



# Columbia River Gillnetter



Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union

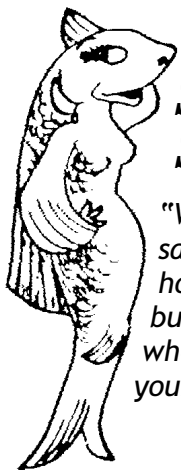
Fall 2003 / Vol. 34, No. 2

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



1945

This photo shows a view of the CRPA (later Castle and Cook) Elmore cannery. It was located where the Astoria Warehousing is today-about the same distance above the Astoria Megler bridge as the Union cannery plant was below. Elmore cannery was key to the salmon and tuna packing industry in Astoria for many years.



## Sally the Salmon Says...

"Why do some salmon develop hooked noses? They bumped into dams when they were young."

## Salmon Count Hits Record

### Salmon running... and running...

The return of fall chinook at Bonneville Dam is the highest ever, and scientists have varying ideas for why that might be.

September 2003 turned out to be a Columbia River Fall Chinook Salmon migration record setting month. The movement of the run upriver over the hydroelectric dams has far surpassed the early season biologist predictions. 4 days in a row in the middle of the month over 40,000 chinook passed the ladders of Bonneville Dam, each day better than the previous daily all time record.

Weather cycles, ocean productivity brought about by upwelling, and other factors including the river salmon recover efforts. Our BPA investments for fish in the hydropower system and tributary headwaters is perhaps finally paying off. However we must be careful about making premature judgements.

Articles in this issue: Interview with Gary Soderstom, More Record Fish Counts, Anchor find offers biggest clue to the fate of the Tonquin, Brownsport Remembered, Columbia River Dredging at the bottom of the list, Dams leaking Oil...

Also, join us on the web: Discover our web site at [www.crfpu.org](http://www.crfpu.org) where, in addition to the articles of this issue, you will find more news articles and old photographs as well.



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**EDITOR Jon Westerholm**  
93798 Jackson Rd, Astoria, OR 97103  
503/458-6518

**CONSULTING EDITOR Don Riswick**  
P. O. Box 511, Astoria, OR 97103  
503/325-2507

**PRESIDENT**  
**Gary Soderstrom**  
22665 Cedar Grove Rd, Clatskanie, OR 97016  
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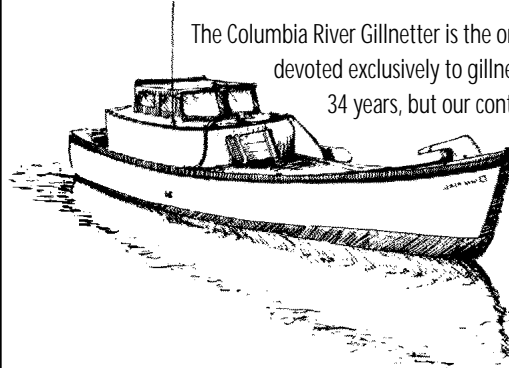
Abby Ihander  
92146 Lewis & Clark Rd., Astoria, OR 97103  
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Jon Westerholm, Editor - Phone (503) 325-2702

## Foreword

This paper is being published for the express purpose of keeping the public and the fishermen informed of the **true facts** and happenings in regard to the Columbia River Fishing Industry and all people connected with it. The advertisements which appear within make it financially possible to publish this paper and we hope you will in return patronize and thank the business people who contributed to this cause. Anyone who wishes to contribute articles, pictures stories, or ads, please contact the editor at P. O. Box 627, Astoria, OR 97103 or call (503) 325-2702

## Help Support the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication!



The Columbia River Gillnetter is the only remaining publication on the west coast devoted exclusively to gillnetting. We have been making a difference for 34 years, but our continued existence is threatened by increasing production and mailing costs. Now more than ever, we need a voice to represent our side of the issue, and the Gillnetter is an important contact with fishermen, lawmakers and the general public.

If you would like to help, send donations to Columbia River Gillnetter

*The following individuals have made a cash contribution to the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication, which will be used to help continue the publication and mailing of this free informational newspaper.*

*We thank them for their support!*

**April 2003 — November 2003**

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*This paper was started for your benefit 34 years ago to help keep you informed on Gillnet issues. As we are non-profit, we depend on advertising and donations to keep publishing and mailing this newsletter.*

*Please make your contributions to: Columbia River Gillnetter, P. O. Box 627, Astoria, OR 97103*



## From The Editor

### CRFPU and the GILLNETTER Publication make changes

As I am making the involved move to the editorship of this publication I can better realize and report the time and effort that Past Editor-Publisher, Don Riswick put in 2 or 3 times a year, since 1969. He deserves a huge amount of credit for developing and continuing this magazine, as the "voice of Gillnetters on the Columbia River" and the organization that has represented Gillnetters for so many years, the "Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union."

I will strive to continue Don's "Bulldog Tenacity" into the future, giving you the reader, a historic and meaningful view of the Columbia River and the fishing industry of Astoria and the region. Don and I are working together, putting this Fall 2003 Edition together, and it should be pointed out that Don's wife, Dorothy, has been a very positive assist in this endeavor.

We need to give credit to our Computer/Layout technician as well. Without Tom Wynn and his computer/journalistic expertise, this publication would not be possible.

Our CRFPU organization is going through some critical changes as we move further into the 21st century. Certainly not the least important, is the necessity of

developing new Salmon Markets and fish marketing techniques. Fishermen and processors must work, as cooperatively as possible, to counter-act the fierce competition from foreign aquaculture. More direct sales to the consumer, emphasizing "Wild" and "Pacific Ocean raised," is one example of what can be done. The passage of HB 3094 in this year's Oregon Legislative Session, the Direct Sales 4 year Columbia River Salmon Pilot Program, gives the individual Gillnetter the opportunity to do this.

We are in the age of Scientific Research with its many Biological Studies and Computer Modules. Our fishery is, more and more, being regulated by these new methods and so we must act accordingly and become a part of it if we are to survive. It means more participation and meeting attendance as well as financial cooperation to be able to continue to receive our historic right to a "Fair Share" of the resource.

As for our CRFPU office, we again face a move, from our present location, as the Port of Astoria begins the new Convention Center Project early next year. Down comes the Red Lion annex building, where we have been located the past 4 years, next door to Salmon For All, since moving from our longtime downtown Astoria location on 10th street. A decision will be made at our annual meeting in early December as to where we will move, a prime possibility being the Port Office Building.

Letters and comments to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.

*Jon Westerholm, Editor*

## Join your Union

The CRFPU board has authorized lessor membership price of \$100.00 or \$50.00 per year for those who want to help out.

The yearly voting membership remains at \$150.00.

A Union card and receipt will be issued in each case. Send

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# CRFPU Board Meeting in 2000 — What a Happy Bunch!

Did we just get an extra few days of fishing time or an increase in fish price?

Most likely Bruce just finished one of his stories!



Left to Right: Alan Takalo, John Kallunki, Randy Anderson, Bruce Jolma, Gary Olson, Jon Westerholm, Abbie Ihander.  
Front: Jack Marincovich. Photo by Don Riswick



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## To the Editor

### Ban farmed salmon

In response to Michael Milstein's article regarding farmed salmon, "Seeds of fleet's destruction" (The Oregonian, July 20), I say simply. Farmed salmon and aquaculture need to be banned.

The article contains blatant propaganda and advertising for the farmed salmon industry. Farmed salmon have been a disaster for the consumer, the environment and local fishing communities.

Milstein adequately conveyed the decline of the fishing communities. However, to advocate for the continued use of farmed salmon anywhere is unpardonable.

Purchase sustainably harvested wild and hatchery salmon to support local fishing communities. Wild salmon support healthy rivers and oceans, and communities. Farmed salmon destroy wild salmon runs, pollute ecosystems and endanger consumers.

Farmed salmon prices have reduced the price for native, wild salmon to 30 cents per pound. Local fishermen cannot survive at these low prices.

AL THIEME, Southeast Portland

### Deadly Chinook runs on Bonneville fish ladders

The fall chinook run at Bonneville Dam was so large that some fish were crushed to death on the concrete fish ladders. More fall chinook fought their way over the dam than ever before. During the peak of the run, the one-day record of 39,376 fall chinook set Sept 12, 1987 was broken when over 45,884 fish passed in one day. Bonneville Dam has a fish ladder on each side of the Columbia River—one on the Oregon side and one on the Washington side.

## 2003 CRFPU Annual Meeting

2003 CRFPU Annual Meeting was held on Monday December 1st, at 10am at Humps Restaurant in Clatskanie.

CRFPU now has a new address: Post Office Box 627, Astoria, OR 97103.

Discussion of the new location for the CRFPU office. Our present office, at the Red Lion Inn Annex at the West-End Mooring Bassin will need to be vacated before the end of the year as the building will be torn down in preparation for the construction of the new Astoria Convention Center. The Port of Astoria has space available at the Port headquarters.  
More news on the move in the next issue.

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## CONCERNING THE 2003 FALL IN-RIVER COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF COLUMBIA RIVER FALL CHINOOK SALMON, SUMMER STEELHEAD, COHO SALMON, CHUM SALMON, AND STURGEON JULY 16, 2003

### THE COMPACT

The Columbia River Compact is charged by congressional and statutory authority to adopt seasons and rules for Columbia River commercial fisheries. In recent years, the Compact has consisted of the Oregon and Washington agency directors, or their delegates, acting on behalf of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) and the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC). In addition, the Columbia River treaty tribes have authority to regulate treaty Indian fisheries.

When addressing commercial seasons for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon, the Compact must consider the effect of the commercial fishery on escapement, treaty rights, and sport fisheries, as well as the impact on species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Although the Compact has no

authority to adopt sport fishing seasons or rules, it is an inherent responsibility of the Compact to address the allocation of limited resources among users and this responsibility has become increasingly demanding in recent years. The Compact can be expected to continue its conservative management strategy when considering fisheries that will impact listed salmon and steelhead.

### Stock Description Fall Chinook

Fall chinook generally enter the Columbia River from late July through October; with abundance peaking in the lower river from mid-August to mid-September and passage at Bonneville Dam peaking in early September. Columbia River fall chinook are comprised of five major components: Lower River, Hatchery

(LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH.), Upriver Bright (URB), and Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB). The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tules and the, LRW, URB and MCB stocks are referred to as brights.

Minor run components include Lower River Brights (LRB) and Select Area Brights (SAB).

