



Long Form Recreational Fishing Community Profile

Cascade Head and the Coastal Salmon River Area, Oregon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Resources Program
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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Long Form Fishing Community Profile (LFFCP)?

The LFFCP is an in-depth look at the fishing communities of the Oregon Coast. It is intended to provide the fishing community's perspectives on issues such as communication within the community and between the community and resource managers, changes within the community over time, the importance of fishing to the community and the town, the community's perception of the future, and what characteristics describe the fishing community.

2. What is the purpose of this profile?

The purpose of the LFFCP is to supplement the NOAA Short Form Profiles released in 2007. The LFFCP provides content to help interpret the information provided in these more commonly produced short form profiles. For example, the NOAA profiles may give information on the number of active fishing vessels and the change over time while the LFFCP will give the content (community's perspective) of the change in active fishing vessels.

3. Which profiles did Oregon State University produce?

Oregon State University produced the first profiles for three Oregon coastal fishing communities: Garibaldi, Newport, and Port Orford.

4. How are the profiles produced by ODFW useful to the state?

The LFFCPs are not focused on any one management issue and therefore provide general socio-cultural information on a fishing community. The information provided by the profiles can be used to understand the attitudes and perceptions of this stakeholder group and can be useful for understanding the possible response to regulation changes and agency communication methods.

5. What method was used to gather the information to develop this profile?

Ethnographic interviewing was used to gather the information to develop each profile. Ethnographic interviewing is defined as the collection and recording of human cultures. For the profiles, the interviews were conducted in person, recorded, transcribed, and analyzed by a researcher. The profiles were written from the community's perspective and reviewed by the community before being finalized. The recruitment method used to enlist community members in the interview process is referred to as the "Snowball Method". Like a snowball the interviews start with a small number of individuals and through recommendations the number of interviewees increases.

6. Does this method provide a representative sample of the fishing community?

The Snowball Method allows the population to be defined by the survey participants and results in a broader definition of the fishing community. For example, by the end of the survey we've interviewed commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen (retired and active) but also spouses, crew, processors, dock workers, marine mechanics, restaurant owners, etc. The participants are asked "who else do you consider part of the fishing community in (geographic location) that we should speak with". Participants recommend a person that they feel validly represents their community. We know we've reached a representative sample when the researcher begins to hear the same recommended names from community members. For example, by the last interviews we usually hear names of individuals already interviewed or those we are scheduled to interview. The profile is then written from the perspective of the community and is reviewed by the participants for accuracy.

7. How is the information gathered analyzed and interpreted by ODFW?

ODFW has each audio recorded interview professionally transcribed and then conducts a form of content analysis on each interview. Using eight criteria the researcher looks for patterns in answers. The content and quotes are chosen in response to the frequency of answers in the content analysis and the quotes are meant to represent common themes seen in the content analysis. The researcher then writes the profile from the fishing community's perspective and has the study participants review the profile for accuracy.

8. What has the response of the fishing communities been to the profiles?

ODFW has experienced very positive feedback from the communities profiled. The communities like the chance to discuss their perspectives and appreciate the agency asking. It has created better communication pathways and gives the agency a tool for building trust between the communities and the agency. The communities have also used the profiles in such forums as public meetings.

9. Will the ODFW continue to develop profiles for other coastal fishing communities?

The Marine Resources Program at ODFW plans to continue producing profiles for other Oregon fishing communities as part of ongoing monitoring efforts to support nearshore resource management.

10. If I have further questions about the profiles or other social and economic work being done by the ODFW, Marine Resources Program, who should I contact?

For more information please contact our main office in Newport, OR. The staff will be able to direct you to the appropriate person.

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Profile Overview

This profile was created as a result of a collaborative research project conducted during 2011-12. The project was designed and implemented with the help of the fishing community working in partnership with scientists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State University (OSU).

The idea for this collaborative project originated with existing profiles developed by scientists at OSU for other fishing communities along the Oregon Coast. ODFW found these profiles to be very informative and helpful during the marine reserves process and wanted to continue this work for other fishing communities. The coastal Salmon River represented an opportunity to connect with a community of interest to ODFW. The coastal Salmon River area differs from previously profiled communities in that 1.) it is the first Oregon profile to be developed for a primarily recreational fishing community, rather than a commercial one; and 2.) it represents a community less identifiable with a single city like in previous profiles. ODFW began reaching out to Salmon River community members in 2011 and with the help of several liaisons, connected with and interviewed 14 members of the fishing community in 2011 and 2012.

