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"The extent to which we could ever detect an impact to angler catch is hard to say, given all of the other variable sources of juvenile salmon mortality that occur during their juvenile life stage," Knutsen said. "Even a 5 percent population impact could be significant during periods of extended low salmon population abundance."

One of the techniques used by the ODFW to protect growing fish is called "culling." This term usually refers to the tracking and killing of bird species that interfere or reduce the ability of human anglers to catch fish.

The most frequent subject of this type of population management is a common sight along the Siuslaw River — the double-breasted cormorant.

The cormorant is an indigenous bird and a talented swimmer that will often submerge for a minute or two, bobbing to the surface with a shiny, wiggling fish squirming in its bill.

The birds grow a bright white crest during mating season, which gives them a very distinctive look. They are very social, often gathering to dry their feathers on stumps and deteriorating poles and trees along the river — and with the Siuslaw River Bridge as backdrop.

One of the main constituent segments that the ODFW is working to include in their decision-making process is the state's growing aquaculture industry.

The Oregon Aquaculture Association and other trade associations have lobbied state representatives to aggressively protect baby fish to increase the fishable numbers of adult fish. As a result of these concerns, culling of cormorants

began a few years ago at locations on the Columbia River. Under cover of darkness. With no public notification given as to times or locations of the hunts.

These nighttime kills were targeted at adult cormorants that were living in fertile fishing areas, so they would not compete directly with human fishers.

This practice was the source of great public concern and ODFW officials were castigated for the program by many non-fishers.

ODFW said the reason for the killing was to ensure that baby salmon would have the opportunity to grow and be caught by recreational anglers, without the danger of becoming cormorant food.

Population management uses other methods — such as "egging," smothering of cormorant eggs in corn oil, and "hazing," a non-lethal technique that uses pyrotechnics to scare the birds away — from an area that has young fish populations.

It is possible that hazing is a technique that could be used in Florence in the future.

The issue of how many birds is too many birds is one that is constantly on the table at ODFW. The numbers of egrets, blue herons and cormorants in Florence continues to increase as the river re-establishes the food chain used by all of the creatures that live along its 110-mile length.

There are numerous issues related to the increase in bird populations which will require decisions be made by the leadership at ODFW, that many may ultimately find unpleasant and even unnecessary.

Historically, the Siuslaw River has

Cormorants can be seen sunning themselves at various locations on the Siuslaw River.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

been used to transport hundreds of thousands of logs from upriver in Mapleton to the mills in town where they were processed for sale. These millions of board feet were then loaded onto barges for transport to ports around the country and the world.

Cormorants were considered a nuisance at this time and were routinely shot on sight.

Anything that was even remotely considered an impediment to development was eliminated.

The Siuslaw also served as the watery "road" used to move tons of canned fish from packing companies in Florence to large barges off shore that took the fish to San Francisco and beyond.

The resulting debris and commercial waste created by these endeavors polluted the river and the adjoining estuary to the point where fish taken from the water in the 1970s and '80s were often unhealthy to eat.

Meanwhile, there have been many changes in the way we humans interact with the Siuslaw in the last 20 years. One of these changes is the public's attitude towards sea-birds.

Most of the bird species that live along the Siuslaw were previously hunted. The birds were also severely impacted by the widespread and often indiscriminate spraying of DDT-based pesticides and weed killers.

Fortunately, that situation has reversed itself over the last 30 years or so, as the fiscal engine for Florence has shifted from an industrial-based model,

to one primarily dependent on tourism and recreation.

Knutsen said the numbers of cormorants in the estuary has been estimated for the past few years.

"ODFW surveys double-crested cormorants in 12 coastal estuaries (including the Siuslaw) to document annual abundance and to monitor abundance trends over time. There have been approximately 100 double-crested cormorants on average occupying the Siuslaw estuary between 2012-17. Obviously, there have been times when this number has been much higher as well as much lower ... but the average has been around 100," he said.

The bird populations in and around the Port of Siuslaw have been one of the groups most positively impacted by a cleaner, more animal-friendly environment. Evidence of the popularity of "birding" was the recent Vision Quest "Get Wild" educational forum at the Siuslaw Public Library and the following day's bird identification hike held at the Siltcoos Recreation Area. Both workshops were full, and interest was high.

