

# Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



MMXXII No. 1

January, 2022

## President's Riffle

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy as we begin 2022, the 83rd year



of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. It is a great honor for me to take over the president's role for the WFFC. I'll be honest, I have big shoes to fill. Our past president Jim Goedhart's dedication and outstanding leadership these past three years has been inspirational. Our club continued to thrive and grow, even as the pandemic threatened to shut down businesses and organizations around the country. With Jim's leadership, we proved that the WFFC is the premier Fly Fishing club in the Northwest. At our January 18th Zoom meeting, we will begin by thanking and honoring Jim for all his personal and presidential contributions to our club. Unfortunately, we will be returning to a virtual Zoom meeting format. I had planned to resume a "normal" cadence of in-person meetings beginning in January 2022. However, the ongoing presence of the Covid/Omicron virus has forced a decision to continue virtual meetings until the WFFC Board is confident that we can all safely gather once again in person. I hope you all will join us for our January Annual Awards Meeting, the first meeting of 2022!

I realize the social aspect of our meetings is an essential component of the organization and deeply woven into the club's DNA. We will return to in-person meetings again soon. In the meantime, I hope that you all will join me in the process of discovering new and innovative ways to carry the WFFC mission forward. On the bright side, the ongoing Covid pandemic will force us to re-think and create new opportunities as we evolve. The fly fishing industry has seen exponential growth over the last two years. Large numbers of people from all walks of life have found a new connection to the outdoors through fly fishing. So many new people, the number of new entrants to fly fishing rivals the numbers from the early '90s after the iconic movie, "A River Runs Through It." These are the new faces of our sport and future members

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# Fishing Report

## “Mid Winter Drearies”

by Chuck Ballard

Many years ago some club members were invited to Dr Boyd Aigner's home where everyone shared slides of the past years outings and shared stories , some were slightly exaggerated from the whole truth!!

Boyd would tell his stories always beginning with “Long long ago back when the animals could talk.”

This speck of club history really helped one to start thinking about the next season.



I know from real life experience time can consume you if let it.

Carve out a couple of hours a week and begin to address your preparation for the up coming season.

Start with equipment tune ups like cleaning your lines, lube your reels, check your leaders and supply of tippet.

Next up grade your fly box by

purging flies you never used or those that didn't work even during a reasonable hatch cycle.

For those who have taken our class on tying ,you can begin by creating some new patterns.

For those who don't tie consider taking our up coming beginning fly tying class.

Another thought is to sharpen your casting skills with our casting class or the “fly fishing “class which we plan to do on line again.

There are thousands of youtube videos on tying and fishing techniques that will also get you even more excited about the new fishing season.

One last thought, there is a planned outing in early spring at lake Hannon .

This was exceptional fishing last year as the covid had limited the fishing pressure on the lake. That should continue into this year as well so make a special effort to participate as these outings is the best source for bonding with other members and learning from their combined experience.

The sort of mess (left) Chuck refers to. By the way, what is that Machete doing in there?

Below is a photo I repurposed since no one sent me anything.



Blue Lake

# Creel Notes

IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB.  
SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)  
DANFERD HANKE

2ND VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)  
NEAL HOFFBERG

3RD VICE PRESIDENT (CHRISTMAS  
PARTY)  
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## Riffle Cont.

of our club. I look forward to introducing these new people to the WFFC and our mission.

I should probably give you a little background on your new president. My name is Dave Spratt, and I have been a fisherman ever since I can remember. My name is Dave Spratt, and I have been a fisherman ever since I can remember. I was the happiest kid chasing after trout in the many lakes around my hometown of Wenatchee. My first real introduction to fly fishing came in the late '80s skipping classes at WSU searching for steelhead along the Snake River. I have been avidly fly fishing ever since. I am proud to have fished extensively here in Washington and many states, and countries including MT, ID, OR, AK, HI, CO, WY, UT, NM, CA, FL, Canada, and Mexico. My bucket list is long, and I

look forward to the adventure to travel to new fisheries near and far. This last year, I decided to reinvent myself and retired from the finance/investment world to follow my passion for conservation, the outdoors, and the sport of fly fishing. I am now the Fly Fishing Manager for Orvis Seattle. This new role is a significant change for me, but a good one. I am excited about the unique opportunity to join the fishing industry. If you have the chance, come down to the shop and visit. We have a lot of fun toys and fly tying materials, and I am always happy to talk fishing! As your next WFFC president, my primary goal will be to help guide and strengthen our club as we march forward towards our 100th anniversary. Thank you all for this opportunity.