The URB, BPH, and a portion of MCB chinook are produced above Bonneville Dam, and in aggregate, comprise the upriver run, which is subject to treaty Indian/non-Indian allocation requirements. Most of the URB stocks are wild fish destined for Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River. Smaller URB components are destined for the Deschutes, Snake, and Yakima rivers.



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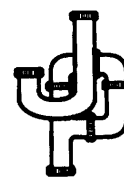
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Snake River Wild (SRW) fall chinook are a sub-component of the URB stock.

The lower river run is comprised, of LRH, LRW, MCB, LRB, and SAB stocks, which are produced below Bonneville Dam. The LRH stock is currently produced from hatchery facilities (five in Washington and one in Oregon) while the LRW stock is naturally produced primarily in the Lewis River system, I with smaller components also present in the Cowlitz and Sandy rivers.

SABs are a local hatchery stock that originated from the Rogue River fall chinook, stock and are currently released I from Klaskanine Hatchery on the North Fork Klaskanine River and net pens located in Youngs Bay.

### 2002 Returns

The total Columbia River fall chinook adult return of 733,100 adults in 2002 was the largest return since 1988 and tripled the 1991-1995 average of 241,400 and more than doubled the recent 5-year average of 338,200

### 2003 Forecast

The forecasted total Adult return of fall chinook in 2003 of 595,200 adults is a decrease from last year's near record return of 733,100 [Editor's Note: Actual figures show forecast short]

### Stock Description Coho

Columbia River coho return primarily to Oregon and Washington hatcheries downstream from Bonneville Dam with some hatchery production destined for above

Bonneville Dam. In recent years approximately one-third of the releases have occurred above Bonneville Dam. Since 1970 adult coho returns to the Columbia River have ranged from a low of 74,000 in 1995 to a high of 1,527,800 in 1986. The Columbia River coho return includes both early and late segments with commercial fisheries prior to mid-September landing primarily early stock, fisheries during mid-September through early October landing a mixture of early and late stock, and fisheries occurring after early October landing primarily late stock.

Historic natural coho production areas in Washington included the Grays, Elokomina, Cowlitz, Toutle, Kalama, Lewis, and Washougal watersheds.

In Oregon, Columbia River tributaries that were historic natural coho production areas include the Lewis and Clark, Youngs, Klaskanine, Clatskanie, Clackamas, and Sandy rivers plus Big, Gnat, Beaver, Milton, and Scappoose creeks.

### Returns

The 2002 Columbia River coho return of 510,700 adults was comprised of 278,100 early stock fish and 232,600 late stock fish.

### 2003 Forecast

The projected 2003 Columbia River mouth return, following expected ocean fisheries, is 429,000 adults, which includes 271,500 early stock and 157,500 late stock. [Editor's Note: Actual figures]

## Oyster Trivia

### Love on the Half Shell

Oysters have been touted for centuries as a powerful aphrodisiac. Casanova credited the oyster with enhancing his prowess in the boudoir, and no Roman orgy was complete without thousands of oysters on the half shell.

There is some scientific evidence to support this long-standing belief. Oysters are nature's best food source of trace minerals (zinc, iron, phosphorous) which are believed to contribute to the efficiency of the sex glands.

Like many humans in today's confusing world, the oyster just can't seem to find its sexual identity. Pacific oysters usually begin life as males, make the switch to females after the first year, and later some again change back to the male. The Eastern oyster is even more fickle and may change sex continuously, even several times in a single year.

At the extreme edge of this category is German love doctor Dieter Altmenstaag, who, according to the "Star," uses an oyster bath therapy to cure impotence and rev up sagging sex drives. The doctor is said to have treated 217 men who lost their knack in the sack, and every single one of them has come away ready for action. Dr. Altmenstaag said zinc from the oysters is absorbed directly through the skin and becomes a powerful stimulant in the treatment of sexual disfunction. (The formula: two quarts of raw oyster meats into a bathtub of hot water)...

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## "FAIR SHARE"

Report on 2004 Spring Salmon Project

By Jack Marincovich,  
Executive Secretary, C.R.F.P.U.

Looking ahead to the 2004 Spring Salmon Fishery the question is "How are we going to get at least close to a fair share of the allowable harvest?"

We have already attended a number of meetings with the Compact people from Oregon and Washington. The last meeting we attended included Sport and Commercial Fisherman. The representatives for the Sport Fishing still think they should be allowed to fish seven days a week. They also want the Commercial fishermen off the river by the first of April.

We Suggested Sports Fishing on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday and Commercial Fishing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We also asked for some night fishing.

It appears that the same type of gear that we used last year will be allowed.

An early meeting was held at the request of the compact so they can toss around all these ideas in a bag and try to come up with a plan by the end of the year.

The next meeting is set for November 12th, 6:00p.m. at Cowlitz PUD in Longview, WA.

Management Guidelines must be changed if we are to get our fair share of the Spring Salmon.

The 2% impact should be split 50-50 instead of 70% sport and 30% commercial.

The long term loss calculation which has been determined to be 50% with large mesh, and 25% with tooth net is the most unfair part of the Management Plan.

These Changes must be Made if the Commercial Fisherman is to get His Fair Share!

## SPRING CHINOOK RETURNS IN 2004 LOOK STRONG

Strong spring chinook salmon runs are anticipated back to the upper Columbia and Willamette rivers in 2004, leaving state officials with the task of determining how to split the catch between sport and commercial fishermen.

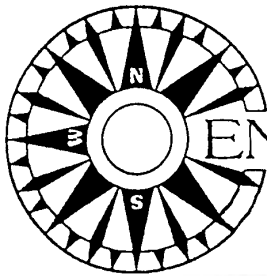
Steve King, Oregon's salmon manager, said Preliminary 2004 estimates are for 250,000 upriver Columbia springers and 90,000 into the Willamette River.

That's higher than this year's Columbia run of about 200,000 and a little lower than the Willamette's 100,000-plus fish.

More specific forecasts will be prepared and released in November and December. It marks the fifth straight year of good returns to the upper Columbia, a run that dwindled to as low as 10,200 in 1995.

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plan expired in 2003. Washington and Oregon officials were hosts at a public meeting in Vancouver to begin discussion on an allocation agreement for 2004 and 2005.

Spring chinook sharing is very complicated. The goal is to catch as many hatchery-origin chinook as possible while protecting wild spring chinook headed for the upper Columbia and Snake rivers. Those wild fish are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The plan the past two years was for the commercial fleet to fish in late February and March, targeting primarily on hatchery fish headed for the Willamette. The sport fishery was intended to peak in April in pursuit of upper Columbia-Snake salmon.

In 2002, the allocation plan worked fairly well, with the sportsmen harvesting 21,600 chinook and the commercials 14,200.

But this year, the upper Columbia fish were early and the Willamette fish were late. The commercials caught just 3,200 spring chinook in three days of netting before using up their share of upper Columbia fish.

Sport fishermen harvested 18,000, but angling was closed beginning April 6 from Interstate 5 to Bonneville dam.

Jack Marincovich of the Columbia River Fisheries Protective Union, an Astoria-based commercial fishing group, called the harvest of 18,000 by the sportsmen and 3,200 by the commercials "out of balance."

Only spring chinook marked by a clipped adipose fin may be kept in the Columbia River. King asked sportsmen to consider a regulation that does not allow fish to be removed from the water prior to being released.

Some sportsmen net non-clipped spring chinook, flop them in their boats, remove the hook and return the salmon to the river instead of leaning out the boat and taking out the hook.

Sport and commercial group leaders will meet individually with Washington and Oregon officials in Vancouver to discuss their respective fisheries, then meet together again later.

The Washington and Oregon fish and wildlife commissions are scheduled to make their allocation decisions in December.

**Below is a copy of the official Oregon House Bill allowing the more direct sale of Columbia River salmon from commercial fishermen to consumers, passed by the 2003 legislative session and signed by the governor. It has created a 4 year Columbia River pilot program.**

**A discussion of the use of the provisions of this new law, after its first fall in existence, will be on the Annual Meeting Agenda.**

72nd OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—2003 Regular Session

**Enrolled  
House Bill 3094**

Sponsored by Representative JOHNSON; Representative NELSON, Senator DUKES (at the request of Jan Westerholm) (LRFPU)

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

AN ACT

Relating to retail sale of fish; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

**SECTION 1.** The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may by rule establish a pilot program for the sale of fish at locations away from vessels participating in the nontreaty Columbia River fisheries. All sales of fish at locations away from vessels must comply with the State Department of Agriculture licensing and food handling requirements.

**SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2003 Act is repealed on January 2, 2008.

**SECTION 3.** This 2003 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2003 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House April 21, 2003

Received by Governor: 4:03 PM June 18, 2003

Approved: 12:09 PM June 24, 2003

Filed in Office of Secretary of State: 1:05 PM June 24, 2003

Signature of Governor: Phil Meyer

Signature of Secretary of State: Phil Meyer

Signature of Speaker of House: Karen Minner

Signature of President of Senate: Peter Courtney

Signature of Chief Clerk of House: Ramona J. Denney

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# LOTS OF FISH BUT NO FISHING

By Mike Strom and Courtesy of The Fishermens News, Seattle. [www.fishermensnews.com](http://www.fishermensnews.com)

*The controversy on the Columbia River continues as fishermen and managers see strong returns of salmon, prompting less fishing time rather than more.*

Big runs of salmon are problems that fishermen like to live with, right? Not if you are a Columbia River gillnetter in 2003. By the time the dust had settled on the winter and spring fisheries, Columbia River gillnetters were showing an attitude of total disgust for they'd been pulled off the fish at their best market times during peak runs.

After the initial openings for the spring select area and Columbia River winter tanglenet fisheries, the commercial fishermen were pulled off the grounds while the run went by and the market eroded. Tanglenet season proved to be an

utter disaster and spring season followed on its heels down the road to closures and, a collapsing market that showed no remorse as 80,000 troll fish hit the market in May, dropping the price of springers from \$2.50 to \$1.00 a pound.

The area's top producing spring select area fishery, Young's Bay, at Astoria, Oregon, saw gillnetters on the beach after the April 16-18 opening, in which 2,319 chinook were landed. Gillnetters were not to see another day fishing until May 7th where 610 salmon were delivered. The five-day opener from May 12- 16 brought in 1,167 springers, but average weight dropped to 12.8 from the 15-lb. average on the initial openings.

