



## **Save Our Fish Auburn Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers**

### **Next Chapter Meeting:**

**Next Meeting Date February 28, 2024**

**6:00pm**

**Trotter's Restaurant  
825 Harvey Rd, Auburn**

Be sure to check out our website: <http://www.saveourfish.org/>

For a complete list of Board Members, please visit the website:

<http://www.saveourfish.org/Board/board.htm>

Newsletter editor: Dayle Conrad

### **Up and Coming Activities:**

#### **February**

**28 – General Club Meeting 6:00pm**

Speaker: Jim Tuggle

#### **April**

**10 – Board Meeting 7:00pm**

**24 – General Club Meeting 6:00pm**

#### **March**

**13 – Board Meeting 7:00pm**

**27 – General Club Meeting 6:00pm**

#### **May**

**8 – Board Meeting 7:00pm**

**22 – General Club Meeting 6:00pm**



## President's Message -- Rob Larsen

I would like to thank those that helped with the Sportsman Show and jigs, Don Payne for help getting everything ready and painting jigs, Russ and Carl Carver, myself for tying the jigs and Stan Prescott for doing a wonderful job soliciting donations at the show itself. I am interested in hearing if Club members would like to buy specific jigs. We can tie more for sale to club members, so if you want them let me know.

I am excited about some of the new members that we have picked up and I hope that we can pick up a few more. Really looking forward to our outings this year. Baker Lake (really good forecast coming) will certainly be one of the good ones as well as Neah Bay and our trip to the coast for salmon.

I am into the North of Falcon process at this time, and I am very concerned about juvenile encounters being a show stopper again this year. I want to encourage everyone to go to single 5:0 hooks on your Hoochies and avoid using small spoons to see if we can impact less juveniles. Please consider using a single hook on the bottom of your Jigs rather than the two hooks set ups on the top. I found out, as I've been talking with a lot of people, that a lot of us have already made these changes, and we are impacting less juveniles than we were using smaller hooks. Desperate times call for desperate measures and we need to do whatever we can to extend our salmon seasons by reducing impacts on juvenile salmon.

I would like to remind everyone that if you are interested in attending board meetings, you are more than welcome. All you have to do is let me know and I will send you a Zoom invite.

Kathy is working on getting another order of hats going for us and possibly coats depending on demand. We will be discussing this at our meeting. Thank you for your work Kathy.

Lots of good clamming tides coming up so call a club member and go clamming.

Tight Lines,

Rob Larsen  
SOF PSA president

## February Speaker – Jim Tuggle, retired WDFW

Jim Tuggle is a retired WDFW enforcement officer who spent his career chasing the bad guys who just can't follow the rules. Jim is going to join us and share some of his experiences during his career while chasing and arresting those bad guys. He is also very involved in fish politics and is a contributor to The Reel News. I'm sure many of you have read his articles over the years. Jim is bringing some copies of his book to sell that describe some of his experiences during his career. I believe the price is \$20.



It should be an interesting evening learning about the Fish Cops and their experiences.

## 2024 Club Outings

We have three planned club outings this year. Save the dates, more information to come.

The first is a sockeye trip to *Baker Lake July 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>*. If there are not enough fish in the Lake we will move to the 15th, 16th and 17th.

The second is a trip to *Neah Bay August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>*.

The 3rd will be *October 4th and 5th the Mike Woods Memorial* trip staying at Wishka and fishing the coastal rivers.

We are looking for an *outing coordinator*. Let us know if you are interested.



Washington Department of  
**FISH & WILDLIFE**

### Steelhead fishery to open Feb. 3 on Skagit and Sauk rivers

MILL CREEK - Fisheries managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Skagit co-managing tribes have forecasted that 5,215 wild steelhead will return to the Skagit River and its tributaries this year.

Under a management plan approved last spring, this steelhead forecast is sufficient to sustain a state-managed recreational catch and release fishery and modest steelhead fisheries operated by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe.