The 2021 WFFC December virtual and in-person Holiday Fundraiser was one of our most successful fundraisers ever. We raised over \$30,000. That's

correct, \$30,000! Thank you to everyone that participated and donated to our Annual Fundraiser. I will be sharing the details of the 2021 Holiday Fundraiser and the 2021 end-of-year WFFC Budget vs. Actuals and Cash-on-Hand to the Members Only side of the wffc.com website shortly.

I hope to see you all at the January 18th Zoom Awards Meeting. I will briefly report on the results of the Holiday Fundraiser and the 2021 financials. Immediately following the awards and business part of our meeting, Tony Reinhardt will be speaking to the club on Advanced Drift Boat Techniques.

I look forward to "seeing" you on January 18th @ 7:00 pm.

Stay Safe and Be Well,  
Dave Spratt  
WFFC President

### Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.



The hard work of club business gets done by past and future presidents, Jim Goedart (right), Dave Spratt, and Marcia Kindinger

# Steelhead Closures and Limits Challenge Anglers

*Hi All – Don Freeman, Conservation and Political Chair for the South Sound FF in Olympia, wrote the attached article in our Club's newsletter recently. Personally, I think Don hit the nail right on the head in writing this article. Please feel free to use Don's article in your newsletters. Don has given me permission to pass his article on to anyone that wants to use it. Happy Holidays, Mike Clancy, V.P. Conservation and Government Affairs Chair. [reprinted by permission]*

## THE SOAPBOX

by Don Freeman

Conservation and Political Chair

Greetings Winter Anglers,

I don't know how many of our members are steelhead anglers, nor which of you frequent the coastal rivers for winter run fish, but this is a big deal for anadromous conservation, recreational fishers and the economy of the coastal communities. I have a good number of long-time relationships with hard working Washingtonians whose livelihoods center on targeting this resource. Tackle and fly shop operators and manufacturers, boat builders, hotel and restaurant owners and especially river guides earn the bulk of their annual income from steelhead fishing.

Unfortunately, the salad days are over. The returns of anadromous fish have become so critically poor that we are on the brink of major extinctions unless we change our ways immediately, and change drastically. The cessation of Puget Sound steelhead fishing in the re-

cent past due to the same concerns served to funnel most of western Washington's pressure onto the coastal runs, which at the time were comparatively more robust, though in fact a shadow of their former abundance. Guides from Montana, Oregon and Idaho moved to the region for the winter to swell the numbers of professional fishers to the point that even in the big rivers like the Hoh, virtually every native fish was hooked at least once before hopefully being able to spawn.

While this may be hard to swallow, consider that the last time I targeted wild steelhead in the Forks drainages, as a seventy-year-old man, fresh off of chemo, I hooked six, netted and released five wild steelhead in one day fly fishing. Multiply that number of encounters over the season by the number of guides and skillful amateurs and the encounter impact is entirely credible. There is a 10% mortality rate associated with catch and release fishing, and a presumed decline in spawning success when these animals are stressed when hooked, handled and released, especially multiple times.

So, the conundrum becomes how to preserve the fish population, which has every moral right to continue, maintain an economic and cultural lifestyle in coastal communities, including our tribal co-managers and to do this in a way that becomes sustainable for future generations. When I first moved to the Northwest in 1972, I went to work in the forestry industry. At that time log trucks coming out of the woods usually

freighted only one log, 500 to 1000 years old. These were milled in small towns throughout the region, wigwam smokers spewing smoke day and night. Over the years, the logs quickly became smaller, began shipping to Asian mills rather than supporting local communities and the timber companies continued to demand more and more forests claiming that their "Sustainable Yield" plans developed with the Forest Service would assure products and jobs forever. Tell that to the former mill towns of the west whose main industry now is loading pecker poles onto ships for overseas markets.