"It's all haywire! They give us the tributary on the river to pacify us for not fishing the river... and now they've regulated this season and they started starving the fishermen out," said Audie Nelson a veteran of

43 seasons of gillnetting the lower Columbia.

Issues sizzled. The Tongue Point select fishery was cut off for the season after 340 chinook and 11 white sturgeon were brought in on the April 17-18 opening. In Blind Slough, without the extension of Knappa Slough, 959 chinook were caught in the first three openings. The Compact's rationale was that Blind Slough was a clean fishery - meaning a zero upriver bright catch.

Patrick Frazier, head ODF&G Columbia River Biologist, said that there were too many wild fish in the Tongue Point select fishery, and as a result, had to be closed for the season. Frazier pointed out that the problem with Tongue Point is that this spring so many wild fish showed up that they strayed into Tongue Point so they cut it off to protect the listed species. South Channel fell under the knife, too, when on April 28 the Columbia River Compact slashed all scheduled openings through June 13.

Fishermen were confused. There were fish in the river but they couldn't catch them. A phenomenal run of 200,000 upriver brights, and over 120,000 Willamette salmon swam by the Columbia River bridge and the Compact closed the season. The fishermen didn't get to fish because there were so many wild fish that they ate up the select area impact quotas.

The initial estimate of upriver brights was 143,000 salmon but this



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couldn't be updated until more data could be gathered from the Bonneville dam count. The Compact eventually hiked the count twice, but was too little too late to help the lower river gillnetters. Oliver Waldman, Salmon for All's executive director, offered a possible solution for this problem. "It would be some help if we could develop an in season test fishing procedure that could give us a better ability to make in season ransize updates."

But rules are rules.

"We have to operate under a biological opinion... and that biological opinion comes from NOAA Fisheries," said Frazier in a phone interview. "This is part of the endangered species act which governs activities that impact listed species."

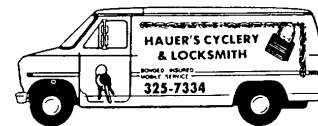
"Of all the user groups, non-treaty gillnet are the only ones paying the freight to pass ESA listed fish at the moment. Every one gets a free ride but us," said Jim Wells, president of Salmon for All. "Guided Sports Industry is displacing the traditional mom and pop segment of the sports fishery.. this is the group which is actually a commercial user group and needs to come into compliance to help pass ESA listed fish. The sports industry are allowed to use barbed treble hooks in a hook and release fishery and they do not use recovery boxes like the tanglenet fishers, and attend no fisher handling school which all tanglenetters must attend."

President of Fishhawk Fisheries, Steve Fick, estimated that economic damage to the winter tanglenet fishery was about \$10 million, and from the Select Area Fisheries as being about \$1.4 million in economic loss on select area fisheries.

Local commercial fishermen, who see themselves as the representatives of the tax payers and rate payers because they provide reasonably priced top quality fish to local markets and restaurants, voiced opinion that all of the money goes to the bureaucracy for management and little attention is paid to the harvesters or the people that should benefit from the fish - taxpayers and ratepayers.

Wells, added, "What they need to do with ESA is to implement it equitably, to all water and resource users. This includes the federal hydro system, which effects the fish runs most significantly. Under the NW power-planning act they are mandated to treat salmon equitably with power production. This law has clearly not been enforced in reference to the BPA power administration."

Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union president, Gary Soderstrom, said "The government is trying to manage us out of business. They found that tanglenets, worked so they forced us to use the eight-inch and we burned up our impact. Their promises didn't come true. They're just dreaming up scenarios to break us by changing the rules to make the figures do what they want. The Compact went from short-term mortality that showed we had no mortality to a long-term mortality figure from flawed and incomplete data that ended up taking us off the river. It's a crime."



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Pictured here at a recent morning coffee session at the Cannery Cafe (right), after making some important decisions, is the famous Astoria court.

Shown below, left to right, are Justices Jerry Westerholm, Joe Thompson, Glen Larsen, Chief Justice Ab Ihander, Bill Gunderson, John Hill, Harry Phillips, and Art Hilton. Absent



for this session were Ellis Hill, Herman Haggren, Eldon Korpela, and Bud Conger.

Deceased members of this longtime court are Rudy Lovvold, Einer Lovvold, Richard Riutta, and Gene Hill.

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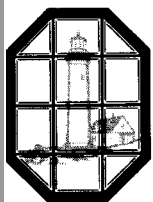
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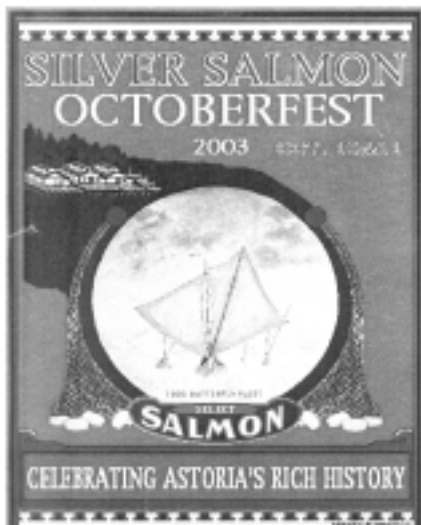
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## Silver Salmon Octoberfest

The Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce Fish Committee presented a slightly different program at its third annual silver salmon celebration. This year was an Octoberfest featuring beer tasting, music and good food.

The event was held on Pier #1, at Port of Astoria under a "big top" tent.

The event was very well attended which resulted in brisk sales of Silver Salmon-all the stock was sold out before the event was over. Our new direct-sales law for Columbia River Salmon allows for the direct-to-consumer sale of fish, with proper license, away from the boat.

Watch for and plan on attending next years celebration.



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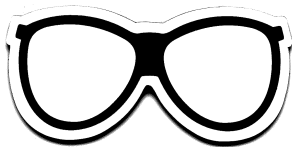
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# An Interview with Gary Soderstrom, CRFPU President

By Mike Strom

Fishermen's News, November 2003

After talking to Columbia River Fishermens Protective Union (CRFPU) President, Gary Soderstrom, at Columbia Pacific Marine Works, in Astoria, where Soderstrom was having major work done on the outdrive and motor to his Columbia River gillnetter I asked him for an interview covering the 2003 season and the embattled leader of the fall shutdown on the river agreed. Following are some excerpts:

MS: Gary let's start at the beginning. What's your take on the tanglenet season?

Soderstrom: Tanglenet was a complete flop, a bureaucratic boondoggle. Lots of promises and no delivery. We had one day of fishing with the tanglenets and a couple days with big mesh. The state used magical numbers that they use on impacts based on incomplete studies on nearly non-existent data to justify keeping us off of a huge run of highly valuable salmon. Also, there was a distinct bias toward the sport fishery when it came time to divide up the impact.

MS: What are the prospects for the tanglenet fishery in 2004?

Soderstrom: Same old crap. They keep talking about all the steelhead we catch and none of the gillnetters I talk to are catching near that many. The formula for figuring out how many are caught is completely flawed.

MS: Let's move on to spring season. What's your take on that?

Soderstrom: The compact pulled basically the same thing they did in tanglenet fishing. It was frustrating. They kept us off the higher valued fish... then let us on the run too late. The earlier we get our nets in the water in the spring the more money we get because we're not in competition with the trollers and Alaska fishery. By the time they put us on the fish the price was down to a buck and a quarter a



Gary Soderstrom showing his little used tanglenet in an old netshed on the Lower Columbia River  
Photo by Mike Strom

pound. We got less than half the value of the harvest that we should have.

NIS: Doesn't sound good. What about August?

Soderstrom: You mean Salmon or Sturgeon?

MS: Start with sturgeon.

Soderstrom: Price was fair but some fishermen didn't like the seven fish limit much... cut into profits... others did because it spread the fish around. Personally, it cut into my catch... it seems like a communistic approach to fish management.

MS: And what about August salmon?

Soderstrom: Again we have a price problem. We should have gotten more fish than we did and the Indians do not utilize their impacts properly. The government hasn't set a Snake River management goal for wild Snake River Falls salmon. There is no upper number. We don't know what's enough fish before the impacts are revised. But on the bright side, we had more time on the lower river for salmon and 2S fishery was improved by giving a greater area so more people could participate. Again, prices were low for salmon... \$.50 to \$.75 a lb. It wasn't much.

MS: Fall season was a bright spot, though, wasn't it?

Soderstrom: It pretty much kept us in business. I'd taken an informal poll and couldn't find anybody who'd made any money until September. It's hard to make money with microscopic fishing time and low prices. In the early Youngs Bay Season prices were fairly low, \$.50 for silvers but the buyers tried to manipulate the prices lower even... \$.25-\$.30 and the fishermen said no. They got together and decided to hold out for a minimum of \$.50. The local processors came up with the price after 4 or 5 days when



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Canadian buyers came in and offered 50 cents.

MS: What about the Columbia River Fall season?

Soderstrom: We didn't get in to harvest enough of the salmon; 900,000 Fall Chinook entered the Columbia River this fall, a huge run, and we only got to harvest 50,000 of them. But the price nudged up towards a dollar.

MS: The price is moving up. That's news.

Soderstrom: The price for our fish is coming back because of its high quality. The public is getting wise to farmed fish and all of the additives that they feed them. It's market driven. Buyers are moving back towards quality wild salmon because of health issues. Columbia River salmon are wild and have excellent flavor. With responsible decisions by the Compact and creative marketing there is a future for the Columbia River fishery.. it's a battle, but CRFPU will be there. We've been in continuous existence since 1884 and we're still representing the independent Columbia River fisherman.

MS: What do you feel was your biggest accomplishment in 2003?

Soderstrom: The shut down was huge, of course, and it helped reverse the price erosion that would have driven many fishermen out of business. But one of the things I'm most proud of being a part of is helping push legislation through the Oregon Legislature to allow Oregon fishermen to market their own fish to the public without going through the processors.

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## Atlantic Salmon Found in NW Creek

*The Fishermen's News - August 2003*

On July 18th, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that several hundred Atlantic salmon were found in Scatter Creek, located in Thurston County, Washington, and a tributary of the Chehalis River. The salmon were found during the first in a series of stream surveys funded through a grant from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Scatter Creek, which is home to a healthy, naturally spawning coho population, is also located near a commercial hatchery, run by Cypress Island, Inc., that produces Atlantic salmon for its farmed salmon operations.

