

Strong management of fisheries works, oversight committee contends

Rigorous management practices have helped rebuild depleted fish stocks worldwide, according to a new report.

Nine of ten West Coast groundfish stocks have successfully rebuilt since the stocks were declared overfished or depleted in 1999.

Most recently, the stock of cowcod was declared rebuilt, or at sustainable levels, in 2019, decades ahead of the expected date. Only one fish, the yelloweye rockfish, is under a rebuilding plan, and yelloweye are rebuilding faster than expected, according to a 2017 rebuilding analysis.

"Identifying Management Actions that Promote Sustainable Fisheries" was published recently in the journal "Nature Sustainability."

Greater investment in fisheries management leads to better outcomes for fish and the fisheries they support, accord-

ing to Chuck Tracy, executive director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, which manages commercial and recreational ocean fisheries on the West Coast.

The agency was one of 24 international management and research entities collaborating on the study.

The study was led by Michael Melnychuk, a research scientist at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington.

"Rebuilding these overfished stocks was a painful process for West Coast fishermen," Tracy said. "This study shows that their short-term sacrifices paid off in the long run, leading to more sustainable fisheries for future generations."

Beginning in 2000, the Pacific council adopted stringent management measures to achieve stock rebuilding success, including large area clo-



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Commercial fishing vessels dock at Warrenton Marina.

sures; low annual catch limits, quotas, and harvest guidelines; gear modifications; retention prohibitions or limitations; and adaptive management practices responsive to closely monitored fishery impacts and stock fluctuations.

The management practices are key to promote sustainable fisheries, according to the Uni-

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versity of Washington study.

"Rebuilding these stocks required collaboration between a lot of different people, from fishermen to scientists to environmentalists," council Chair Marc Gorelnik said. "It was a

tough process, but in rebuilding these stocks, we also built long lasting, valuable relationships. Responsible fisheries management requires sacrifices, but it pays off. This is a really hopeful story."

According to Melnychuk, the study confirmed what many researchers already expected.

"In general, we found that more management attention devoted to fisheries is leading to better outcomes for fish and shellfish populations," he said. "While this wasn't surprising, the novelty of this work was in assembling the data required and then using statistical tools to demonstrate what everyone has always taken for granted to be true."

Research was funded by The Nature Conservancy, The Wildlife Conservation Society, the Walton Family Foundation, and a consortium of Seattle fishing companies.

Innovators: Couple opens small-business incubator lab in Warrenton

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room with welding and metallurgy equipment, and a computer lab. Soon he'll have a certified kitchen for bakers and others who want to sell food to the public.

Eventually, walls and shelves in the space will be filled with works by artists and others that can be purchased by the public. Money from sales could be used to help support the artists or to pay for time using equipment.

"My idea was, 'let's use all the stuff we have at home and let people use it to create stuff,'" Nina said. "We're just excited to let people create and do whatever they want."

Travis, 35, was born in Astoria and graduated from Warrenton High School in 2003. Nina, 32, is a 2006 WHS graduate.

He has built up their finan-



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Work spaces and sewing machines line the wall of one room at Vegabond 3D.

cial stability working remotely as a systems developer for Sweden-based Ericsson, one of the world's premier information and communication technology companies. But no one starts at the top.

He began teaching himself computer programming as

a child. At 15, he established his first small business. His early adulthood was spent working in the canneries and then for several medical companies.

His love of technology and drive to learn new skills led him to acquire many tools,

Vegabond 3D

The new business is at 7 N. Highway 101, next to The UPS Store.

Visitors are encouraged during this month's daily open house tours. "Makerspace" work areas and memberships officially begin March 1.

For more information, call 503-861-8530.

both mentally and physically. He continues to teach himself new skills and is working on a smart watch that could help those with childhood traumas or mental roadblocks retrain how they think.

"This is my workshop and I'm opening it up to others," he said.

The couple is eager to share what they know, helping others to become successful.

In addition to work tools, their space is filled with self-help and self-train books and STEM- or science-based toys for children.

"We really want to appeal to anybody and everybody," Nina said.

They will mentor those wanting to learn new things or start businesses of their own.

And they want to teach children to be thinkers. Their own children, Candace, 14, Xan, 12, and Xavier, 9, are home-schooled and spend part of their day learning in Vegabond's computer lab. Plans are to organize weekly community days for home-schoolers at the center.

"The universe just told me to do it," Travis said of the new work center. "I realized this is what I'd been doing all these years, working up to this."