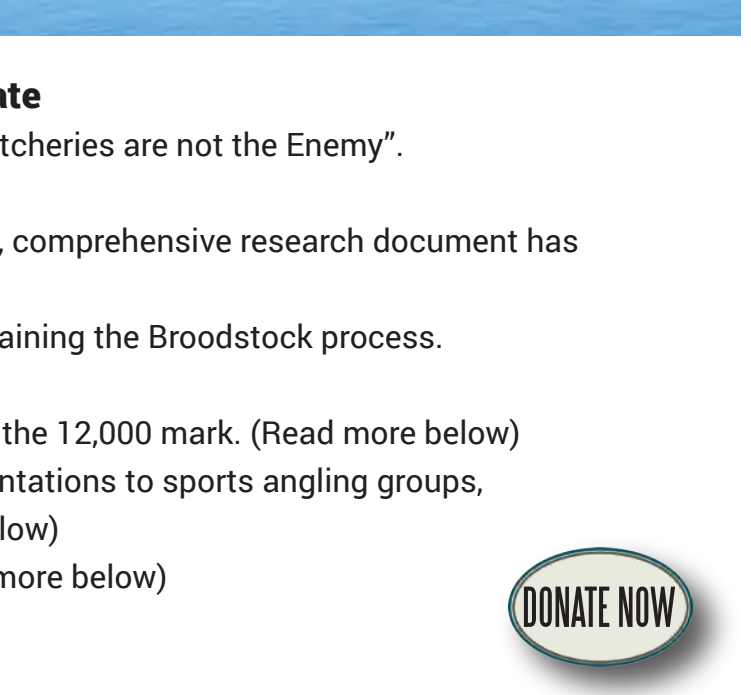


# Hatchery & Wild Coexist Backlash

Newsletter for an organized reaction to the errant anti-hatchery agenda.  
<https://hatchery-wild-coexist.com>

**In this issue**  
Campaign Update  
"What does HWC do?"  
Latest video premiered  
Broodstock Advocacy  
Economic Study Released  
North Umpqua close call  
New study supports our Mission  
Partner Profiles



- ### Hatchery & Wild Coexist Campaign Update
- H&WC recently premiered its second film, "Hatcheries are not the Enemy". (Read more below)
  - Two years in development our commissioned, comprehensive research document has been published. (Read more below)
  - H&WC published the first detailed primer explaining the Broodstock process. (Read more below)
  - Our Facebook and Instagram fans surpassed the 12,000 mark. (Read more below)
  - H&WC volunteers have made dozens of presentations to sports angling groups, businesses and broadcasters. (Read more below)
  - Hatchery & Wild Coexist's 2023 plans. (Read more below)

**DONATE NOW**

### What we do and why we do it.

H&WC's pro-hatchery narrative is fueled by peer-reviewed research, recent data and current science. Our mission is to highlight the importance of hatcheries and the positive contributions they provide; both recreationally and economically. We do not apologize for focusing on the information that is complimentary to hatcheries including sharing any science showing that hatcheries are an effective tool in wild fish recovery, enhancement and providing abundant fisheries.

