

## Ocean salmon fishing looks a bit brighter for 2018

Ocean salmon anglers will have better opportunities this year based on recommendations made Tuesday during a Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Portland.

Sport salmon fishing in the ocean off the Columbia River opens June 23 and is expected to run through Labor Day unless salmon quotas are reached earlier.

“While this won’t be a banner year for ocean salmon fishing, overall it’s an improvement from 2017,” said Chris Kern, an administrator for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. “This is particularly true for communities on the Southern Oregon coast, which were hit hard by 2017’s salmon closures.”

The council’s recommendations now go before NOAA Fisheries for approval and implementation.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will be asked to adopt matching rules for state waters (those inside three miles) at their April 20 meeting in Astoria.

“I want to thank the many advisers, tribal members, agency staff and members of the general public who all worked hard to ensure that conservation goals for

salmon stocks are met while providing fishing opportunities for communities up and down the West Coast,” Kern said.

The area from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain opened for Chinook on March 15 and will remain open until Oct. 31.

The forecast for coho is down this year for both the Oregon Coast and Columbia River, largely due to poor ocean conditions.

Sport fishing for hatchery coho will be open from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain from June 30 to Sept. 3 or until the quota of 35,000 fish is met.

A short season for wild and hatchery coho in this area is scheduled Sept. 7-8 and each Friday and Saturday after until Sept. 29 or the quota of 3,500 coho is met, which may happen quickly.

Unlike the full closure to salmon fishing last year, the area south of Humbug to the California border will open to sport fishing for Chinook from May 19 to Aug. 29.

Commercial troll fishing for Chinook will be open intermittently along the whole Oregon Coast from May through summer.

## Work set to begin on school bond measure

BY CINDY YINGST  
The Columbia Press

The school board voted unanimously Wednesday night to take all necessary steps to put a bond measure on the November ballot.

The Warrenton-Hammond School District will ask voters to tax themselves for 20 years in order to buy land in an uplands area, construct a new school compound and repair and upgrade current facilities.

While the exact amount hasn’t been determined, the district is likely to need \$32 to \$37 million over the next two decades.

The board’s action Wednesday gives the superintendent the authority to hire an attorney to advise them on the bond, to negotiate real estate contracts and to contract for services such as communications consultants and engineering.

“Ultimately, what we’re looking at is a plan covering 15, 18 and up to 20 years to move all our facilities to up-

land properties,” Superintendent Mark Jeffery told board members.

After purchasing property, a new campus for grades six to eight would be built and those students moved. That would immediately relieve crowding at Warrenton Grade School, which now serves students in preschool through eighth grades. This could be done within three years of the bond’s passage.

Within 10 years, a new high school campus would be built on the new property. Within 20 years, the elementary school campus would move into new facilities there as well.

Things such as the bus barn, the fish farm and even the new career training building soon to be constructed at the high school can stay in their present locations.

The district is running out of room at both of its campuses and both sit near wetlands and tsunami inundation zones. Later this year, regulations go into effect that will prevent

the district from doing any future building at those campuses. Modular classrooms are an exception.

“If we don’t go out for a bond, what other measures are we doing to have to take in the district to cover the growth,” board member Greg Morrill asked.

While there’s no more room for modular classrooms at the grade school, they could be put on the track or two-story modulars could be brought in, Jeffery said. A tsunami-proof structure could be built, but that, too, would require extra funding.

“If we were never to pass a bond, we’re going to run out of space,” he said. “As it is, we have to get creative.”

The district qualified for a \$4 million grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program should the bond pass.

“If we don’t go out in November, we’d miss out on the \$4 million match?” Morrill said. “That’s a nice chunk of change.”

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