Autumn

Backlash

Newsletter for an organized reaction to the errant anti-hatchery agenda.

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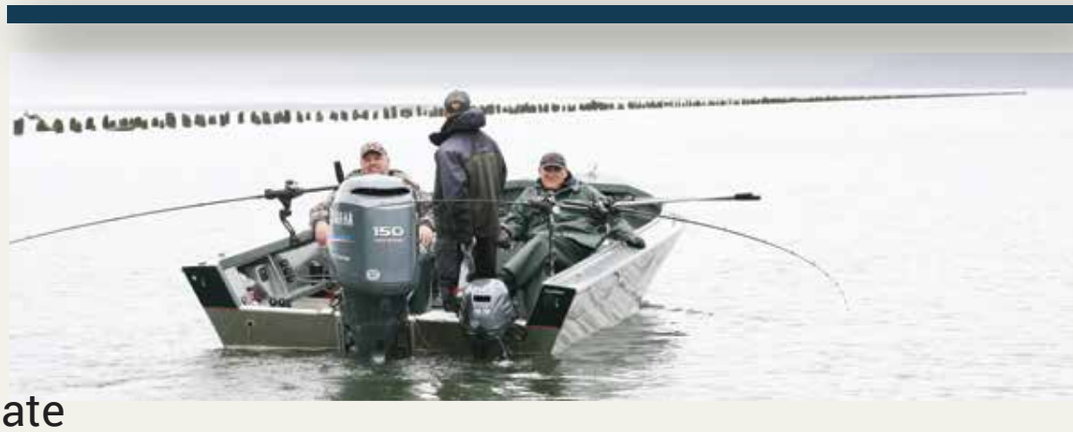


The "Backlash" Newsletter is published for H&WC supporters in order to keep you informed and ready to advocate for our hatcheries and wild fish. We provide regular quarterly updates and special editions when issues or events require more timely attention. Our focus will be on providing information that is current, relative and interesting. Your feedback and suggestions will help drive content so please let us know what you think at: **donmnew@gmail.com**

UPDATE

OREGON'S HATCHERIES UNDER SCRUTINY

The Oregon legislature has launched a comprehensive review of the state's hatchery system and the outcome will likely have significant implications on future fishing opportunities.

Fact: Oregon's hatchery system produces approximately 35 million salmon and steelhead and about 5 million trout annually for release into rivers and lakes throughout the State.

Fact: Over 70% of the salmon and steelhead harvested annually in Oregon begin their lives in a hatchery.

Fact: Without hatcheries there essentially would be no opportunity to catch and keep salmon, steelhead or trout in Oregon.

Fact: Oregon hatcheries generate almost $250 million annually in economic value and help support approximately 3800 jobs statewide. Their economic significance is higher in rural communities.

Fact: Oregon's hatcheries are in desperate need of repair and updating. Currently Oregon's hatcheries are faced with a deferred maintenance need exceeding $100 million.

Hatchery Resilience Plan Update: Key Findings and Involvement

Members of Hatchery Wild Coexist have been actively involved in the development of Oregon's Hatchery Resilience Plan. We understand the plan's critical impact on the future of salmon, steelhead, and trout, and are committed to ensuring positive outcomes for both hatchery and wild fish.

Our group has participated in earnest thus far, engaging in discussions that will shape the plan's direction. Several key reports from the contractor have already been released and they offer insights into the current and future needs of Oregon's hatcheries:

Hatchery-Origin Fish: Hatchery fish are vital to Oregon's fisheries, contributing significantly to the harvest of steelhead, Coho Salmon, and Chinook Salmon. For example, over 70% of the spring Chinook harvest comes from hatchery fish.

Mitigation and Conservation Programs: Hatcheries support both mitigation programs—which offset habitat loss from human activities—and conservation efforts aimed at helping threatened species. Climate change is a growing concern, making hatchery programs essential for fish population resilience.

Regulatory Compliance: **Hatcheries interacting with endangered species follow strict regulations under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Oregon's Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) ensure these programs protect wild fish populations while maintaining operational success.**

As Phase 2 of the plan continues, HWC will be at the table to make certain our voice is heard. Final recommendations from the contractor are scheduled to be delivered to the legislature by early 2025.

For more information, complete reports, and webinars, visit: **Read more**

We can choose to stay on the sidelines and watch this play out then complain if it doesn't go our way, or we can be proactive and actively involved in the process and do what we can to help ensure a positive outcome.