There remains some cause for concern among birders and other residents that live along the Siuslaw as the counting of cormorants is ongoing and may lead to change in strategy when dealing with the challenge posed by the cormorants.

Knutsen was reserved when asked about the prospect of hazing or even culling being employed in the future. He said a greater concern would be that double-crested cormorants from large population centers, such as the Columbia River or from other coastal estuaries, would migrate into the Siuslaw estuary.

"ODFW does not have plans to cull cormorants in coastal estuaries," he said. "Federal authorization through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required if this were ever to be a management option in the future. We will continue to monitor populations along the coast for the foreseeable future to develop a better understanding of status and population trends."

For more information, visit [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us).

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ORGANIZATION

All of this would lead one to believe that there is some master plan by the white supremacists that is being carried out with precision. According to Michaelis, that's far from the truth.

"Hammerskins were kind of loosely organized," he said of the organization he helped create. "There would be meetings and picnics, but it was an excuse to drink."

Like Antifa, many of the white supremacists didn't have a typical hierarchy. They liked it that way.

"I was never much one for titles and stuff, like 'commander,'" Michaelis said. "They just want to act like they got their s--t together."

In fact, particularly in his early years, Michaelis said he was hostile to any sort of leader.

"We had no hesitation beating up anyone who tried to challenge our top of the heap. That happened quite a bit," Michaelis said.

However, the Church of the Creator was a bit more organized. Michaelis liked its ideology and the money it put into the movement. But even the organization's recruiting was rag-tag.

"They would pick a town, tell their followers to go there. They would hand out magazines. Those who were interested got invited to a party, get them drunk and have them hand out more magazines. That's really all there was to it," he said.

Michaelis likened it to a failure of organizational culture.

"Our organizational culture is hate and violence," he said. "Go figure, but that's not going to make for the most functional organization."

MOVING ON

"When you hurt people, it hurts you," Michaelis said. "It damages who you are. It traumatizes you."

The brutal beatings he doled out — and took — wore on Michaelis. Doubts began to creep into his mind. He had worked with minorities, who had "worked their a--off," he said.

They would show up on time and sober, things that Michaelis couldn't do.

A Jewish man hired Michaelis and his friends, despite the fact they wore swastikas. "Over and over again, I see people being better than we were. Every day. I denied it and would read a white power book or blast my white power music," he said. "I was constantly fleeing reality in order to maintain the facade of white supremacy."

And then there was the television show Seinfeld. It was one

of his favorite shows at the time and watching it every week was one of his few joys.

His girlfriend worked on the night it premiered, so Michaelis taped it.

"But I couldn't very well write Seinfeld on the tape," he said. "If my white power buddies came over and saw it on the bookshelf I would be a race trader for enjoying this essential Jewish humor."

So he labeled the tape his daughter's second birthday party, knowing that no one would ever ask to watch that.

His girlfriend was also a skinhead, and his daughter was born, in part, because they felt it was their duty as white people to do so. A year and a half after the child was born, Michaelis said he was exhausted and looking for any excuse to get out.

"That excuse came in the form of another friend of mine being shot and killed in a street fight. It was just a few months after I became a single parent when my daughter's mother and I broke up."

So, he took his child and left.

"I felt a huge sense of relief and freedom when I walked away from them," he said. "You believe those things as long as you're in it and spending all the energy to deny all the contrary information. Once you stop expending that energy, just the flaws of the ideology become so glaringly obvious that it wasn't difficult for me to set it aside."

He spent some time trying to forget, but he couldn't handle it.

"My motivation to start talking about my story was self-preservation," Michaelis said. "It was destroying me to pretend it never happened. I just couldn't do it."

So, he started to tell his story. He helped form Serve 2 Unite, healing many deep wounds. He's done work in preventing this ideology from spreading to the next generation. He has told his story to millions of people through books and cable news appearances. And hopefully, he said, he's inspired some of those whom he left behind to reach out for a different life.

"I do regret hurting people and doing so much harm," he said. "By accepting the regret and processing it with compassion, I can be at peace. I feel driven to serve, to heal, to listen, learn and connect. There's a bit of atonement still, but it's incidental."