Sorry if I seem to have gone off track, but the metaphor is that our resources, once incredibly abundant have been undervalued for a century and a half with over consumption the result. Fortunately, it does not take five hundred years to replace anadromous runs as it does to grow an old growth forest. Pilot programs have shown that salmonids are robust animals that can recover from catastrophic setbacks if given the opportunity. It's not too late for our coastal fisheries.

WDFW has released the 2021-2022 emergency regulations for our coastal streams. Not everyone is going to like them, but just as the "Log the Olympic National Park" lawn signs have disappeared, we will get used to new restrictions – the alternative being whether my grandsons will ever have the choice to go steelhead fishing or not.

As my title on the South Sound Fly Fishers club board is Conser-

Continued on Page 6

# This Month in WFFC History

As a new feature, we will take a look back at this month in recent WFFC history.

In 1999, Creel Notes invited members to help recognize *"flyfishers who have set themselves apart from the crowd by their outstanding efforts and achievements."*



Half-Assed happiness

Someone was trying to sell some neoprene waders; the horror!

Members were encouraged to visit Fred DeWitt in recuperation and to join the fly tyer's roundtable. Classes were planned for February and April to teach tying and casting.

Pete Baird chaired a committee of notables to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

Creel Notes celebrated the Holiday banquet and raffle, thanking nearly 40 contributors to the raffle.


President Greg Crumbaker riffled on accomplishments of the club and urged the club *"to increase our conservation goals."*

Look to your right to see the report of the Conservation Committee.

Fran Wood described the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, *"battling to protect Washington's rivers and aquifers."*

Dues requests were for \$50.

## Creel Notes from the THIRD TUES.



**WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB**

P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF

<b>Monthly Meeting Notice</b>	<b>January 19, 1999</b>	<b>IL No. 1</b>
<b>The College Club, 505 Madison St.</b>	<b>Seattle, Washington</b>	<b>Phone: 206-622-0624</b>
<b>Wet Fly Hour 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Dinner 7:00 PM</b>	

## Conservation

### Cedar River Conservation Plan

by Bob Mottram; the Tacoma News Tribune (excerpts)

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is holding four evening workshops in January to allow public discussion of its draft Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan. The draft plan proposes to provide passage past the Landsburg Dam for coho and chinook salmon and for steelhead trout so they can utilize the 17 miles of spawning habitat they formerly occupied above the dam. Sockeye would not have passage. Instead, the plan proposes to continue to operate an interim sockeye hatchery that SPU established at the dam in 1991. In 1998 the interim hatchery released 10.5 million sockeye fry. A new hatchery capable of producing as many as 34 million sockeye salmon fry per year would replace the interim one after four years.

The public workshops will be held in Renton on January 5th, in Bellevue on January 9th and in Seattle on January 12th and 14th. Two public hearings are also scheduled; one January 20th from 7 to 10 PM in the Education Center at the Woodland Park Zoo, and January 23rd from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Carco Community Center in Renton.

### The Dams Have to Go!

by Creel Notes Co-Editor Roman Millett

The sportsman's show on Saturday morning starting at 0530 hours, just after the reveille formation, can be entertaining as well as informative. Recently, while listening to some of the callers explain "Me and Billy Bob went fishin' last week and didn't catch nothin' ", the topic and conversation changed to the decline of salmon and the reasons why.

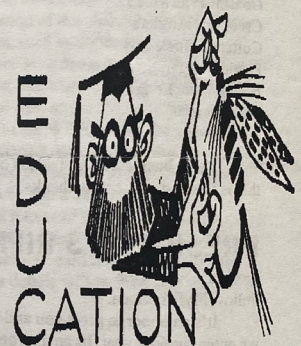
A caller who sounded intelligent, educated and articulate, explained that the real problem is not low salmon return from the ocean, but low numbers of fish making it to the ocean from their spawning grounds. He quoted studies, facts and figures, and explained that only 10 per cent of the salmon fry from the Columbia River ever make it to the ocean. Every 12-year-old school boy in America can figure out that if 10 per cent of the fish make it to the ocean and a tiny fraction return from the ocean, and 10 percent of that population's offspring make it down river to the ocean, it won't take many years for the salmon to disappear. Dams on the Columbia River are killing the other 90 per cent of the fish going downstream and it is with Federal Government approval.