Recreational steelhead fishing will open Feb. 3 through April 17 five days per week Saturdays through Wednesdays only, closed Thursdays and Fridays, on portions of the Skagit and its major tributary the Sauk under catch and release regulations, except up to two hatchery steelhead may be retained. Wild steelhead must be released immediately and may not be removed from the water. Fishing for all other species—including targeting bull trout—remains closed during this fishery.

Steelhead are a sea-going rainbow trout that can exceed 30 pounds, the Washington State Fish, and an icon of the Pacific Northwest that has been a source of important cultural and economic benefits throughout the region's history.

“Fishing for steelhead is part of both tribal and non-tribal culture in Washington state,” said Edward Eleazer, WDFW’s North Puget Sound Region Fish Program Manager. “This fishery is a model for co-management, and as one component of WDFW’s [Quicksilver Portfolio](#) for Restoring Puget Sound Steelhead and Fisheries, for managing steelhead guided by science and careful monitoring.”

“We ask recreational anglers to give tribal fishers space and respect if they encounter each other on the Skagit or Sauk during this fishery,” said Eleazer.

On the Skagit River, steelhead fishing will be allowed from the Dalles Bridge at Concrete upstream to Cascade River Road (Marblemount Bridge). On the Sauk River, steelhead fishing will be open from the mouth upstream to Darrington Bridge (Sauk Prairie Road). See the [emergency fishing rule change](#) for additional details, including a prohibition on fishing from boats while under motor power on the Skagit, and fishing from a boat with a motor attached on the Sauk.

In 2007, steelhead in the Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment (DPS)—including wild fish returning to the Skagit—were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The 10-year Skagit River Steelhead Fishery Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in March 2023 allows state and tribal co-managers to operate steelhead-directed fisheries with stringent guidelines, monitoring and catch sampling, and enforcement. The plan was approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and was reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during ESA consultation. The RMP is available on [this NOAA Fisheries webpage](#).

During the 2024 season, fish biologists with WDFW and co-manager tribes will also conduct in-season monitoring including creel sampling and test fisheries—as well as extracting scale samples and genetic data—to improve our understanding of the Skagit steelhead population and inform future fishery management.

While steelhead are sometimes known as a “fish of a thousand casts,” fishing for them does not require a boat or expensive gear, making it a relatively accessible fishery. The Skagit Basin holds venerable status among steelheaders as the birthplace of several fishing techniques used by both gear and fly anglers.

Steelhead are also an important indicator of ecosystem health. Unlike salmon, steelhead can survive spawning and return to spawn more than once. They spend a significant portion of their juvenile and adult life stages in freshwater, making them particularly susceptible to habitat degradation and other pressures.

Anglers are reminded that the new fishing license year begins on April 1, 2024.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife works to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

## Tip of the Month – Vessel Safety Check

From Steve Fulkerson

Why wait until you are out on the water for the USCG to pull up alongside your boat for a Vessel Safety Check (VSC)? A VSC can be performed at your boat, ranging in locations from your boat to the convenience of your driveway. It typically takes about 30 minutes.

Get a free VSC to ensure that you meet State and Federal Government requirements for documentation and safety equipment. America’s Boating Club® certified Vessel Safety Examiners can conduct the same safety check of your vessel that is performed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or state maritime police and will be happy to discuss additional safety considerations with you. Their site is [americasboatingclub.org](http://americasboatingclub.org)

Successful completion of the safety check gives you a report and a decal that shows you passed the safety check and are safety conscious. This is not a boarding or a law enforcement issue. No citations will be or can be given as a result of this interaction between you and the Vessel Examiner. They will supply you with a copy of our vessel safety check so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display a distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from a law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter.

During a vessel safety check the Vessel Examiner will look at:

- \* Registration and vessel numbers
- \* Navigation lights
- \* Anchor & line
- \* Life jackets
- \* Fire extinguishers
- \* Sound producing device
- \* Flame arrestors and ventilation (if required)
- \* No oil in bilge
- \* General safe boat condition
- \* Carbon Monoxide (CO) sticker
- \* And more.