The Hatchery & Wild Coexist campaign is committed to providing updates on the process and information shared by the Department as soon as it becomes avaiable.

Current Situation with Leaburg and McKenzie Hatcheries

As discussed in previous issues, the Leaburg Dam is facing likely removal, which could jeopardize water supplies for Leaburg and McKenzie hatcheries. The Conser-vation Angler (TCA), alongside other environmental groups, has raised concerns about hatcheries contributing to warm water discharge into the McKenzie River. However, efforts are being made by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and other stakeholders to address these concerns and make hatcheries more sustainable.

During a recent interview with Pat Hoglund, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Executive Director, Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director of ODFW, emphasized the importance of ensuring that Oregon's hatchery system is both environmentally responsible and economically viable. She noted that while improvements in water quality management are essential, ODFW is working diligently to ensure that hatchery reductions do not lead to long-term damage to recreational fishing opportunities or local economies.

Colbert also pointed out that ODFW is committed to maintaining production at facilities like Leaburg and McKenzie for as long as they are viable, but she acknowledged that the removal of the Leaburg Dam, which is slated to begin in 2032, presents a major challenge. "We're exploring all available options to ensure that these hatcheries can continue supporting fish populations, even if significant infrastructure changes are required," she stated.

Important Update: Leaburg and McKenzie Hatcheries Temporarily Closed
Leaburg Hatchery and McKenzie Hatchery are temporarily closed to comply with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality permit conditions. Visitors should be aware that no fish are currently present in the facilities' production raceways or show ponds, as fish have been transferred off-site. However, there has been no change to trout stocking in Willamette Valley waterbodies, and there have been no reductions in trout or salmon production as a result of this shift. Trout and Spring Chinook for release in 2025 will be returned to the facilities in November, and hatchery operations are expected to return to normal at that time.

On March 6th, 1907, the State of Oregon bought the land along the McKenzie River between Leaburg and Vida for $518.07. Within a few short months, the State of Oregon built and opened the McKenzie Fish Hatchery. A little over twenty years later the original hatchery building was updated and replaced, but the original superintendent's residence still stands today and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The McKenzie Fish Hatchery finally closed in 1953 when a new hatchery with updated equipment opened across the river, but in its time, it raised millions of fish.

Anglers can still park in designated visitor parking areas at Leaburg Hatchery and drive through the facility to access nearby fishing spots.

How did we get here?

Striking a balance between conservation and fisheries

Recent actions by The Conservation Angler (TCA), Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC), and Willamette Riverkeeper (WRK) have raised significant concerns over water quality issues tied to hatchery operations on the McKenzie River. These groups successfully challenged the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) permits for the Leaburg and McKenzie hatcheries, arguing that the facilities were releasing water that was too warm for native species like bull trout and Spring Chinook salmon.

While these lawsuits focus on protecting water quality, it's critical to remember the essential role that hatcheries play in maintaining fish populations for recreational anglers and supporting local economies in Oregon. The closure or restriction of these hatcheries without adequate planning can have devastating ripple effects. Hatcheries have long been a tool for balancing the ecological impact of dams and mitigating the loss of natural spawning grounds for species like Spring Chinook and steelhead.

At Hatchery Wild Coexist, we believe in striking a balance between wild fish conservation and the support of hatchery fish to maintain robust fisheries. These efforts ensure continued recreational fishing opportunities while maintaining commitments to native fish recovery.

Call to Action: Collaborative Conservation

The future of these hatcheries, particularly with the removal of the Leaburg Dam expected by 2032, raises questions about how fish populations will be managed moving forward. It's imperative that ODFW, USACE, and other conservation groups work together to find solutions that preserve fish populations while protecting river ecosystems.

Informative links:

Links to full Studies and articles:
Johnson Creek Study CLICK HERE

BC/Wild Broodstock Study CLICK HERE

Brent Lister Study CLICK HERE

Clackamas River Study CLICK HERE

Reproductive Diversity Study CLICK HERE

"Don't blame Hatcheries for the declines in Wild Fish" CLICK HERE

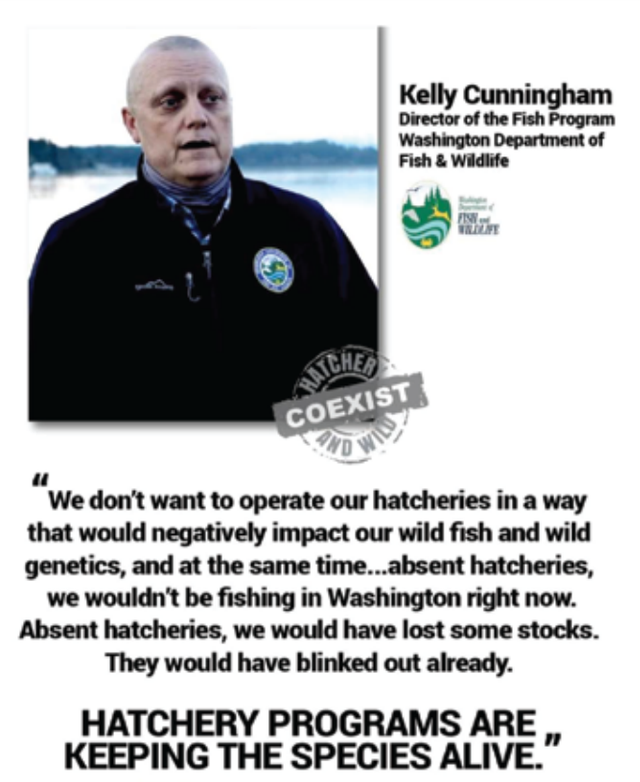
Supportive breeding boosts natural population abundance with minimal negative impacts on fitness of a wild population of Chinook salmon. CLICK HERE

Columbia River Basin: How it ended ending fishing and closing hatcheries change wild salmon and steelhead abundance? CLICK HERE

What does H&WC do?

HWC provides the pro-hatchery facts and science. Our mission is to highlight the importance of hatcheries and the positive contributions they provide. We do not apologize for focusing on the information that is complimentary to hatcheries including sharing the 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 suggest hatchery fish are bad for wild fish. A lot 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 the hypothetical science suggests and there are lots of examples. 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.

https://hatchery-wild-coexist.com



Link to our 15 minute video, *"Hatcheries are not the Enemy"* Watch Video

H&WC's next video in production

"Wild Brood Stock"

Underwritten by our generous friends at Oregon Anglers Alliance and ProCure, production of our 2024 video is in editing. We have interviewed early wild brood stock pioneers, lawmakers, ODFW biologists, Idaho tribe biologists, anglers, professional guides and business leaders. We plan to launch the video before the end of the year and make it available on YouTube and Vimeo.

Our goals are to educate viewers on the long-term benefits of wild brood stock programs, present facts and science to support brood stock efforts and to help procure funding for wild brood stock programs at the state and local levels

Partner profiles

Click Here to View Edge Rods

Congratulations!

Composite Ventures, a manufacturing leader in the fishing industry and parent company of North Fork Composites and Edge Rods, proudly welcomes Stryker Rods and Blanks to its family. This strategic move reinforces Composite Ventures' commitment to innovation and excellence while further solidifying its position as a key player in the fishing gear market.

Game Fish Beware! (:

HATCHERY COEXIST AND WILD

COAST®

Quality for a century

Our Approach

The COAST way. Listen, design, build.