Not long ago I watched a documentary on cable TV that included an interview with the Chief Engineer responsible for building the Columbia River dams and providing cheap electricity to the Northwest. He bluntly

said that everyone concerned with building the dams on the lower Columbia knew the fish would become extinct and "It was a small price to pay for cheap electricity."

While listening to the radio on Saturday morning I realized what both the problem and solution were - dams and the removal thereof. Yes, Gary Locke is going to hold numerous press conferences, build a large palace in Olympia to house some kind of Save the Salmon committee and pay them disgracefully high salaries to create bizarre solutions such as barging and trucking fish to the ocean; however, these efforts will not save the fish. Removing the dams could save the fish if we act soon enough. Smart people are beginning to seriously consider this option. Unfortunately, Slade Gorton and Gary Locke are not among their ranks.

**LIBRARY - Continued from page 2.**



In addition we need someone who can perform some maintenance work on our new video tape cabinet in order to make it useful for our purpose. It is probable this work will have to be accomplished at home.

In the past, Terry Record has been acting as assistant librarian, however, business commitments have precluded any further assistance from him at this time. Therefore, we are looking for a couple members who would be willing to undertake this endeavor. No experience needed, however, it would be helpful if some knowledge or at least some interest in the written (flyfishing) word were present.

Any member willing to help with these projects should contact me by phone at 425-259-2595.

Also, it should be noted that I will attempt to continue my practice of mounting small displays of interesting items in the library area for the perusal of members.

Creel Notes - January, 1999

vation and Political, I will point out a couple of potentially contentious aspects of this issue. At this time, I do not know what the co-managers are going to forego in order to protect this season's runs. Gill netting by tribal fishers is non-selective and is one of the greatest barriers to re-establishing native fish. There is a history of resistance to bold conservation practices among the coastal tribes. When I learn the co-managers' response to the current dilemma, I will make sure our members are made aware.

Second, while reading yesterday, I learned that the Build Back Better act currently being considered by our federal legislators provides \$1 billion for salmon and steelhead recovery in California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Money would be spent on habitat, genetic recovery, infrastructure and economic support for communities in these states. In our current political atmosphere, folks seem to be FOR or AGAINST any legislation. If you are one of these hopefully on the fence, I hope this provision might tilt you FOR.

Below I have pasted the new WDFW fishing regulation for Coastal streams. There are a bunch of them. I have highlighted the larger and most popular drainag-

es, including our local ones. As always, you are urged to consult the WDFW website to check on emergency changes to protect yourself from committing violations. In addition to closures, the biggest changes concern fishing from a floating device (a boat) since this is several magnitudes more effective than standing on the bank.

I monitored the virtual town meetings at which the agency outlined the challenges each region faces, followed by public input from concerned citizens. Roughly 80% of the callers demanded complete closure of all steelhead angling this year. So, while our opportunities are curtailed for now, let's try to be satisfied, if not grateful for what we got.

Don Freeman

[Editor's note: The list the author published is nearly five pages. Please consult the WDFW site for more current information.]



Washington Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 639  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
[www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



**January 18, 2022**

## **Virtual Meetings Return for Awards Dinner**

**Janaury 18@ 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm PST**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84526664087?pwd=coozemV3aFhvND-FyLzcuVzYxaHRMZzo9>**

**Meeting ID: 845 2666 4087; Passcode: 146984**

**Put away your jacket, tie, and special dress, the January 18th Awards Dinner at the Seattle Tennis Club has just (1/18/22) been canceled due to members Omnicom infections concerns. All members that have previously signed up for the event will receive a \$40 credit card refund. The January 18th meeting will now be a virtual Awards Zoom meeting along with our guest speaker, Tony Reinhardt. We are very excited to have Tony speaking to the club on Advanced Drift Boat Techniques.**