And here is the bottom line: Great News! Dave (360) 384-3140, a Certified Vessel Examiner, inspected my boat, in the driveway, last year. He gave me permission to share his phone number. You can contact him directly and schedule your VSC! If a couple of members want to pull their boats together, Dave would be more than happy to do multiple inspections simultaneously. This is a fantastic service that our club members should enjoy.

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The following is an article from *The Seattle Times* by Lynda V. Mapes, *Seattle Times* environment reporter. At the end of the article there is an email address to NOAA for public comments. Hopefully PSA members would send an email to NOAA to let them know that this has got to stop.

### **Thousands of Chinook wasted as bycatch in B.C. fishery, new report finds**

Nearly 30,000 Chinook salmon were wasted as bycatch in the Canadian trawl fishery, which was targeting hake and walleye pollock, a new report from Canadian fisheries officials found.

Bycatch, or unintended catch, by commercial trawlers off the coast of B.C. was the highest on record during the 2022-23 groundfish fishing season, the Jan. 22 report from Fisheries and Oceans Canada found, with 28,000 salmon caught, 93% of them Chinook, the largest and most prized of all salmon species.

Sydney Dixon, marine specialist for Pacific Wild, a Canadian environmental group, estimated the amount of Chinook bycatch was enough to feed three or four orcas for a year depending on the sizes of the salmon and the orca, she said.

“It’s a pretty devastating waste of a species that is ... a food source for an endangered species in part of Canada and the U.S.”

The Chinook caught offshore of Vancouver Island included spring, summer and fall Chinook, from rivers all over the region: the Nooksack, Samish, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Skykomish. From the Nisqually, White, Elwha, Hoko, Lower Columbia, Cowlitz and Lewis and the Hanford Reach of the Columbia and the Snake rivers.

All were caught by fishers in Canadian waters, during 847 trawl trips. Monitors tracked the fishery from Sept. 26, 2022, to Feb. 20, 2023, in the first year of an enhanced Canadian monitoring effort for salmon bycatch.

Dixon commended the agency for launching the monitoring program. “We would like to see monitoring for more important species on our coast at a time when it has never been harder to be these species. With climate change, we are in unprecedented times. ... I would hope the social license for this kind of waste erodes.”

Deborah Giles, science and research director for Wild Orca, a research nonprofit based on San Juan Island, was dismayed by the wasted Chinook. “That is a lot of fish, a lot wasted fish that the whales could absolutely utilize, and that is just one fishery in one region.”

Managers should leave enough fish in the water to feed not only the 74 living southern resident orcas but enough for a larger population — especially pregnant mothers, she said. Most orca pregnancies are lost because of lack of food.

“We need to leave enough for the unborn animals — that is what we are losing,” Giles said. The most recently born southern resident orca calf died after only about a month of life.

The southern resident orcas were listed in 2005 as a federally protected endangered species. They are facing at least three threats: lack of food, especially Chinook salmon; vessel noise that makes it harder for them to hunt; and pollution.

The news of the Chinook bycatch came even as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has put out its program for raising more Chinook in hatcheries to feed orcas for public review. Raising food for wild animals as part of a recovery strategy is unusual and is typically done on a limited basis or involving dead prey or animal feed, according to NOAA.

The program, begun in 2020, has cost \$25 million so far in federal funds and is intended to increase prey for orcas by pumping out millions more hatchery fish.

An environmental impact statement contains NOAA’s first estimates of how much additional food in adult Chinook returns was produced for the orcas by the bump up in hatchery releases. In 2022, the orcas had anywhere from 0.13% to 6% more Chinook to eat, depending on the time of year and the area where the fish were released. The numbers were higher in 2023, from 0.22% to 8%, again depending on the time of year and the area, according to the EIS. Whether the orcas or some other predator ate them — or the Chinook escaped to spawn — is unknown.