Each interview was conducted in-person or over the phone and lasted between twenty minutes to one and a half hours and was conducted by a single ODFW scientist. The interviews were recorded, transcribed and analyzed by this same ODFW scientist as well as a research assistant. Participants were chosen in two ways: 1.) their name was given to ODFW by other members of the fishing community as a recognized member of the community and someone we should interview; and 2.) because they fell into one of our preset categories associated with fishing in the Salmon River area. These categories ranged from local recreational angler to local business owner to visiting angler. The goal of this profile was to represent the entire fishing community, whether recreational or commercial, local or non-local.

This profile has eight sections and each section contains a summary of the perspectives and information provided through the interviews conducted in the Salmon River area. Some verbatim comments have been included to give more depth and color to the profile but no identities have been revealed. The eight sections laid out in this profile are:

- Importance of Fishing to the Community of Place
- Characteristics of Fishing Community Members and their Families
- Boundaries: Connection between the Fishing Community and the Community of Place
- Communication within the Fishing Community and between the Fishing Community and Others
- Perspectives on Management and Effects of Management
- Change in Fishing Visits: Economics and Fishing Effort
- Perceptions of the State of the Estuary/Ocean and its Resources
- Perceptions of the Future

Importance of Fishing to the Community of Place

Tucked in the lee of Cascade Head and sandwiched between the ocean and coast range, Oregon's coastal Salmon River is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. The ocean, estuary, river, and surrounding forests are enjoyed by anglers, hunters, kayakers, paddle-boarders, hikers, and nature viewers—to name a few. Recreational fishing, in particular, is an important part of the identity of a place that spans multiple cities and draws visitors from the Willamette Valley and beyond. The Cascade Head and Salmon River area is enjoyed a mix of locals and visitors, fishing year-round, from boats, rocks, and riverside.

For the small communities of Otis and Rose Lodge, recreational fishing is critical, supporting local businesses including several markets, gas stations, eateries, a tackle shop, boat mechanics, and others. Locals are regulars at many of these establishments, which serve as community hubs. Visitors provide a crucial influx of outside dollars to the area—especially during the fall salmon season. Anglers, hunters, and others are buying food, bait, tackle, ice, gas, and more from local vendors. As one local business owner puts it, “the salmon and the fall runs of Chinook are the only time of year we make any money.”

New businesses are being supported too: a local bait supplier is opening a bait shop of their own in the area to cater to the steady demand. Fishing may have helped the area weather recent economic turmoil, especially as

the construction industry—also important to the area—has been hit hard. It has also helped to compliment and replace logging as an important local economic driver. The significance of recreational fishing to the area is evident.

“The place is a ghost town during the off-season.”

Oregon commercial fishing employs some locals as well as many visiting from elsewhere—such as Pacific City. Commercial Salmon fishing off of the mouth of the Salmon River was once important—including for the Pacific City dory fleet. Charter fishing operators (mostly from Depoe Bay) also occasionally visit the reefs off of the Salmon River mouth and Cascade Head.

Other cities near the area also benefit and support fishing in the Salmon River area. Lincoln City, in particular, provides much of the lodging used by visiting anglers, as well as other services such as shopping, dining, and supplies. The area also receives regular users from Neskowin, Pacific City, and Newport. Newport also receives some boat maintenance business from Salmon River anglers. And several fishing guide businesses based locally or elsewhere use the Salmon River regularly, gaining business of their own and supporting local businesses by bringing customers into the area.

Fishing also provides a prized lifestyle for those living in the area and many people have moved to or invested in property locally in pursuit of that

lifestyle. Many agreed: “Fishing the Salmon River is pretty much why I live here.” Other people lease properties for fishing access and vacations, and seasonal residents hire local contractors to maintain their homes.

“It’s important to me to have this resource located close to me and that’s one of the main reasons I live here. I don’t live here for the rain!”

Locals and some visitors fish the river mouth for rockfish, lingcod, bottomfish, and salmon; some occasionally cross the bar and fish for halibut, salmon, rockfish, tuna, and other bottom fish species when conditions and equipment favor. “That ocean is our mother,” emphasized one local that crosses the bar.

Crabbing is popular in the estuary and near the river mouth and some will even cook their catch and picnic on the spit. Locals also fish for steelhead and trout in the Salmon River estuary and some locals and visitors even fish from paddleboards and kayaks. And locals and visitors alike pack the estuary and riverbanks for Fall Chinook salmon, the primary driver of the area’s economy.