During the survey, about 250 juvenile Atlantic salmon, some of which were up to a foot long, were sighted in the creek. 17 of the juvenile salmon were collected for analysis and genetic testing. It is not yet known how long the salmon have been in Scatter Creek.

Every year, the commercial Scatter Creek hatchery produces up to 3 million juvenile Atlantic salmon, which are transferred to eight marine net pen sites owned by Cypress Island, Inc. throughout the Puget Sound region. Those netpens in turn produce 11 to 14 million pounds of Atlantic salmon each year.

## Hawaii Cutters Stop Illegal Fishing

*The Fishermen's News - August 2003*

On July 20th the Honolulu-based Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis intercepted a Chinese fishing vessel believed to be fishing on the high seas with illegal driftnet gear approximately 2000 miles northwest of Honolulu. This is the second illegal high seas driftnet fishing vessel caught in the North Pacific by the U.S. Coast Guard during the last three weeks.

Under a 1992 United Nations General Assembly moratorium, high seas driftnet gear in excess of 2.5 kilometers long is prohibited. High seas driftnets are typically 8-15

meter deep nets that are between 2-20 miles in length.

Under the authority of a U.S. - China enforcement agreement, a Coast Guard boarding team accompanied by a People's Republic of China (PRC) law enforcement officer boarded the fishing vessel Zhou Shun Yu 2002, which claimed to be legally fishing for squid. Once onboard the vessel, the boarding team found more than six miles of driftnet, 20 tons of squid, 4 tons of tuna, and several hundred pounds of sharkfin; strong indicators of illegal activity China has dispatched an enforcement vessel to rendezvous with the Coast Guard to take custody of the vessel and escort it to the PRC for further investigation and possible prosecution.

In a similar action, the Honolulu-based Coast Guard Cutter Rush, intercepted the Chinese fishing vessel Qi Dong on July 1.

A team from the Rush, which also included a Chinese fisheries law enforcement official, boarded the vessel and found over eight miles of illegal driftnet. At the request of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Rush boarding team disabled the illegal fishing gear and confiscated 393 bags of illegal fishing nets, location transponders, net floats and net-hauling winches.

The Qi Dong was ordered back to port in China, where it was later intercepted by Chinese fisheries law enforcement vessels and escorted back to port. "These cases mark a significant event in the history of cooperation between the US and PRC in joint enforcement of this worldwide ban on high seas driftnet fishing," said Rear Admiral David S. Belz, Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Operations.

The first indication that illegal high seas driftnet fishing was occurring this year came from a Canadian patrol aircraft that was operating out of a US Air Force base in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. These surveillance flights are part of an international effort conducted by the United States, Canada, Russia, Japan and South Korea to stop illegal high seas driftnet fishing in the north Pacific.

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## Bonneville, other dams leaking oil

Bonneville is joined by other decades-old U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers in spilling or leaking oil. In some instances it is just a trickle, but in one case roughly 1,000 gallons leaked.

The Bonneville leak took place in 2002 and Oregon and Washington authorities have since issued to the Corps 4 violation notices for illegally spilling oil there as well as at the Dalles and John Day dams.

But the Corps has snubbed the states by telling them they have no authority over what goes on inside federal dams. "The Corps is not required to follow state regulatory controls over the operation of generators, turbines, galleries, sumps, and pumping operations within our federal facilities" according to the NW Corps Division as stated earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the dams go on leaking oil. It is unclear how much oil has already ended up in the river system. There is no question that if these leaks had been caused by private industry that there would have been substantial financial penalties.



## Columbia Dredging now faces long delay

Bush administration rules on civil works projects send the shipping channel almost to the end of the funding line.

The Bush administration has labeled the plan to deepen the Columbia River ship channel as a "New Start" and did not include finances for the project in the federal budget. This raises the likelihood that completion of the dredging could be delayed for years.

The \$148.4 Million project by the US Corps of Engineers would deepen the currently 40 foot deep ship channel by 3 feet from the mouth of the Columbia to Portland and Vancouver. The Port of Portland is the major sponsor of the project.

Critics say dredging would destroy habitat for the endangered salmon in the sensitive river estuary. Environmental and fishing groups, including Salmon For All and the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, have challenged the projects compliance with state and federal water quality standards. The need for the increased dredging when compared to the potential harm to fish and the river is being seriously questioned and further litigation may result.

It is also reported that if the channel deepening were to begin in 2004-2005, there would be no dumping of dredge spoils in the Tongue Point, Lois-Mott embayment as long as the C.E.D.C. select fishery is in existence there. This information comes directly from the US Corps of Engineers in Washington D.C.

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# BROWNSPORT REMEMBERED

by Clarence "Snooky" Barendse

*Have you heard of a community named Brownsport? No, not Brownsmead, Brownsport. If you have never heard of Brownsport you are not alone.*

Lost in the pages of time there was Brownsport, a small fishing village located amongst the island grasses of Marsh Island in the Columbia River. Brownsport began its quiet existence before World War I, Long before Brownsmead became a town, with post office and grocery store. Rumor has it that the community's original residents were fiercely independent men. When supplies were needed they would float with the ebb to Astoria and come back on the flood. Later, after Brownsmead was developed, someone from the Brownsmead store would bring supplies by boat to the residents of Brownsport

How Brownsport got its name is still a mystery today. No one knows for sure.

Some of the original inhabitants of Brownsport were Sea Captain Matt Brander, Bill Sture, Nels Nelson, and a boat shop owner by the name of Efferson. And there were the "heavenly twins" John and Ole. John Apset, was a Russian immigrant, and



*Brownsport Street Scene circa 1930*

Ole Simpson, was a Norwegian, who later moved to Blind Slough. In the 40's they celebrated 25 years together in a sometimes stormy but long lasting alliance. They sold their float house, in Brownsport, to George Davis who was a gillnetter on Woody -Island. George Davis' sister married Tony Canessa and Tony was a fish buyer. Other original residents of Brownsport were Emil Yaakola, a man by the name of Nels Olson, who was Earl Anderson's grandfather, Nels Nelson, and Nils Hansen.

There were some 20 float houses and shacks on stilts located on the

bank, which made up the housing for the community. The only street, what else, Main Street, was constructed entirely of three 2" by 12" planks. This was the main walking area leading from the shore to dwelling to dwelling. The water level on Brownsport would rise and fall with the changing of the tides. When the tide was high, the water would lap at the floors of the float houses and shacks, when the tide was out (low) there would be the mud and the muck. One living quarter was an old sloop made into a permanent dwelling on stilts.

A story has been told about the Sea Captain Matt Brander, that while he

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was gone to Alaska with his ship, his wife burned their house down. She was upset that he had been gone for such a long time and the lore is she went crazy. As the story goes when Captain Brander returned he had his wife committed to an institution.

At the north entrance to Brownsport there was an old boat hull stuck in the mud. The boat's name was the Nachotta. No one knows why the Nachotta sank but for years it was used as a navigation mark by many that traveled up and down the river. Some fish buyers would tie up to the old hull and buy fish from those willing or able to sell their catch.

Bill Sture, a crusty sort, was the fish trap watchman for Chris Siverson and he was also known as the Mayor of Brownsport, and he had a stiff leg. Once when he was walking home late one night he missed the plank causing him to fall off the walkway getting his stiff leg stuck in the muck. The residents of Brownsport left him there until the tide started coming up and threatened to leave Mayor Sture as a permanent fixture in the muck of Brownsport.

Nels Nelson made decoys in Brownsport and there were a lot of them. I have a bluebill decoy that was made by Nelson, which I got from Charlie Sture.

Earl Anderson's grandfather, a man by the name of Nels Olson, died one night when he was out fishing. Earl Anderson inherited the boat, fishing drift right and he lived for a time in Brownsport and he later moved in with Ed Erickson on North Island. Some of the stories Earl told about Brownsport in an article written in 1981 called, "Who Ever Heard of



*Snooky Darendse*

Brownsport?", are quite entertaining. He talked of the Moonshine Parties that were held and it was said that the Moonshine could eat a hole through a cloth it was so powerful. Earl also told of the story about a time when an old resident came in from trolling. He had a glow on and came staggering up the walk toward his float. The troller fell overboard and George Davis and Nils Hansen were sittin' on the porch. One of 'em said, "yep, Arnie drowned. I didn't see him come up. Poor old Arnie he's gone. There's no use." What really

happened was Arnie had just landed in the soft mud. He had floundered around in that stuff and then climbed out by Earl's float. He was such a sight, but alive.

In the summers of 1937 and 1938 I got a job as a boat puller with Emil Yaakola. The first year he would not let me touch the net but the next year I was pulling net in for him. He paid me now and then and I lived with him in one of the shacks on stilts in Brownsport. This was quite an adventure for a 12 and 13 year-old.

A guy by the name of Luke Zankich was the man who would come and pick up the fish from those who elected to sell to him. A few of the others were in debt to the Company and they had to sell their fish to CRPA (Columbia River Packers Association) or to the Union Fish Company.

One of the last known permanent residents of Brownsport was Mervin Tuom. overboard in Blind Slough and drowned sometime in the 60's. Henry Ilertson lived in Brownsport until the 60's as well.

Just below Brownsport there is a drift that fisherman fished. The drift had three different names over the years, Snag Island, Kaboth and Brownsport Drift. Brownsport Drift became the most recognized name

of the drift. The drift started at the Shadduck Point Jetty, which was the towhead, went down river past North Island, past Russian Island, past Green Island to the Columbia River ship channel. The fishing drift was about three miles long that could be longer depending on who is telling the story.

North Island has been the fish receiving stations location for 90 years and remains the same today. The individual canneries would send their launches or tenders to pickup fish on a daily basis. Reno Raihala's float house was there along with a fish-receiving station for Barbey Packing CO. When Reno was out on the drift Eugene (Slim) Mendenhall AKA "Clem Kadidal Hopper", would tend the station. Union Fish had a scow with a living quarters to receive fish and when that proved to be too expensive Ed Erickson became the official receiver for Union Fish. Ed would man the station the entire fishing season. CRPA had a receiving scow there with living quarters for Carl Johnson the fish receiver.

Some of the original Brownsport Drift Right Shareholders were: Armas Penttila, Ed Wilman, Ed Erickson, Wagner Smith, Charlie Smith, Emil Yaakola, Ilo Penttila, Bob Takalo, Oney Empo, Bill Empo, Charles Sture, Arvid "AK" Kalander, Emil Luoto, Nels Olson and Matt Raihala.