Under the agency’s preferred alternative, the program would continue until at least 2028, at a cost of more than \$6 million a year. Alternatives include discontinuing the program, further reducing fisheries to leave more fish for orcas, and habitat improvements to increase naturally produced salmon.

The environmental impact statement for the program is open for public comment until March 11. Written comments may be submitted by email to [hatcheries.public.comment@noaa.gov](mailto:hatcheries.public.comment@noaa.gov).

Lynda V. Mapes: [lmapes@seattletimes.com](mailto:lmapes@seattletimes.com); Lynda specializes in coverage of the environment, natural history and Native American tribes.

## Raffle News

### February 2024 Raffle News

Our raffle this month will feature a really nice Sabiki Rod made by Okuma Cortez. It is about 7.5 ft and the sabiki rig reels back inside the rod except for the weight that you reel right to the end of the rod. This is really nice because the hooks don't snag on everything. It is a great tool for catching your own bait.



Hope to see you all on Wednesday.

Bob Holzberger  
206-890-7066

## Visit Our Website

The website has the recipe of the month, links to our sponsors, and a year's worth of past newsletters. There is a new link on the Hogpen web page to submit photo's for the Hogpen, which will provide the pictures for the Newsletter, Website, and Christmas Banquet.

[www.saveourfish.org](http://www.saveourfish.org)





## Save Our Fish Facebook Page

The Save Our Fish [Facebook page](#) is a Public Group currently with 65 members. If you are on Facebook and haven't requested to join the group, now is your chance.

**Let's see how many members we can get this year!** This is a great way to get club information. It can also be used to connect with other members to fill an empty seat in the boat, see where other members are fishing (if they are willing to share), or post videos, photos, or other fishing and conservation interests.

## Membership – New and Renewals

Thank you everyone that have paid your membership dues for the 2024 year. **Pay by February 28<sup>th</sup> and save \$5!** For those of you who have not yet paid, it's not too late. Memberships can be paid online, at any SOF meeting, or by mail to the address at the bottom of the SOF membership form. Contact Rich Gregory if you have any membership question.

You can pay by mail or online at <http://www.saveourfish.org/Membership/Membership.htm>.

The membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter or you can contact our member chair, Rich Gregory, at [rwgav8@hotmail.com](mailto:rwgav8@hotmail.com).

Click here to pay: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=FIZb14yBeNX1SNG80QYPNONcJJjwgtgiJxdurg11BSvD-4EIX\\_IssRDmduLv7mgOlg4MR0](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=FIZb14yBeNX1SNG80QYPNONcJJjwgtgiJxdurg11BSvD-4EIX_IssRDmduLv7mgOlg4MR0)

Use the “**Donate with a Card**” option if you don't have a Paypal account.

You will get an email confirmation/receipt after you complete the payment process. Make sure you fill in your email address!

Here's what the top of the form looks like. **Click the \$ sign to fill in your amount then click the + sign on the “Add special instructions” and tell us what you are paying for. Example: 2018 dues for Greg Hindman.**

Here's what the top of the form looks like:

Donate to  
Save Our Fish

\$

USD

**+** Add special instructions to the seller:

You can also get to this Donate link via our main web site <http://www.saveourfish.org/>

It looks like the below:





Donate



The membership form is available online <http://www.saveourfish.org/membership.pdf> and at the end of this newsletter.

## Save Our Fish PSA Hats for Sale

Now you can proudly advertise your PSA chapter. Hats are embroidered with a colored PSA logo on the front and Save Our Fish stitched on the back.