Supporting the Fall Chinook run and important to the area economies, a state-run hatchery was constructed on the upper Salmon River in 1975. The hatchery releases 200,000 Fall Chinook salmon into the Salmon River annually and receives nearly 3,000 visitors each year. The hatchery also holds an annual free fishing day for kids and several

community members mentioned regular visits to the hatchery. A Salmon River coho salmon run was also once supported by this hatchery, before being discontinued in 2008 after it was determined to be unviable.

Some anglers using nearby Devil’s Lake, in Lincoln City (trout and warm-water species), are also supported by Salmon River-area businesses to some extent.

“People coming down here to fish is what gets us through the winter.”

Characteristics of Fishing Community Members and their Families

If fishing defines Salmon River the place, it also defines the people found there. Many using the Salmon River have “ancestral” connections to the area—they grew up fishing there with their fathers and in turn are taking their kids and grandchildren to fish, crab, and relax. Most are male, but married couples and families enjoy spending time on the river or adjacent ocean together and an increasing number of women are fishing, too. A wide range of ages can be found fishing here and fishing the Salmon River area is a way for seniors to remain active. One community member summed it up: “It’s not just a bunch of guys, old farts out there fishing. It’s the whole family that really gets out and fishes here.”

While many grew up fishing the river, the mouth, and the adjacent ocean, others have moved to the area

specifically for the fishing lifestyle opportunities and just to be near “the place.”

While defining the “average” fisher using the Salmon River area is difficult, it can be said that the Salmon River crowd is a diverse one. There are two broad “tiers” of people using fishing the area: “locals” and “non-locals.”

Locals are largely blue-collar folks, retirees, and seasonal home owners living in the towns closest to the Salmon River or traveling regularly from other nearby towns off Routes 18 and 101. They are primarily lower-middle class to middle-class, with some higher socioeconomic-level people mixed in. Most are white, with Native Americans having a presence too, and locals report increasingly diversity in the area. Locals are fishing the river via boats, rocks, and the riverbank, are the most likely to fish the river and mouth, and are the most likely to fish year-round. A select group of mostly locals and those with longtime-ties to the area also have the knowledge, skill, and boat necessary to cross the bar to fish the ocean off the Salmon River and Cascade Head. These anglers are going for salmon, rockfish, tuna, halibut, and bottomfish. Many Salmon River anglers are highly-dedicated (“diehard fishing junkies;” “addicted to Salmon River”), fishing daily during salmon season or as much as the work schedule allows. Others are described as “preferring to fish than to work.”

“Ya wake up in the morning and if you gotta go to work, you’re wishing you was going fishing instead! When you get off work, you rush down and try and catch one. Every chance I get, I’m on the water during this time of year. When I leave here today, I’m going fishing.”

Locals pride themselves on being a self-reliant bunch, fishing for food, making their own gear, and doing their own boat repairs. Some have been here all of their lives, some relocated to be near their Salmon River recreation, and some grew up or spent significant time here traditionally and return from their new places of residence regularly.

...a local angler came in asking for a trashbag to clean up litter left by others on the riverbank.

Those with longtime fishing connections or profound respect for the area (including many locals) describe a stewardship that develops for the place-loyal Salmon River anglers (and other recreationists) clean up litter, enforce ethics, instill stewardship in others, and even report violations. The Salmon River Keepers are one group spearheading litter control, working with SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism), and in monitoring and reporting inappropriate fishing behavior, such as poaching.

Non-locals may be visitors from coastal cities, communities located along Route 18, the Willamette Valley (commonly Salem, McMinnville, and even Portland areas), or farther abroad. Some are patrons of guide services that use the Salmon River. They appear to be a mix of blue and white collar folks that fish from the bank or from boats, of all ages, and of an increasingly diverse ethnicity. Most are coming during the busy fall Chinook season and fishing the riverbank, when as many as “four out of five fishing the bank are non-locals.” Hunting is also an important draw to the area. Other visitors come to hike (such as the trails at Cascade Head), kayak, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the area.

The Salmon River fishing scene has changed over time. The river has gotten more crowded, with growth in demand happening fairly quickly. This has led to some conflicts among users—longtime users accuse newcomers of lacking ethics and respect for the place, and some territoriality exists among locals. Litter, poaching, trespassing, fighting, human waste, and snagging have all become contentious issues and the banks of the river get trampled during the Fall Chinook season.

“Those fishing in the ‘70’s, the ‘80s and the early ‘90s, I think those guys, they had a sense of morality and respect for the fish back then. This new generation of fishermen coming in lacks that respect.”