The Brownsport Drift evolved into 32 drift right shares when the fishing industry was at its peak. Some of those names were Bill "Bull Moose" Laurila, Frank Laurila, Art Yaakola, Jafet Nouson, Bill Kelly, B. Young, Matt Tuom, Hank Eilertson, Charles Sture, Olaf Johnson, George Carlson, Ilo Penttila, Armas Penttila, Willie Raihala, Reno Raihala, Bob Takalo, Ed Erickson, William "Sharky" Westerholm, Sventi Raistaka, Orville Darling, Wilford LaJesse, Earl Anderson and Phillip Johnson. I bought my drift right from Armas Penttila.

I may not have all the names spelled precisely, or included all those who were settled in Brownsport, or fished the drift, nevertheless I trust this gives you a sampling of those who



*Capt. Matt Brander*

lived and worked in this area on the Columbia River. Personal records were not kept about Brownsport, it was a fishing village nothing more nothing less, where those who worked and lived on the river existed.

Today there is very little sign that the small fishing village ever existed. It lays there silent in the themes of the past light. As times and tide change and people move on, it is invaluable for us to note the pages of our memories. Without these notes the memories will be as lost as the small village of Brownsport.

"Snooky" Barendse is a long time Gillnetter on the Columbia River, most

prominently on the the Brownsport Drift. He also had a small logging outfit with his brother Gene, called the Fertile Valley Logging Company. In his retirement now, his time is spend collecting salmon labels and duck decoys from his home in Knappa.



*Brownsport slough today*

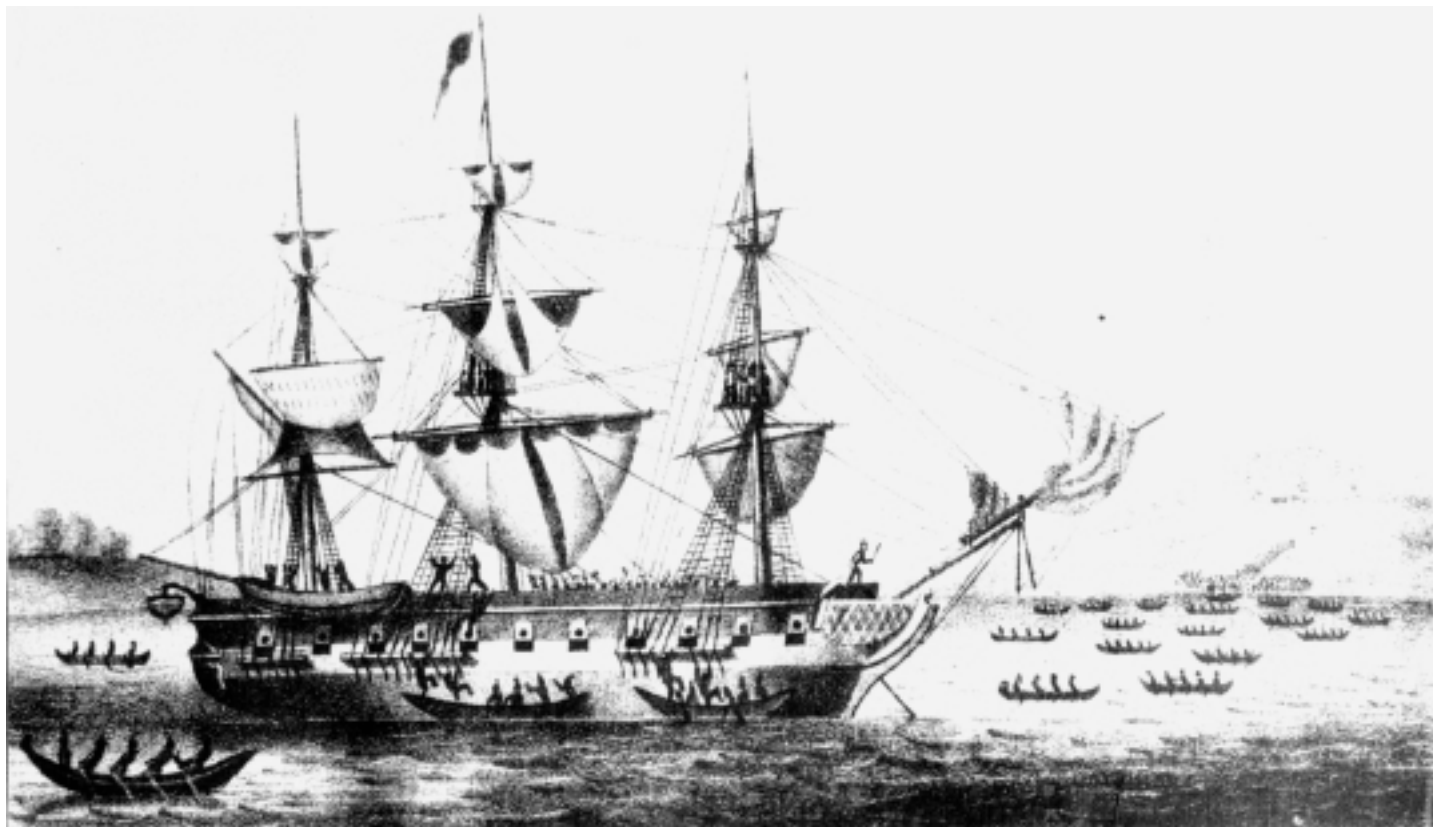


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## Diver's discovery prompts new research into ship linked to Astoria's founding -- the Anchor find offers biggest clue to fate of the Tonquin



By TOM BENNETT  
The Daily Astorian

*Next to the Columbia Rediviva, the Tonquin is probably the most famous vessel connected with Astoria's early history*

A rusty anchor found off the coast of British Columbia may prove to be a historic link to Astoria's earliest days.

A veteran Canadian diver believes he's found the location of the Tonquin, the sailing ship that delivered the first members of John Jacob Astor's fur-trading post on the mouth of the Columbia River in 1811.

There's still considerable work to be done to definitively link the anchor to the vessel, but the find has sparked new interest in the ship and its violent end off the coast of Vancouver Island.

Next to the Columbia Rediviva, the ship of explorer Robert Gray that gave the Columbia River its name in 1792, the Tonquin is probably the most famous vessel connected with Astoria's early history. The 96-foot, three-masted brig

brought a group of clerks, craftsmen and hunters to establish a trading post on the Columbia, part of the scheme by New York entrepreneur Astor to corner the fur market. The outpost that would eventually become the town of Astoria was the first permanent American settlement in the Pacific Northwest.

But the Tonquin met a tragic end. After dropping off the settlers, it sailed north with orders to barter with coastal Indian tribes for furs, which it was then to carry to China. Somewhere off the

coast of Vancouver Island, however, the vessel was sunk after its ill tempered captain prompted a confrontation with a local Native American tribe that led to the deaths of its entire crew and dozens of Indians.

### How it came about

Rod Palm said he'd made peace with the fact that his three-decade search for the historic ship might never be successful, when the veteran diver was asked by a local crab fisherman last April



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to untangle a trap caught on an underwater snag.

Palm, 61, has made the Tonquin his mission since the late 1960s, when he was commissioned by Portland businessman Ed Hayes, then-president of the Oregon Historical Society, to help lead a private expedition to find the historic vessel. That brought Palm, a veteran diver, to the village of Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He's been involved in almost all of the dozens of Tonquin expeditions that followed that first project, and has become so attached to the quest he's made Tofino his home.

When Palm and his son went down to retrieve that crab trap last spring, they found it snagged on a large piece of buried metal that turned out to be a ship's anchor. After hauling up the piece and knocking off some of the accumulated rust, Palm knew he'd found something important.

"It was such a great passion for so many years, and when we kept coming up empty, I had to console myself that, well, maybe it's better that it's never found, every place needs a mystery," he



Rod Palm checks out the anchor. Photo courtesy Tonquin Foundation

said. "Now, I'm dusting off my old files."

Clues that show the anchor may have belonged to the Tonquin include its design, the same as others used by sailing ships in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. More than 100 blue trade beads were also encrusted in the rust that formed around the metal.

Most telling for Palm, though, is the anchor's location in Clayoquot Sound. It's the historic home of the Tla-O-Qui-Aht Native American tribe, whose oral history includes accounts of the destruction of a trading ship passed down through the generations.

According to those accounts, the Tonquin met its demise when its captain, Jonathan Thorn, gravely insulted the tribe's chief by rubbing a sea otter pelt in his face during a failed effort to barter for furs on board the vessel. The Indians left the ship but returned the next day and, in the guise of bartering, came aboard in large numbers, then attacked and killed most of the crew.

A surviving crew member, however, managed to set off the ship's store of gunpowder, and the resulting explosion ripped the vessel apart and killed as many as 150 of the natives.

#### Canadian significance

Palm's find has created a stir in the village of Tofino, where further research into the discovery is being promoted by the Tonquin Foundation, a group made up of local business owners, the

Tla-O-Qui-Aht tribe and interested archeologists.

The group has secured the use of a depth-finder that will scan under the sea floor for signs of a vessel, said executive director David Griffiths. Test drillings then may be done for evidence of wood or other telltale materials, and if they're found, a complete excavation of the site, a project that could take 10 years or more, may be launched, he said.

Buried under eight feet of sand, the anchor's eight-foot wooden stock was remarkably preserved, Griffiths said, which gives hope that much of the rest of the ship can be found intact.

The Tonquin is important to Canadian lore, but with its links to Astoria, it's an especially significant part of American history, and for that reason the foundation hopes that some U.S. agencies may join the project, Griffiths said.

James Delgado said it's still far too early to start using the word "Tonquin" in relation with Palm's find. Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum- and a recognized expert in West Coast shipwrecks, Delgado was part of a team in the 1980s that researched the wreck of the schooner Isabella, lost at the mouth of the Columbia in 1830.

Delgado was called in to study the Tofino anchor last week, and said while it is of the type used by ships during the Tonquin's era, that's no proof of its origin.

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"That only tells us when the anchor was made, not when it was lost," he said, adding that samples from the wooden stock will be analyzed to determine where the wood may have come from.

Another fur trader vessel is recorded as having been sunk in the same area as the Tonquin in 1808, Delgado noted. And the Tonquin wasn't the only such ship lost in a violent encounter, with Native American peoples on the Canadian coast, he said.