Quantities are limited, so bring your money and get yours at the next meeting. \$10



## **Member Classifieds**

Do you have any items in the garage that have just been collecting dust over the years? Maybe a fishing pole that you just don't use anymore. Why not sell it to a fellow member in the new classifieds section? Send a brief description of the item you would like to sell and photo if available to [sof.psa@hotmail.com](mailto:sof.psa@hotmail.com) and we will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

**If you have a website or product you would like to share, please send the information to:**  
**[Sof.psa@hotmail.com](mailto:Sof.psa@hotmail.com)**

# SOF Sponsors

[Auburn Sports & Marine](#) – Kids derby, rod donations, gift certificates



[Bass Pro Shops](#) –



[Big J's Outdoor Store](#) – Carbon River Cleanup



[City of Orting](#) – Carbon River Cleanup



[Gamakatsu](#) – Jig hook donations



[Los Pinos Mexican Restaurant](#) – Carbon River Cleanup



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[King Salmon Marine](#) – Kids fishing derby donations



[Silver Horde](#) – Raffle donations



[Sportsman's Warehouse](#) – Federal Way Kids Derby donations



[Washington Sportsmen's Show](#)



# Hog Pen

Do you have a picture from your latest fishing adventures? Be sure to send it, with your descriptive caption to [sof.psa@hotmail.com](mailto:sof.psa@hotmail.com) for your chance to have it featured in the Hog Pen.



Nice Steelhead catch on the Elochoman River  
Shane Conrad and some shuttle clients



Double  
Rainbow  
Steelhead!



Bart with Black Mouth



Ryan Tompkins  
Blackmouth



Rob Larsen  
Blackmouth

# Recipe of the Month

## Cedar Plank Salmon or Steelhead

Tiffany Haugen "Grill It! Plank It! Wrap It! Smoke It!"

### Ingredients

- Salmon or Steelhead Fillet with skin

### Directions

1. Soak plank in water, minimum 1 hour, maximum 24 hours.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
3. Place soaked plank in oven for 10 minutes
4. Remove plank from oven and brush a light coating of olive oil onto cooking side of board.
5. Place fillet skin-side down on board and season with your favorite seasonings
6. Insert meat thermometer and bake until fillet reaches 142 degrees



### Variation:

Placed sliced lemons on prepared plank. Place fish, skin-side down on lemon layer. Squeeze ½ lemon over fish. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with seasonings of your choice.

### Herb Medley Rub:

½ teaspoon each of salt, sugar, dried thyme, dried oregano, onion powder, lemon pepper

¼ teaspoon dried rosemary

In a small bowl, mix all ingredients until crushed and combined.

There are hundreds of variations to the original cedar-planked salmon recipes. Salmon planks well with any wood flavor. Toppings can vary from Italian type seasonings to Asian flavors. Fish can be marinated prior to planking or basted during cooking time. Keeping simple ingredients to a minimum ensures the flavors of the wood smoke will come through in the final product. Don't forget that simply placing a cedar plank in the oven alongside a fillet of fish will minimize any unwanted lingering fish odors in your home.



## Save Our Fish Chapter

[www.saveourfish.org](http://www.saveourfish.org)

### 2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:		Date:
Current address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Primary Phone (Home, Cell, Work <i>Please circle</i> ):		
Alternate Phone (Home, Cell, Work <i>Please circle</i> ):		
Email Address:		
Sponsor:		

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is for the 2024 calendar year. Dues paid through February 28, 2024 are at rates shown below, reduced by \$5.00. Dues paid after March 1, 2024 will be at the full annual rates shown below. Contact Rich Gregory at 253-209-0586 or [sof.psa@hotmail.com](mailto:sof.psa@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

#### MEMBERSHIP SELECTION

<input checked="" type="radio"/> New Membership	<input type="radio"/> Membership Renewal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult: 18-61 – annual dues \$30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family: heads of household and all other family members younger than 18 – annual dues \$40	
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile: 17 and younger – annual dues \$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior: 62 and older – annual dues \$20	

Please check appropriate membership selection above, complete form, and bring to meeting or mail with check to:

Save Our Fish  
 c/o Rich Gregory  
 12608 117<sup>th</sup> St Ct E  
 Puyallup, WA 98374

Cash  Check

Ref  Roster  TRN  Email