When asked about how he views the current state of affairs, Michaelis said he was optimistic. He holds a rock-solid faith in the basic goodness of humanity, and that the human condition today is far better than what is was 50 years ago.

"I don't believe there's any



In June, Florence Rotary Club donated to help pay speaker fees for the upcoming "Gift of our Wounds: Forgiveness After Hate" event.

Compassion event gets Rotary donation

The Florence Rotary Club made a \$500 donation to help pay speaker fees for the upcoming Serve 2 Unite event. "Gift of our Wounds: Forgiveness After Hate" will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 15, at 6 p.m.

Ex-white supremacist Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Kaleka, whose father was killed in a hate crime, say compassion is our most effective tool to fight hate.

"We especially encourage the youth in the community to come hear this important message," said event organizer Nora Kent, who received the check from new Rotary Club President Mike Webb.

Pizza will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but donations will be accepted.

Donations to help pay for bringing the program to Florence will be accepted.

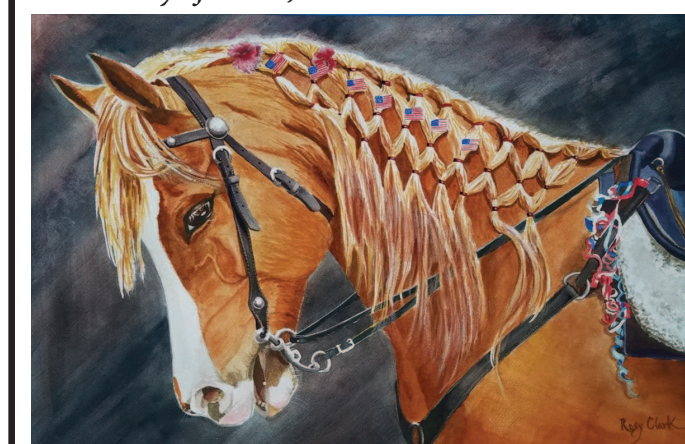
problem that can't be solved if we're not terrified of each other," he said. "However, as it's always been in human history, it's been two steps forward, one step back. There's always going to be people who are terrified of change. I believe that all human spirituality is a means of finding peace with change."

But it's not an easy task. "I think that right now, we have an opportunity to have the conversation as a nation that we needed to have for so long," Michaelis said. "That's the only way we can heal and move forward." Michaelis, along with Kaleka,

will be speaking at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, located at 3996 Highway 101, on July 15 at 6 p.m. for "Gift of Our Wounds: Forgiveness After Hate." Pizza and refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. The event is free to anyone, but donations will be accepted.

In the next installment of this monthly series on intolerance, the Siuslaw News will be reaching out to local spiritual leaders to discuss what intolerance is, if it has a purpose, what they see of intolerance in society now and if there is a way through.

In Memory of Tehan, An Arabian Prince. 1983-2017.



Loved Forever

Advertisement for 'Of Florence GOLF LINKS' featuring a wine tasting party. The ad includes the logo, a photo of wine bottles and glasses, and text: 'Featuring Wines from Chateau Ste Michelle', 'Date: Thursday July 26, 2018', 'Time: Welcome wine poured at 5:00 pm', 'Food: Four course meal featuring Salmon with dill sauce, fennel, and mushroom risotto as our main entrée', 'Cost: \$110. Per couple', 'Reservations: required and accepted at 541-997-1940 Ext. 5', 'Limited to first 44 guests. We recommend signing up early as this popular event will sell out', 'Wine: Available for purchase by the bottle or case', 'We look forward to a wonderful evening of wine, food, and FUN!!'

Advertisement for Western Lane Ambulance District. Text includes: 'Western Lane Ambulance District', 'Invites You to LEARN CPR', 'CPR Certifications', 'Adult CPR - \$50.00', 'Child Infant CPR Supplemental - \$25.00', 'Total - \$75 for both', '2nd Saturday of every month', '9am to 1pm at Western Lane Ambulance District', 'IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911', 'Call 541-997-9614', 'www.westernlaneambulance.com', 'LIFE MED' logo.