Delado recommended the sonar depth readings and test diggings as the best way to determine whether a ship lies where the anchor was found. The dimensions of the vessel, samples of goods it carried, and evidence of what caused its sinking are all clues that might prove its identity, he said.

The anchor itself is going into a chemical bath, where it will sit for a year or more to preserve the metal. Its fate after that is unclear - the question of its ownership is "murky and muddy," Griffiths said.

The Canadian Heritage Conservation Act covers historic artifacts like the anchor, and some people have called for it to be removed to a larger research facility. The village of Tofino, however, sees the anchor as the centerpiece for its own proposed Maritime heritage center, he said.

Then there are the Tla-O-Qui-Ahts, who have their own stake in the artifact.

"Some tribal members view it as a war prize - after all, they lost 150 people on the ship," Griffiths said. "It's a very sensitive issue."

At a meeting in Tofino, representatives of the British Columbia provisional government, which administers the heritage act, agreed to allow the anchor to remain in the village, where the chemical treatment will take place. Under the law, Palm would have been required to go through a long permitting process before removing the anchor from the ocean floor, Delgado said, but the province officials worked with the other participants to map out the next steps in the project.

"They could have dome and taken the anchor," he said. "It's heartening that everyone in the room had common

goals."

Aside from the search for the wreck, the Tonquin Foundation also hopes to construct a full-scale replica of the vessel that will serve as an "floating ambassador" in 2010 - the year of the Olympic Games in Vancouver, and the 200th anniversary of the Tonquin's departure from New York to Oregon.

"That particular story is absolutely germane to this community and this institution," said Jerry Ostermiller, executive director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

In the late 1980s the museum hosted a symposium dedicated to research on the Tonquin, and the interest ignited by the Tofino discovery could be the spark for another such project, he said - whether or not the anchor is conclusively tied to the ship.

"They're still a long ways" from proving the anchor belonged to the Tonquin, he said. "There were dozens of vessels from that period that rounded Cape Horn and worked the coastal trade that were never heard from again."

Palm said he took part in many Tonquin expeditions at other locations, but always believed the Clayoquot Sound site was the most promising. During one of the first expeditions in the 1960s, a metal-detecting device was dragged several times over the very site where the anchor was found without registering a blip, he said. Only on the last day of the project was it discovered that the machine was broken, but for years that spot was largely ignored in subsequent expeditions.

Despite his own confidence he's found the ship, Palm knows there's much more work to be done before others agree with him.

"As every bit of evidence comes in, the circumstantial evidence piles up, and at some point someone will finally say they believe it's the Tonquin," he said. "Of course I already do, but it needs be ore than just me saying it."

The tribal story of the Tonquin's demise, as well as an eyewitness version provided to the Astoria company months later by a native hired as an interpreter on the Tonquin, are generally accepted as accurate accounts. But Clayoquot Sound is just one of three locations believed to be plausible locations of the wreck, Ostermiller said.

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# Scientist warns of dangers of farmed fish

By TOM BENNETT, *The Daily Astorian*  
tbennett@dailyastorian.com

OSU researcher says wild salmon are under threat

Salmon farming is making the one-time "food of the lords" so plentiful it's now served on airplanes.

But those farming operations are also threatening wild salmon, according to an expert who spoke Friday in Astoria as part of the Columbia Forum speakers series.

Oregon State University researcher Ian Fleming has studied the interactions between wild salmon and fish raised in salmon-farming operations, most recently heading a research project in Norway. His findings have added to the growing body of work that's raising red flags about salmon-farming and how it could be harming wild runs through interbreeding, disease and competition for food.

It's a vital issue, he said, given the explosive growth in the seafood-farming in-

dustry, which has expanded 10-fold in the last 15 years and continues to grow at 15 percent a year, Fleming said.

Seafood-farming operations now exist around the world - Chile recently became the No. 1 producer of farmed salmon. In the Pacific Northwest, salmon farms operate mainly in British Columbia, with a smaller number in Washington.

Half of all seafood eaten in the United States is now farm-raised, but the growth of the industry is generating debates about its impact through the loss of wildlife habitat, pollution, disease and other problems.

For salmon-farming, an added controversy is the problem of fish escaping from the underwater net pens in which they're raised. Storms, accidents, holes torn by predators and other mishaps let fish out into the surrounding waters, and although the industry claims the percentage of such releases is tiny, Fleming said the enormous - and growing - amount of

salmon farmed each year means that large numbers of fish are getting out all the time.

In some areas in Europe, commercial fishermen are reporting that one-quarter or more of their catches contain farmed salmon, Fleming said.

It's become a growing controversy in many areas, including Maine, home to the largest concentration of salmon-farming operations in the United States, which have been blamed for squeezing out native salmon runs.

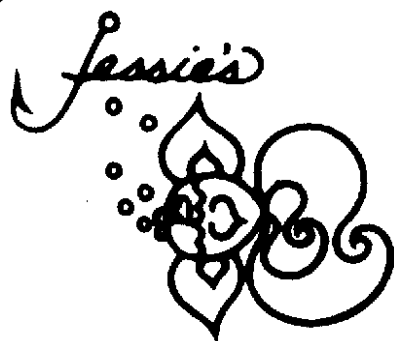
In Norway, another major salmon-farming center, Fleming studied the escaped fish problem for 10 years. In one study he and his research team closed off a river and studied the interaction between wild and farmed salmon through several generations.

Contrary to the claims of many in the industry, the two types did interbreed, most often wild males and farmed females, he said. Their offspring showed many of the unwelcome traits of the farmed fish - they were larger and more aggressive eaters, but were also less successful breeders and less likely to avoid predators, he said.

"Overall there was quite a significant decline in the fitness of the local population," he said.

Through this interbreeding, the wild stocks lose the particular genetic make-up that's evolved to allow them to adapt to their particular habitat, he said.

"The uniqueness of the wild population is being halved every 10 generations," he said. "Their unique genetic structure is



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disappearing very rapidly."

How big an problem escaped farmed fish could become in the Northwest is less clear. Because the industry has been built up around Atlantic salmon, almost all west coast operations raise Atlantic fish, Fleming said. Atlantic salmon traditionally have never been successfully transplanted out of their native areas, as shown by the repeated failure of stocking efforts in the Northwest dating back more than a century. They also do not interbreed with Pacific salmon.

A study released last year by the National Marine Fisheries Service that looked at Puget Sound chinook and chum salmon found little potential threat from escape farmed salmon because of Atlantic salmon's traditional failure to live wild in the Northwest.

But that doesn't mean farmed salmon, if they continue to escape in large numbers, might not eventually start competing with native populations, Fleming said. Between 1992 and 2002 an estimated 1 million farmed salmon in the Northwest escaped their pens. Atlantic salmon have been found in 80 rivers in Alaska, British Columbia and Washington.

"No self-sustaining populations have been found in the Northwest - yet," he said.

Where salmon-farming may be having an impact is disease, Fleming said. Aquaculture critics argue that because they're raised in crowded pens, farmed salmon generate more fish ailments, which can spread with the tides to nearby wild populations.

Salmon farms, for example, are "breeding grounds" for sea lice, a naturally occurring parasite found in heavy concentrations in farming operations, Fleming said. He noted that the numbers of pink salmon around Vancouver Island have dropped dramatically due to sea lice - the fish's primary migratory route

out of the Frazier River takes it past heavy concentrations of fish farms.

Fleming said he's not advocating an end to seafood farming, which has the capability of producing large amounts of quality food on a more consistent basis than traditional fishing. But more effort needs to be made to lessen its impact on wild populations by limiting escapes and disease outbreaks.

"It's here to stay, and it has an important role to play," he said. "But we want to think, how can we do this more sustainably?"



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To hear the talk, you'd think the body  
was all but in the hearse!

Now I'll admit it's mighty sick,  
But mostly from all the doctoring  
It seems the doctors have forgotten  
The point of their profession!

I see so much injustice  
It's hard to know just where to start.  
But we better get new doctors  
Before they completely stop the heart!

A closer look at their politics  
Seems to me long over due.  
If anyone else ripped us off like this,  
We'd call the cops or sue!

There's got to be some accountability.  
Don't shrug your shoulders and drift away.  
Your fathers didn't, and we need to show,  
We're in this fight to stay!

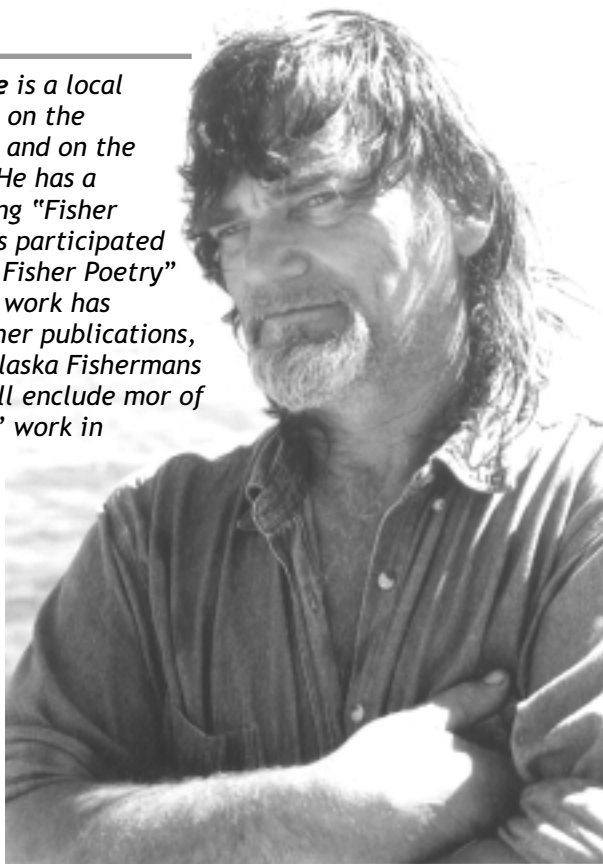
It's the health of the fisheries  
That shows a manager's true worth.  
And as I watch this fishery die,  
I wonder how it could be managed worse.

If you don't believe you're seeing  
A blatant form of genocide,  
Just look at all the boats  
Left sitting till they died!

Everyone knows there's safety in numbers,  
But we're being systematically shut down.  
If we don't fight to stop this trend,  
This fishery will be six feet under ground!