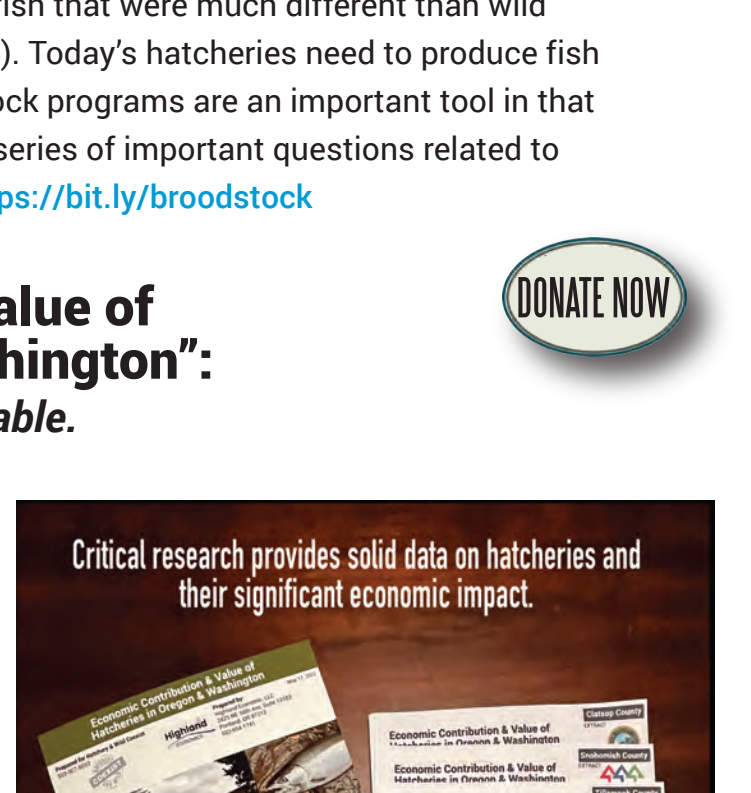
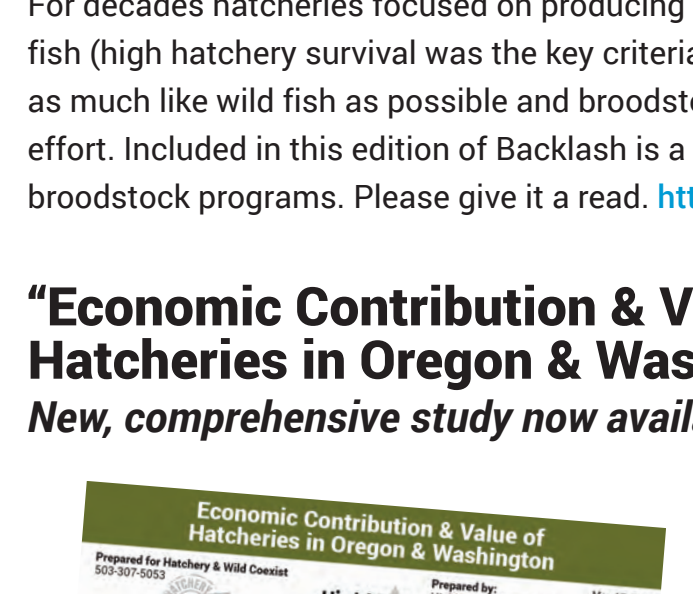
Anti-hatchery efforts focus on the science that suggests hatchery fish are bad for wild fish. Much of that science is outdated, does not reflect changes in hatchery management and is hypothetical. In other words, it suggests that "if this happens, then this *might* happen." But the reality is, things are not working out the way this hypothetical science suggests. You will find several examples on our website and on our YouTube channel. HWC is sharing the pro-hatchery science with policy and decision makers and **we need our supporters to help share it widely**. It is up to all of us that want abundant fisheries to be involved.

### HWC produced videos on our YouTube Channel.

HWC released its first video "Benefishal" which counters the errant and misguided information contained in Patagonia's "Artifishal." If you haven't seen it yet, here's a link: <https://youtu.be/qelRB92jD54>



Our second film debuted early summer. "Hatcheries are not the Enemy" explains why we have hatcheries, how hatchery practices have evolved, and the important role today's hatcheries play in wild fish recovery and providing abundant fisheries. We have also launched several short "infomercial" type videos focused on the non-angling public. It is important that folks outside the sportfishing community understands the connection between hatcheries and the fish they eat. If you haven't seen it yet, here's a link: <https://youtu.be/bow4zc2Cpao>



### The Hatchery & Wild Coexist Coalition has promoted the expanded use of wild broodstock programs.

See full booklet at: <https://bit.ly/broodstock>

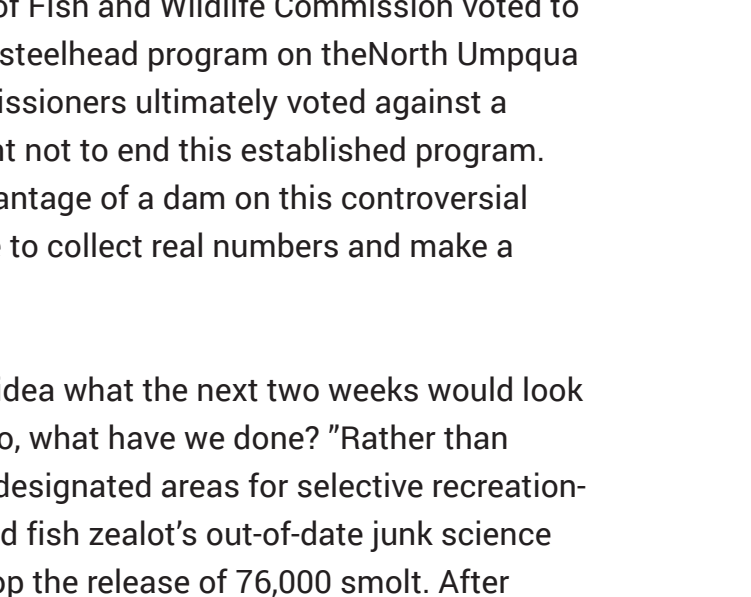
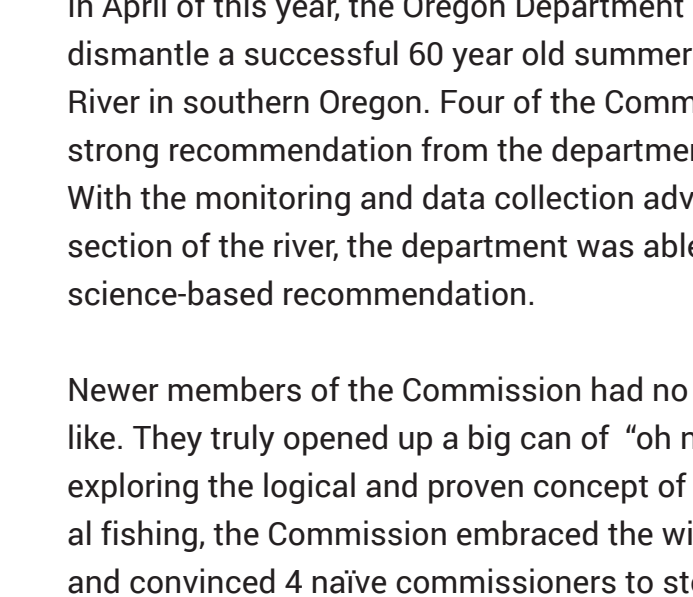