But there is willingness by locals to share the Salmon River resource as long as people are respectful of the fish, the area, property owners, and other anglers. After all, visitors are important for the local economy—a fact not lost on locals. Regardless of whether one is a local or a non-local, they are fishing the Salmon River for the same reasons: to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy the outdoors in a picturesque setting, for the thrill of catching fish, and to bring home a meal.

Beyond recreation, fishing also provides sustenance for many. Salmon River area anglers and their families value their catch as a cheap, healthy, enjoyable source of food; for some, catching their own fish is the only way they can afford seafood. For others, it’s the only way they desire to acquire it.

Boundaries: Connection between the Fishing Community and the Community of Place

Stop by Knight’s Tackle Box during salmon season and perhaps you’ll coincide with a lucky angler dropping by to have their fish photographed for the packed wall of fame. Drive down Route 18 and you’ll see lots of activity at the lone gas station and the corndog shop.

“Growing up around here, five meals out of seven was something that we caught or harvested, whether it was deer, elk, fish, salmon, halibut, crab.”

Recreational fishing is critical to local businesses and the fall is especially important.

For the communities of the Salmon River area, fishing is also the central social element. Local businesses, such as the cafes and tackle shop are important gathering places catering to anglers. Otis Café opens early to accommodate the masses of anglers that show up at 5 am and Pronto Pup is a quick lunch or snack for anglers. The area's only gas station provides non-ethanol gas for boat engines. The owner of Knight's "seems to know everyone that comes by" and has organized contests in the past.

And fishing builds relationships, as repeat visitors become familiar and "you see the same faces at the same times of the year." "It's fun to see how the kids of the regular visitors have grown each year," regales one local business owner.

Fishing Community Communication

Communication within the fishing community

Word of mouth is the most important medium for communication amongst users of the Salmon River area. For the topics that matter to Salmon River anglers—how the fish are biting, who is catching fish, what methods are seeing success, etc.—a phone call to a local tackle shop or a conversation with a friend is a favored method of communication. Informal networks exist amongst cliques for sharing information—especially locals—and while many non-locals have local

contacts, some community members described a disconnect between locals and non-locals, especially in awareness of fishing-related political issues. Some also use the internet, including fishing-related message boards, to communicate and learn about regulations, but many don't and instead rely on other sources for information.

"Word of mouth communication is strong, and bad news travels quickly."

Word of mouth is also important for sharing information regarding regulations, and local outfitters are important sources of information and interpretation of fishing and boating regulations. Others mentioned that the bulletin board at the public boat launch is relied upon for information, as well as postings at local markets, and ODFW flyers and pamphlets.

With regard to management issues, a handful of Salmon River users generally "keep an eye on things" and then inform everyone else, or "talking down the chain."

Some formal organization exists—the Salmon River Keepers, as mentioned, act as stewards for the area and there "has been talk of starting a rod and gun club," as well as organizing for representation in management issues.

Communication with fisheries managers

Interviewees were mixed in their opinions regarding communication between management and the Salmon River public.

There appears to be a respect for the ODFW “fish counters” and the local Oregon State Police officer involved in enforcement at Salmon River. Interviewees were split on whether there was enough enforcement occurring, with doubters concerned about the increase in pressure on the River and the influx of new visitors. Salmon River users would also like to see management better address the issues of riverbank trampling and illegal and unethical fishing practices (e.g. snagging).

Many community members felt positively towards the ODFW hatchery personnel and informed on operations there. On the other hand, some reported having “no idea what’s going on at the hatchery.” The dissemination of information pertaining to shellfishing, invasive species, and licensing by ODFW via brochures and on-site signage was praised overall, but some feel frustrated and confused by the complexity of state fishing regulations.

“Its like an Easter egg hunt trying to find out what’s legal and what’s not. It’s taking the fun out of fishing.”

Some bitterness regarding restrictive past and present management of coho salmon fishing lingers for some—especially for those that once fished outside the Salmon River mouth commercially. A desire for ODFW to restore release of hatchery-raised coho to the Salmon River exists, as well as some resentment that the young Salmon River Hatchery-raised coho are instead sent to the Columbia River.

The recent marine reserves planning process was commonly described with resentment. Some felt that meetings were held secretly and at times (such as when “the fishing is good and guys are tired” or “when folks are working”) and locations inconvenient to the public. A perception that management was under-informed during this process also exists, and a general mistrust of management and members of the community teams representing other stakeholder groups persists. Some interviewees felt the reserve was a good idea but most felt it was unnecessary. Locals and anglers concerned about a marine reserve at Cascade Head wrote letters and emails to ODFW and lawmakers, hung signage locally, and held their own meetings to strategize.