Dave Densmore  
February 6, 2003

*Dave Densmore is a local fisherman both on the Columbia River and on the Pacific Ocean. He has a knack for writing "Fisher Poetry" and has participated in the "Astoria Fisher Poetry" gatherings. His work has appeared in other publications, including the Alaska Fishermen's Journal. We will include more of his "Gillnetter" work in future issues.*



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## Exxon Mobil spill award sent back to judge

A federal appeals court has again ordered a court in Alaska to reconsider a multibillion-dollar award of punitive damages against Exxon Mobil Corp. for the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Exxon Mobil, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, said Friday it should pay no more than \$25 million in damages - a fraction of the original \$5 billion award.

A jury in Alaska approved a \$5 billion award to punish the company for spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound in 1989.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said the award was excessive and sent it back to U.S. District Judge Russel Holland in Anchorage. He reduced the award to \$4 billion last year. Exxon Mobil appealed, saying the reduced figure was still too high.

Exxon Mobil argued before the 9th circuit court that under a U.S. Supreme court decision this year, punitive damages should not exceed the amount the company was forced to pay by court order to compensate victims of the oil spill. Exxon Mobil said it cleaned up the spill and voluntarily compensated those who claimed direct damages.

It said it paid \$300 million immediately to more than 11,000 Alaskans and businesses affected by the spill and \$2.2 billion from 1989 to 1992 for cleanup operations. The company also paid \$1 billion in settlements with the state and federal governments.



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## Verdict vindicates processors in Bristol Bay lawsuit

*Jury doesn't find 'smoking gun' to prove salmon fishermen's allegations of price-fixing*

Attorneys spent years preparing to present their cases. Jurors needed only six hours to find salmon processors and importers innocent of collusion in the Bristol Bay price-fixing suit.

The crux of the trial, which began this February and ended in May, was to establish that importers and processors sought to stabilize their profit margins by exchanging financial information and subsequently reducing ex-vessel prices paid to fishermen for sockeye salmon from 1991 to 1995.

Believing they had sufficient evidence to win the class act lawsuit, attorneys representing some 4,500 fishermen asked jurors to find the defending seafood companies guilty of conspiracy in a plan to bilk Bristol Bay gillnetters out of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The plaintiffs sought damages of more than \$1 billion.

Defendants included Trident, Wards Cove, Icicle Seafoods, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Peter Pan Seafoods and Unisea, plus Japanese importers Okaya, Nichirei, Nichiro, and Nippon Suisan Kaisha. Other seafood companies listed as defendants when the case was originally filed back in the early 1990s paid claims to the tune of \$40 million to avoid trial expenses.

Attorneys produced memos, testimonies and other exchanges of information that they asserted was evidence tied to the dockside price drop. But jurors concluded the evidence didn't support the central question of whether processors and importers knowingly fixed ex-vessel prices.

After deliberating for six hours the jury couldn't find a "smoking gun" that tied collusion to dwindling ex-vessel prices, especially in light of Japan's recent economic woes and the worldwide glut of farmed salmon.

## Atlantic Salmon Caught in Alaska

According to information released by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), on October 3rd, an Atlantic salmon was caught by a commercial gillnetter and was turned into the ADF&G Petersburg office. ADF&G scientists recently confirmed the identification as correct. The fish, likely an escapee from a British Columbia (BC) salmon farm, was caught near Point Baker south of Petersburg on September 8th. It weighed approximately 10, pounds and was about 30 inches long.

"The invasive threat of escaped, farmed fish is an escalating problem," said Kevin C. Duffy, Commissioner, ADF&G. "More fish farms in British Columbia are proposed and the lack of safe containment continues to plague the industry and threaten Alaska's salmon industry."

Hundreds of escaped Atlantic salmon have been caught in Alaska's marine waters over the past decade, one as far north as the Bering Sea. Of greatest concern are the several adults that have been captured in Alaska Pacific salmon spawning streams since 1998. Fisheries scientists are concerned that Atlantic salmon may become established in Alaska by out-competing wild Pacific salmon, and rainbow and steelhead trout in areas where stocks or salmon spawning habitats are stressed.

Tens of thousands of Atlantic salmon escape each year from BC salmon net-pen farms. These salmon are an introduced species to the Pacific coast and pose an invasive threat to wild salmon and trout species. Escaped Atlantic salmon are successfully breeding in some BC streams.

ADF&G is addressing the threat of Atlantic salmon and actively seeks help from citizens to monitor and identify Atlantic salmon. Over 50,000 wallet sized Atlantic salmon identification cards have been distributed to fishermen and interested citizens throughout the state. Free cards are available at all local ADF&G offices.

Individuals are asked not to release Atlantic salmon. Once identification is certain, the whole fish, including head and guts, should be turned into ADF&G as soon as possible for scientific analysis. Freezing is recommended to preserve the fish if delivery is delayed.

## Stores agree to identify artificially colored fish

Three grocery chains act after class action lawsuits over red coloring added to farm raised salmon.

Safeway, Albertsons, Kroger (parent company of Fred Meyer) and Quality Food Centers indicated they would notify consumers of the added color either on the package labeling or on a placard in refrigerated cases.

Federal and state laws now require that farm-grown aquaculture salmon bear labels that show the use of artificial colorants. Farm salmon are fed pellets containing a coloring agent manufactured by drug companies to give them their rosy hue. Without the added coloring, farmed salmon would be gray because they do not consume the tiny marine organisms that turn wild salmon red naturally.

This move by the grocery chains was a result of the class-action lawsuits against them accusing them of deceiving consumers. Gray salmon on the market would mean lower prices for farmed fish.

This action is another in a series of moves to fully inform the american consumer of the dangers of purchasing and/or eating aquaculture farm raised salmon.



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## Bullets shatter boat window

Astoria fisherman Brandt Tarabochia, 32, was eating dinner and talking on the radio at around 10 p.m. Tuesday night in his gillnet boat on Youngs Bay when he said he heard the window of the boat shatter.


Tarabochia, dropped to the floor and called the police, believing the window had just been shot out by someone standing on the New Youngs Bay Bridge.

Clatsop County Sheriff's Deputy Barbara Odoms was dispatched to the scene and she reported as she was en route another fisherman called in to report hearing what he thought were more gunshots from the vicinity of the bridge.


Odoms reported she met Tarabochia at the Astoria Yacht Club where he said he believed the window was shot with a .22 rifle because the glass was just broken and the projectile had not penetrated into the cabin.

Damage to the window was \$200, and the incident remains under investigation.

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## GILLNET BOAT RACERS

Three of the fastest Gillnet Boats of the early 30's are shown in these pictures taken at the Astoria Regatta boat races.



Willie Haglund's boat wins the 1932 Unlimited Race in the above picture. Joe Goska wins the Unlimited Race in 1934 in the lower right photo. It is interesting to note that Wayne Palo, Astoria, took 2nd place in both of those races, Haglund lived in Ivey and Goska in Knappa.

The upper right picture shows Gust Wallin, also from Ivey, who won 2nd place in both Unlimited Races in 1936. It should be mentioned that 2 other members of the Haglund Family joined the Regatta Races in 1939 and 1940. John Haglund and Oscar Haglund ran in the Unlimited Races those years.

All 3, Willie Haglund Gust Wallin, & Oscar Haglund boats, were built by Arnie Wall in Astoria.



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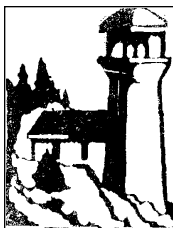
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# A Wave Goodbye

## Betty Lorraine Korpela

Betty Lorraine Korpela, 72, of West Linn, died Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2003 peacefully at home in her sleep.

Mrs. Korpela was born Feb. 20, 1931 in Astoria to Oscar and Anna Erickson. On June 24, 1950 she married Eldon Korpela in Astoria. He survives, living in West Linn.

Mrs. Korpela received her bachelor of science degree in education from the Oregon College of Education in 1964 and earned her master of science degree from Portland State University in 1979. She worked as a media specialist at Central and Capt. Robert Gray elementary schools in Astoria.

She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi for more than 50 years, West Linn Lutheran Church, the American Association of University Women, Chi Omega Alumnae Association of Portland and the Vasa Lodge and the Columbia River

Maritime Museum and was president of Delta Kappa Gamma, Eta chapter. Her devotion to and involvement in these organizations will especially be remembered. Her hobbies included golf, skiing, volkswalks, reading and traveling. She and Mr. Korpela enjoyed a 21-day cruise through the Panama Canal in 2002.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Korpela is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law Kathy and Roger Glaser of Lake Oswego and Susan Korpela and Patrick Whiting of Kodiak Alaska; a sister, Nancy McEleney of Federal Way, Wash.; a granddaughter, Kelly Glaser of San Diego, a grandson, Mart Glaser, studying in Germany; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins in Sweden, Finland and the United States. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Services were held in West Linn and Astoria Interment was in Ocean View Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gray Elementary School Library Book Fund, 785 Alameda Ave, Astoria, OR 97103, or the Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103.

## Lenore "Oney" Camberg

***Lenore "Oney" Camberg dies at 94, leaving a huge void at the popular U.S. 26 eatery that bears her name***

Born: July 23, 1908, Astoria  
Died: April 30, 2003, Portland.  
Survivors: Three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; predeceased in death by son Joe in 1998

Her name was Lenore, but everybody called her Oney, for the name of her eatery with the tall Paul Bunyan sign that's an institution and pit stop on Highway 26.

She was an institution, too. People throughout Oregon knew her and had stories about her. Locals and travelers heading to or from the coast came for the burgers, some just to see Oney and hear her trademark, "Come on, folks, sit anywhere you want."

She wrestled with rough-and-tumble loggers at her bar when they acted up, but they would mind her. Oney's bar is a former schoolhouse, and when Oney tended bar she would say, "Aren't you getting educated?"

She would recruit loggers or hunters to peel potatoes when things got busy. She hated it when it was slow. "If there's a stack of dirty dishes, there's money in the till," she would say.

If she ran out of something, she'd run over to Camp 18 or Elderberry Inn, though they were her competitors. She was a sports booster and stayed open late for busloads of ball teams from Seaside or Astoria, feeding them for free.

She started Oney's in 1938 and sold it in 1967, but it was still "her" place, and she continued to hang out and work. New owners tried to pay her, but she would say, "I'll just have some pie." People who thought she was long dead were shocked when she came out of the kitchen. The new owners still had huge birthday parties for her. She worked until she was 92. Oney died April 30, 2003, at age 94.