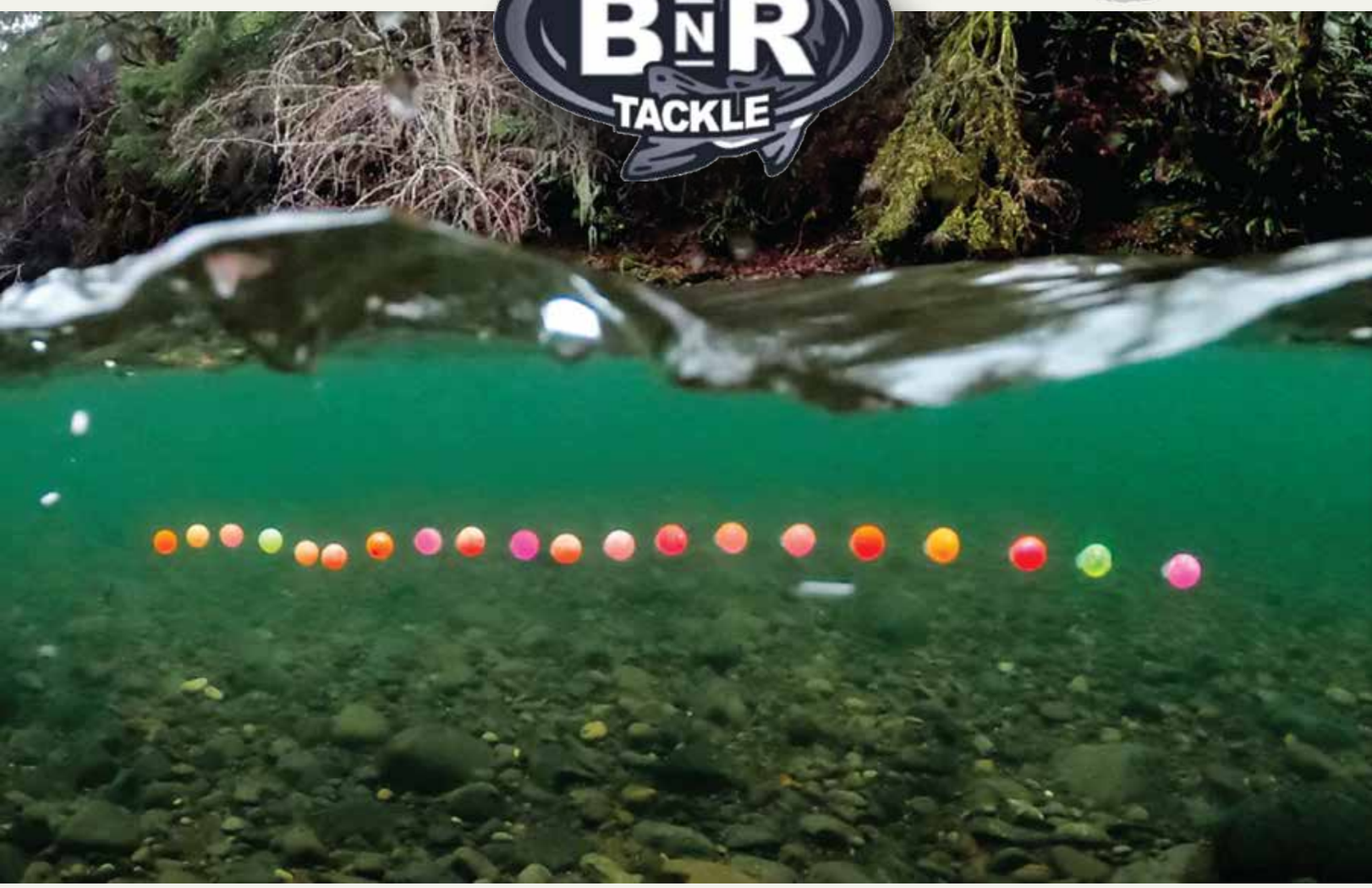
That's how we meet real-world work problems with smart, durable answers. When Henry W. Brands, our founder, first talked to fisherman and dockworkers, he discovered they had a problem to solve. So he went home and designed the answer: a sharper, more durable fillet knife suited specifically to the job. That's still how we do it today—whether it's a headlamp worn on the oil rig or a flashlight carried by law enforcement.

Click Here to view Coast Voice Activated Headlamps

New Coast voice-activated headlamps.

HATCHERY COEXIST AND WILD

BnR TACKLE



Together with Industry Leaders

We are a pacific northwest based salmon and steelhead company owned and operated by brothers Brandon and Ryan with a deep passion for fisheries. Our focus is on developing unique products in conjunction with some of the top anglers in the industry. Their feedback enables us to provide products that meet the specific needs of our fisheries. BnR Tackle flagship products are manufactured in-house allowing us to focus on specialized product development of colors and designs specifically tuned to our fisheries. **BnR Tackle Website**

MERCHANDISE

Every dollar spent in this store is reinvested in our effort to save Northwest hatcheries and preserve our iconic wild fish.

H&WC is a 501c3, non-profit.

NEW ITEM

Link to demo: CLICK HERE

VOICE CONTROL HEAD LAMP

$85.00

ONE HIT WONDER

$30.00

OFFICIAL H&WC HEAVY-DUTY PEN LIGHT (BATTERIES INC)

$20.00

HIGH-QUALITY LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT GRAY

$20.00

HIGH QUALITY LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT BLACK

$20.00

Order online at: **CLICK HERE**

How you can help

Read and pass on the information we provide on our webpage:
Click Here

as well as Facebook:
Click Here

and Instagram:
Click Here

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and operate on a very small budget.
Any contributions would be much appreciated

It's time for the pro-hatchery crowd to stand up and let decision makers know how important our hatcheries are to Oregon.

DONATE NOW

HATCHERY COEXIST AND WILD

EMAIL: info@hatchery-wild-coexist WEBSITE: hatchery-wild-coexist.com
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