On the other hand, it was felt by some that the marine reserves issue helped to bring Salmon River anglers together and discussions to improve organization in the future have taken place as a result of this issue. Locals feel proud about standing up for their fishing rights in a place they love.

Perceptions of the State of the Estuary, the Ocean, and their Resources

The prevailing perception of the ocean and marine ecosystem outside the mouth of the Salmon River and off Cascade Head is of a healthy one. Interviewees report strong nearshore fisheries here—especially relating to groundfish like lingcod and rockfish that “have been stable for some time.” “Crab is abundant” and more anglers are chasing surfperch these days, for which the fishing is good. Some do well for halibut and after crossing the bar from the Salmon River. This area has been described as relatively untouched, as it is hard to get to—a long trip from Pacific City and Depoe Bay and a difficult bar crossing from the Salmon River. One interviewee described the ocean area off the Salmon River mouth and Cascade Head as a “marine reserve at least 250 days a year” because ocean conditions often made boating unfeasible and the bar crossing here is difficult even when one is properly equipped and conditions were favorable.

“Your whole boat can limit out on rockfish and lingcod in under an hour.”

Anglers report variability in salmon fishing in the Salmon River—with good years and bad. Anglers reported that the last few years have been so-so for Fall Chinook, with 2011 being a good year-- good for the local economy. Some mentioned that a decline in ocean salmon including the collapse of the coho fishery has hurt the area,

especially locals that fish commercially for salmon.

Since 1978, the National Forest Service and the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council have led a multi-partner restoration of an area of the Salmon River estuary once impacted by diking and filling—first for pasture land and later an RV park and theme park. Pixieland Theme Park failed in the 1970s due to financial troubles and was later an RV park before the U.S. Forest Service acquired the property in the late 1980s. Several dikes have been eliminated, channels re-established, invasive weeds replaced with native plants and concrete foundations and asphalt removed. While some long-time Salmon River area residents bemoaned the changes to the character of the area, most interviewees described the restoration activities positively. Anglers appreciate the benefits of restored wetlands to the fish they chase and share an appreciation of the improved aesthetics with others using the area. The restoration efforts have also provided jobs—such as planting native trees and shrubs—to some locals.

The construction of an ODFW hatchery in 1975 has garnered mixed opinions. Critics blame the hatchery for the disappearance of lamprey, once an important tribal resource, and for reduced water flows downstream. Some complained that today’s Chinook salmon seem less numerous than previously, and that the returning hatchery fish appear less healthy than during the pre-hatchery period.

Change in Fishing and Tourism: Fishing Effort and Economics

Formerly dependent upon logging as well as fishing, the communities around the Salmon River have changed, with recreational fishing and tourism as major influences. The number of anglers and other visitors coming from the Willamette Valley and elsewhere has increased and the number of people using the estuary overall has ballooned dramatically since at least the 1990s. Visiting anglers have become important contributors to the local economy, while locals contribute stability during the off-seasons. There has been an increase in the number of guides that use the Salmon River that “wouldn’t bother before,” catering to the increase in visiting anglers and pursuing good fishing opportunities. As mentioned, the increase in visiting anglers and tourists has not been without growing pains.

“When I was young, we would troll the river and we always did well and there were seldom any fishermen on the river.”

Residential development has increased in the area in recent decades, although has slowed some due to the economy. Some interviewees bemoaned that “development has wrecked Lincoln City,” a city for which tourism has become important and the increase in property values in some places in the Salmon River (such as near Cascade Head) area have forced some to alter future plans.

The recent national economic turmoil has hurt tourism to the area somewhat, but some feel that fishing tourism has helped to buffer the area from the economic downturn. Visiting the Salmon River to fish and otherwise recreate is a relatively inexpensive way to get away for many Oregonians.

The loss of opportunity for coho salmon due to state and federal restrictions on harvest over the years, and the discontinuation of hatchery releases of coho to the Salmon River have hurt commercial fishing off the Salmon River mouth and Cascade Head. The Pacific City dory fleet counts the Salmon River as part of their historic fishing range, with some dorymen reportedly using the Salmon River as a take-out to avoid battling northerly winds on a return trip to Pacific City. Diminished coho fishing has removed the incentive to make such a trip for many, and this has hurt jobs and business for some locals. Guides and recreational fishermen have been hurt by the loss of coho too.

