full-house double-tight offense.

Bill “earthquake” Enyart the fullback ran left or right. The power football was the same year after year.

So I root for the Ducks.

Many times the civil war is not so civil. Fans on both sides behave inappropriately. My daughter has friends attending both schools. Her Oregon friend gave her an Oregon “O” for Christmas. She placed it in the back window of her truck.

While visiting some friends in Corvallis and attending an Oregon State basketball game (not against Oregon), she discovered her truck had been keyed. The “O” was scratched repeatedly. Her tail light was also busted. Vandalism in the name of school spirit is unac-

ceptable and costly.

Many Oregon fans choose a professional team to follow. Oregon is a rural state with only Portland large enough to have a major sports team. The Portland Trailblazers are our only major sports team and are in first place this year.

The NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB professional teams cover our country with games the year round. Whether you like one sport or all sports does not matter.; you have every right to display your team or teams on logos in public.

Dare I mention the first amendment?

I have favorite teams and individuals in all but the NHL. The fights distract from the game of hockey. Olympic hockey I can watch and cheer for the USA.

It is sometimes difficult to be a fan of professional teams today. Too many players switch teams in quest for the ring and more money.

In my opinion, the NBA has become too physical. The MLB seasons go on forever with each game lasting over three hours. — and the NFL has become not so instant with all

the replays.

I find myself gravitating to the college game in all three sports. However, I do have favorite players and teams in three professional teams:

My favorite NFL players are; 1.) Dick Bass, Rams 2.) Jim Brown, Browns 3.) Bart Starr, Packers 4.) Ray Nitiechz, Packers 5.) Roger Starbaugh, Cowboys 6.) Joe Montana, 49ers 7.) Jerry Rice, 49ers 8.) Dan Marino, Dolphins 9.) Walter Peyton, Bears 10.) Fran Tarkington, Vikings 11.) Troy Aikman, Cowboys 12.) Brett Favre, Packers, and 13.) Aaron Rogers, Packers.

My favorite NFL team is Dallas Cowboys.

Favorite NBA players are 1.) John Havlicek, Celtics 2.) Bill Russell, Celtics 3.) Larry Bird, Celtics 4.) Bill Bradley, Knicks 5.) Oscar Robinson, Royals 6.) Clyde Drexler, Trailblazers 7.) Jerry West, Lakers 8.) Magic Johnson, Lakers 9.) Scottie Pippen, Bulls 10.) Michael Jordan, Bulls 11.) Stephan Curry, Warriors 12.) Elvin Hayes, Rockets, and 13.) David Robinson, Spurs.

My favorite team is Boston Celtics

My favorite MLB players: 1.) Lou Gehrig, Yankees 2.) Sandy Koufax, Dodgers 3.) Greg Maddox, Cubs 4.) Tom Seaver, Mets 5.) Nolan Ryan, Rangers 6.) Dale Murphy, Braves 7.) Chipper Jones, Braves 8.) John Smoltz, Braves 9.) Rod Carew, Twins 10.) Kirby Pucket, Twins 11.) Yogi Berra, Yankees 12.) Willie Mays, Giants, and 13.) Roberto Clemente, Pirates.

My favorite team is the Atlanta Braves.

Remember: all fans have a right to cheer for their team. So do you and I.

Respect their right and behave in a positive manner.

After all it is just a game.

Unless I am playing...

Local charter fisherman to speak about catching tuna

The April Salmon Trout Enhancement (STEP) meeting will feature David Huntington of Hunting Fish Charters. He will speak on fishing for tuna off the Oregon Coast.

Each year, the warm pacific currents bring tuna in reach of Florence fishermen.

Huntington will talk about where to fish and what gear is needed to catch tuna out of the ocean. He will also discuss the care of the fish at the boat and back in port.

For anyone who has ever wanted to go tuna fishing, this is an opportunity to learn how to fish for them from an experienced fishing guide.

Florence STEP meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month in the back room of the Florence Elks club.

The next meeting will be April 4, beginning at 7 p.m.

The public is always welcome at the STEP meetings.

For more information, call Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.



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