### HWC has promoted the expanded use of wild broodstock programs. Are they working? What are the advantages? Are there disadvantages?

Yes, and there are many examples in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. For decades hatcheries focused on producing fish that were much different than wild fish (high hatchery survival was the key criteria). Today's hatcheries need to produce fish as much like wild fish as possible and broodstock programs are an important tool in that effort. Included in this edition of Backlash is a series of important questions related to broodstock programs. Please give it a read. <https://bit.ly/broodstock>

### "Economic Contribution & Value of Hatcheries in Oregon & Washington": New, comprehensive study now available.

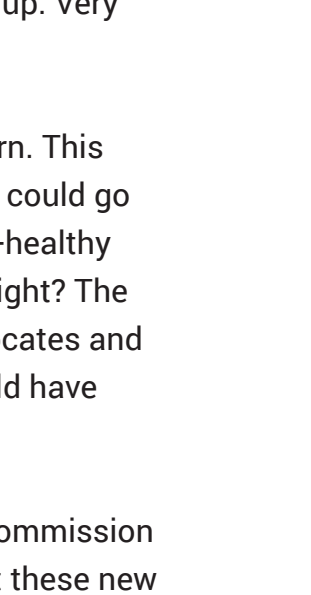
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Please go to: [www.hatchery-wild-coexist.com](http://www.hatchery-wild-coexist.com) or scan this to access our study.

Two years in development, this 60-page study researched by Highland Economics is packed with real data gathered from 2020 to 2022. Our goal was to provide the public and our lawmakers with economic facts on the impact that our Northwest hatcheries have on Oregon and Washington economies and the citizens and businesses that are critical to a very large sport fishing industry. The Hatchery & Wild Coexist Coalition is providing free access to the entire document as well as extracts for 12 specific counties in both states. Please go to [www.hatchery-wild-coexist.com](http://www.hatchery-wild-coexist.com) or scan this to access our research.

### How 3 very disappointed Northwest tribes, thousands of riled up sportfishers and a homegrown injunction saved 76,000 summer steelhead smolt.



In April of this year, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to dismantle a successful four year old summer steelhead program on the North Umpqua River in southern Oregon. Four of the Commissioners ultimately voted against a strong recommendation from the department not to end this established program. With the monitoring and data collection advantage of a dam on this controversial section of the river, the department was able to collect real numbers and make a science-based recommendation.

Newer members of the Commission had no idea what the next two weeks would look like. They truly opened up a big can of "oh no, what have we done?" Rather than exploring the logical and proven concept of designated areas for selective recreational fishing, the Commission embraced the wild fish zealot's out-of-date junk science and convinced 4 naive commissioners to stop the release of 76,000 smolt. After testimony, a majority of the Commission was convinced that fin-clipped hatchery fish consistently interfered on the redds with wild fish during spawn cycles. They claimed that this phenomenon reduced wild fish abundance and, in turn, altered the genetics of the wild's progeny. This was simply not true. Wild stocks and hatchery fish were not overlapping in their spawn cycles in any significant numbers.

The following week was not pretty for the Commission on 3 levels:

- Several heated meetings ensued with the local tribes and several of the Commissioners that voted to close the program.
- Thousands of emails deluged the Commissioner's email boxes.
- And the kill shot came in the form of a very effective and timely legal injunction.