“We were commercial salmon fishing off the coast here and actually did very well and then they closed it in '05/06. So we haven't been able to work in the ocean and fish and make money to provide for ourselves.”

Perspectives on and the Effects of Management

Interviewees had positive and negative things to say about management of the fishing resource they rely upon, as well as on land use regulations, the hatchery, and marine reserves.

Overall, it seems community members felt that ODFW was doing a good job managing Chinook salmon and had good relationships with ODFW “fish counters” and hatchery staff. Praise was also afforded the local Oregon State Police officer that covers the Salmon River area, although some felt that more enforcement presence would be beneficial. Many locals help out with informal enforcement on their own accord, with several having stories of confronting poachers, snaggers, and trespassers.

Recent improvements to Knight Park—including installation of vault toilets, an improved boat ramp and float dock, expanded parking, and trash receptacles—are seen as beneficial and one Salmon River user that hadn’t visited in a while (and was presumably unaware of the improvements) mentioned a desire for an improved launch when asked about their desired future for the area. These facilities have helped to curtail some waste issues that existed historically, “improved people’s behavior somewhat,” and have allowed for improved access for anglers, kayakers, hikers, and other recreationists.

As mentioned, opinions on the local hatchery are mixed—with much

objection to its construction initially; two interviewees suggesting it be relocated to allow lamprey runs to return. Most seemed to agree, however, that once hatchery runs began to return, that the hatchery has been a boon to Chinook fishing and the local economy. Others appreciate a visit to the hatchery and for the opportunities it offers to local children.

It was agreed that the loss of coho salmon fishing (such as from mid 1990s and 2006/08 Salmon Disasters) has hurt Salmon River-area communities like other places on the Oregon coast. A mistrust of management has resulted for some on the “empty promises” from management regarding the future of ocean salmon (coho) fishing. Strong feelings also exist for some regarding the discontinuation of coho salmon releases into the Salmon River.

Complaints about the cost of both recreational and commercial permits were common, as were complaints about season lengths and about perceived over-regulation in general. Some felt that existing regulations were needlessly difficult to navigate and “took the fun out of fishing.”

Perceptions of the Future

Imagined future

When asked about how they envisioned the Salmon River area five years from today, interviewees were inclined to respond that the Salmon River area “wouldn’t change much.” Some of the changes they did predict included an increase in visiting anglers and the

accompanying economic benefits--as well as the problems that come with increase in pressure. One interviewee predicted that without an increase in enforcement presence, the increase in fishing pressure will result in a spike in conflict, resource abuse (such as damage to riverbanks, littering, and unethical fishing practices), decrease in individual opportunity, a diminished quality of individual experience, and other problems.

Feelings on the effects of a marine reserve were mostly skeptical. Interviewees feared that a reduction in fishing opportunity would hurt the local economy, would keep tourists away, and would ultimately be ineffective. There was some cautious optimism among some that a marine reserve would work—but only if Knight Park-based anglers were afforded some concessions.

Desired future

The desire to keep a place they love as “the same” was a common response from interviewees. Folks recognize that more people fishing the area will be good for local businesses and want to keep visitors coming, but that it will be harder on the resource and on individual opportunity. Several people, in fact, mentioned that “a few less tourists probably wouldn’t hurt.”

Some of the desired changes that were specified include maintenance or enhancement of current local fish stocks—such as the establishment of a Salmon River coho run, the return of lamprey, enhancement of steelhead and

cutthroat trout, and continued estuarine restoration. The reduction in Chinook stock fluctuation, it was felt, would help to stabilize the local economy.

“When the fishing’s good, business is good.”

From management, Salmon River area anglers would like easily accessible, transparent, and interpretable information. They’d like more local input on management decisions and are resistant to more regulations.

Some would like *less* regulation, with some exceptions: the desire for snagging and the use of “corkies (a type of gear that results in fish being ‘flossed’ and snagged)” to be outlawed and enforced; some sort of protection for riverbanks that get trampled and littered; and increased enforcement to prevent unethical and illegal practices and abuse of the resource. Many would like to see lower license fees and would like to learn more about where their license dollars go.

Lastly, Salmon River area community members see benefit from promoting and encouraging people to just go fishing.

“If management decisions were made by the people that were going to use the resource, with tremendous input; by the people who are living in the area, that’s how you’re going to find out the best way to do it. Who’s the best person you know to pick out your shirts?”



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