Oney was the youngest child of an Irish woodsman and his wife. They sent her to St. Mary's Academy boarding school because they thought she'd get in trouble with the Finnish boys in Astoria.

She married Art in 1933. Bored, she

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started a little business in her home selling candy and chewing tobacco, selling a piece of candy and eating a piece. Next thing she knew she was 230 pounds.

When her sister died in 1935, Oney raised her four nieces and nephews like her own children. She also became the local postmaster.

After Art died in 1938, she opened Oney's as a beer parlor, then married Bud, a logger.

With a gruff voice, she would say, "You know what I mean?", and smack you hard enough on the shoulder to leave bruises.

"What can you do?" she would ask when talking about the death of her only child at age 55. "What are you gonna do?" Oney also was a housemother for Tongue Point Job Corps Center for troubled kids.

On a visit to Astoria, John F. Kennedy asked for her vote, and she told him, "You'll be the first Democrat if I do."

## Alvin Emil Huhta Marine surveyor, 85

Alvin Emil Huhta, 85, of Svensen, died Thursday, March 20, 2003, in Svensen.

Mr. Huhta was born March 16, 1918, in Astoria, to Emil and Inez Alida Krum Huhta.

In 1941, he married A. Marie Oakes; she died in 1991. In 1994, he

married Halcy Wilson; she died in 2002. Mr. Huhta was a hunter, gillnet fisherman, trapper and a marine surveyor for the U.S. Government for 30 years. He then established his own marine surveying business. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Force in England. Family members say he lived in the same house in Svensen for 53 years and loved being with his family.

He was a member of the Elks, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

He is survived by two daughters, Carol "Toni" Lynn Kramer and Margaret Elaine Hunt, both of Portland; two brothers, Clifford Edwin Huhta of Pearland, Texas, and Roy Kenneth Huhta of Rosamond, Calif.; a sister, Jean Elaine Strubel of Madison, Wis.; an aunt, Senia Juusola of Astoria; seven grandchildren, Kelly Lynn Keala, Denny Jaison, Tyler David and Heidi Marie Denfeld, Matthew Huhta and Jefferson Huhta Lyman, and Daniel Lucas Hunt; six great-grandchildren, Skyler Jaison and Jaden Keith Denfeld, Benjamin Richard, Alexander Dale and Conrad Jefferson Lyman, and Adelaide Lynn Weilenga; a special niece, Donna Massey; and many other nieces and nephews.

## Willard J. Hutson, Sr.

Willard J. Hutson, Sr., 76, of Warrenton, died Sunday, July 20, 2003, in Astoria.

Mr. Hutson was born Nov. 6, 1926, in Hood River to Jesse and Winifred Harding Hutson. He was raised in Parkdale where he attended public schools.

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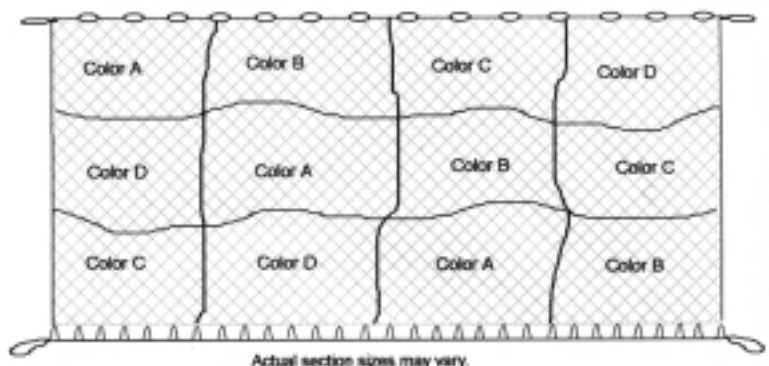
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He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served during World War 11 and was stationed in different parts of the world including New Caladonia, Australia and Burma. After his discharge, he returned to Parkdale where he operated a restaurant and he was proud of its reputation for the "best burger and shakes around," family members said. He later worked briefly as an orchardist, log truck driver, and raised Christmas trees until he found his true calling and became a commercial fisherman. He fished out of the Astoria-Warrenton area and off the coast of Alaska. In the 1980s he owned and operated the SeaFarer Restaurant in Warrenton. Mr. Hutson was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He and his wife Ramona were married in 1973 in Long Beach, Wash.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by five daughters, Sherrie Hall of Astoria, Laura Hutson of Longview, Wash., Melody Wharton of Vancouver, Wash., Ruth Nan Sparks of Astoria and Carol Naeve of Torrance, Calif.; two sons, Willard Hutson, Jr. of Baker City and Louis James Burdett of Warrenton; two stepdaughters, Shirley Daid of Texas and Irene Taylor of Washington; a brother, Virgil Hutson of Prineville; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## Robert Allan Nikka Fisherman, 92

Robert Allan Nikka, 92, of Astoria, died Saturday, May 17, 2003, in Astoria.

W. Nikka was born Dec. 16, 1910, in Astoria, to Albert A. Nikka and Gustava Soronen.

Mr. Nikka was raised and educated in Astoria. He started fishing at a young age and continued to fish for most of his life. He was well known in the local gillnetting community. He also enjoyed hunting.

He is survived by a grandnephew, David W. Nikka of Bedford, Mass.; and a grandniece, Remy Anne Nikka of Bedford, Mass.

## Walter E. "Bud" Berry Commercial fisherman, 86

Walter E. "Bud" Berry, 86, of Kelso, Wash., died Sunday, Sept. 28, 2003 in Longview, Wash.

Mr. Berry was born Aug. 16, 1917 in Woodland, Wash., to Mabel and Bert

Berry. He attended grade school on Puget Island and graduated from Cathlamet High School.

Mr. Berry was a third generation commercial fisherman and one of the last horse seiners. He fished in the Astoria area for many years.

On Nov. 28, 1963 he married Marie Milam in North Hollywood, Calif. She survives, living in Kelso.

Family members said he enjoyed his work, playing, cards-and travel.

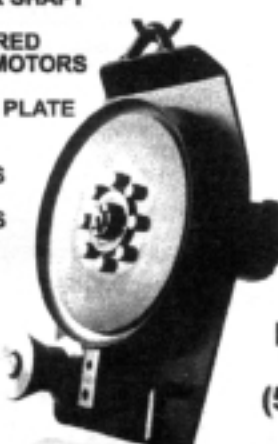
In addition to his wife, lie is survived by four daughters, Vicki Cramer of Morton, Wash., Pamellia Johnson of Ava, Mo., Carol Beaver of Anaheim, Calif., and Shaty Downs of Cornelius; four sons, Thomas Berry of Metlakatla, Alaska, Thomas Weare of Hillsboro, Mike Weare of Clackamas and Warren Plebuch of Portland; a brother, Albert Berry of Longview; 30 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

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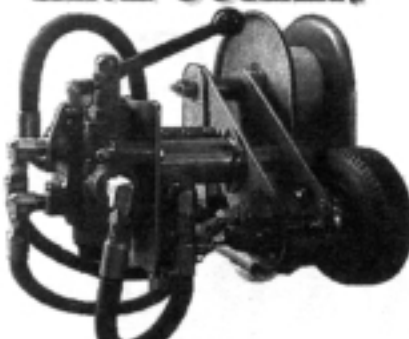
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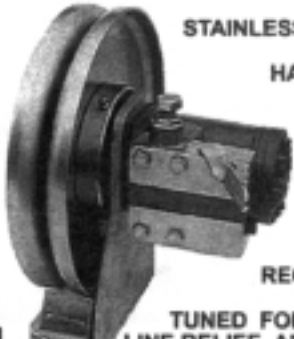

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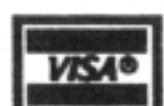
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## Reino 'Windy' Walbom Fisherman, 79

Reino "Windy" Walborn, 79, of Napavine, Wash., died Friday, Oct. 3, 2003 in Napavine.

Mr. Walborn was born Aug. 16, 1924 in Svensen to Karl and Saima Walborn. He lived in Svensen until 1986, when he moved to Mosier. He lived briefly in Mesa, Ariz., and moved to Napavine in December 2002.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War 11, earning the Bronze Star. He was a schoolteacher with the Knappa School District for 28 years and worked as a commercial fisherman on the Columbia River for more than 40 years, fishing 15 years in Bristol Bay, Alaska, as well.

On June 10, 1975, he married Cynthia Couture in Svensen. She survives, living in Napavine.

Family members said he loved woodworking and enjoyed making doll cribs for his grandchildren and shadow boxes for his wife.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Smith is survived by a son, Michael Walborn of Mount Vernon, Wash.; two daughters, Connie Peterson of Chehalis, Wash., and Debbie Younie of Yakima, Wash.; three sisters, Judy Smith of Yamhill, Wash., Ellen Travis of Sweet Home and Vieno Johnson of Svensen; and six grandchildren.

## Daniel LeRoy Stephan Commercial fisherman, 46

Daniel LeRoy Stephan, 46, of Altoona, Wash., died Monday, Oct. 27, 2003 at his home.

Mr. Stephan was born June 15, 1957 in Longview, Wash., to Daniel J. and Loretta Clair Larson-Stephan. He had lived in the Altoona area all his life graduating from Naselle High School in 1976.

He fished the Copper River in Alaska for the first time in 1971 at age 14, with his father. He eventually bought his own boats and commerial fished on the Columbia River, in Puget Sound and at Cook Met, Alaska. He retired after a long

battle with mental illness and other physical disabilities.

Family members said Mr. Stephan was a very well read and informed history student with an uncanny memory for dates and stories. He enjoyed talking history with friends and acquaintances. He was a member of the Columbia River Fisherman's Protective Union, Salmon for All and the Altoona Snag Union.

Mr. Stephan is survived by his parents, Dan and Clair Stephan of Rosburg, Wash.; three sisters, Bonni Morgan of Tualatin. Marlee Burch of Naselle and Lara Walker of Portland; an aunt, Edna Miller of Altoona; two uncles, Terry and Tracy Larson of Rosburg; a grandfather, Harvey L. Larson of Rosburg; four nieces and two nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia River Fisherman's Protective Union, 338 Industry St., Astoria, OR 97103, or to the Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103.

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*Gillnetters fishing for sockeye in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, Bristol Bay, Alaska*



*Canery Tender "Chief" and fish receiving scow in 1930*



*Astoria Regatta scene  
from earlier this  
century. The Regatta  
has been celebrated in  
Astoria for close to a  
century*



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