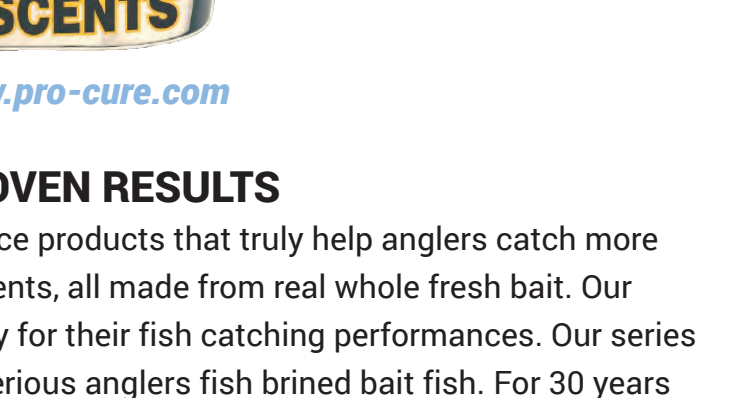
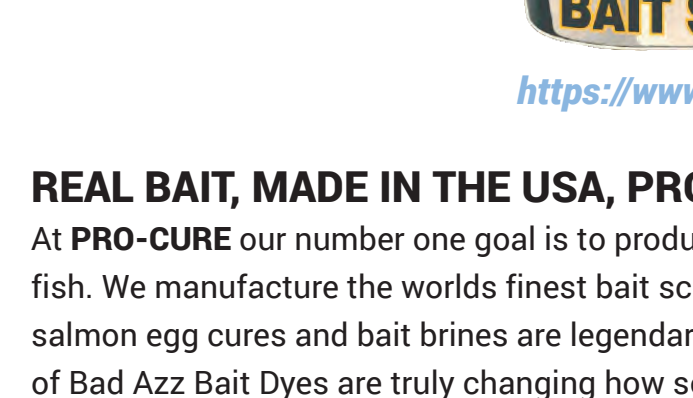
**DONATE NOW**

A lawsuit in the form of an injunction was filed in southern Oregon near the impacted Rock Creek Hatchery. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission decided it was time for a special session and a re-vote.

**Not too fast.**  
In a matter of a few days, a wise judge ruled in favor of the injunction and within nine days 76,000 smolt were released and began their journey to the Pacific Ocean. They will return as 6 to 20 pound adult steelhead. But for the tribe's pressure, the injunction filing and organizations like Hatchery & Wild Coexist and several others activating their members, those fish would have ended up in a remote lake. Belly up. Very expensive bird food. Biomass.

At a predictable mortality rate of 1.5 to 2%, less than 1,000 adults will return. This outcome hinges on predation, ocean conditions, over-harvest, poaching, (I could go on) If you were to ask most anglers Oregon, they would tell you that 1000+ healthy steelhead into coastal trib is better than zero. Economics 10. No brainer, right? The Commission's original action would have bolstered our anti-hatchery advocates and their baseless, outdated "science". It would have set a precedent and would have made subsequent confrontations more difficult.

Upholding the original vote would have made it easier for this particular Commission to support the ongoing attack on our Northwest hatcheries. It is likely that these new Commissioners will remember the day they crossed three tribes and heard from thousands of sport fishers that took the time to write to Salem. Ultimately, a home



**The fate of the North Umpqua's Rock Creek Hatchery is back on the table.**

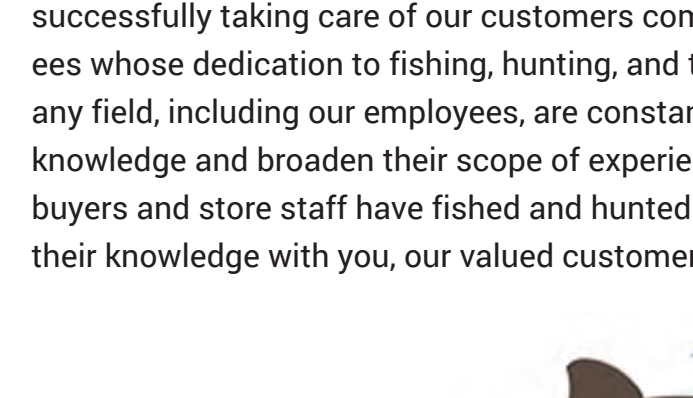
**Last month** ODFW's Commission voted 4 to 3 to shut down Rock Creek Hatchery's summer steelhead smolt program.  
**Late last week**, ODFW commissioners voted to convene a special session to reconsider the viability of that hatchery program.

**North Umpqua Steelhead Smolts Released!**

Thanks to the Tribes. Thanks to the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement and Scott Worsley for filing the injunction. And thanks to the thousands that took the time to send the message; **Hatcheries are not the Enemy!**

**When we get loud, we move the dial.**

**Just a couple of our social media posts published during this process of retaining Rock Creek Hatchery's summer steelhead program.**



Together, we can make a difference!

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Order our new, embroidered Richardson 112 hat & hoodie. Get a free Polar Camel hot/cold insulated cup!



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Facebook: [Hatchery Wild Coexist](https://www.facebook.com/hatchery-wild-coexist) INSTAGRAM: [hatchery\\_wild\\_coexist](https://www.instagram.com/hatchery-wild-coexist)

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