



# Northwest Steelheaders

## Mid-Valley Chapter Newsletter

### 2021, Vol 5

#### Presidents Message

The May meeting will still be by Zoom. We had everything in place for our first in-person meeting since the start of Covid, then there was a spike in Linn County and we got shut down again. Hopefully, things will open up again and we can meet in-person for the June meeting. The Zoom meeting starts at 7:00pm

#### May 5th Chapter Meeting:

Since we had a low attendance at the Kokanee Powers' excellent presentation due to a malfunction with the zoom meeting, and the interest in the subject is still there we have decided to do another kokanee fishing class that incorporates ideas from the previous meeting plus methods from Ron Pockrus and myself. Also on the agenda is formalizing the shad fishing trip on the 23rd of May. The last item is information on our new fish pond and the planned use of it.

#### May 23rd Chapter Shad Fishing Trip:

The trip will be all day on the Willamette mainly above the I-205 bridge. This fishing is **not** a before dawn launch and then race to the best holes. There will be plenty of shad biting for those that arrive in the afternoon. It is around an hour's drive from Albany so those members that attend church or other functions can still drive up and join in on the fun. We will have communications flowing between the boats to

ensure the maximum fishing fun. Instructions will be passed out at our May 5th meeting on the best launch sites. If you cannot attend the meeting but still want to know where the launch site directions give me a call I will get a copy to you.

#### June 5th Chapter Picnic:

This year's picnic promises to be a great one. Bill Pavlisick and I are going in on a pig to barbeque for pulled pork and ribs, plus of course salmon, hamburgers and hot dogs. As in previous years members are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. The chapter will provide beverages, condiments, plates and utensils. We have changed the date to during the weekend so families have a better chance to attend along with veterans, guides and other guests. The guides' trips will be raffled off during the picnic as well as the elections being held.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting and remember to bring a friend.

Jim Sallee  
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Mid-Valley Chapter NW Steelheaders  
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## Newport Halibut

By Bill Kremers



The all depth halibut season opens on May 13th along the central Oregon coast. The fishing continues into July on most Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays (but not all) and will close when the quota of 172,244 pounds is reached.

This opener includes the ports of Garibaldi, Depoe Bay, Newport, Florence, Winchester and Coos Bay.

Newport is the most popular of these ports as it offers a large array of locations for the halibut angler and great facilities. If you have plans to launch here on the first opener, be prepared for a one-hour wait to launch and another thirty minutes to find a parking spot and get back to your boat. Two of the better-known halibut areas out of Newport are the “Chicken Ranch” and “Rockpile”. The Chicken Ranch is 40 miles west, south west of Newport and has the reputation for the most consistent halibut fishing in Oregon. Limits here are the norm; in fact, you usually spend more time traveling than you do fishing. The average depth here is between 500 and 550 feet and as the name implies, a majority of the halibut caught here are chicken size.

There are an occasionally fifty to sixty inch halibut prowling the depth, but your average fish is in the twenty-five pound range. The Rockpile area is about half the distance from Newport, as the north end of the pile is only a sixteen-mile run, whereas the more popular south east and south side of the pile is an eighteen to twenty-five mile run. The average depth on most of these locations is only two

hundred and twenty feet. This makes it one easiest halibut fishing spots on the Oregon coast.

The primary drawback is that you usually have to put in time here to land your halibut as this is a vast area and the halibut are scattered. Personally, I prefer fishing on the Rockpile as you have to use half the weight that you need on at the Chicken Ranch and reeling up 220 feet is check your bait is a whole lot easier than 550 feet at the Chicken Ranch. I have caught halibut in all size ranges at the Rockpile, with the average fish running between forty and fifty inches. If you are fishing the Rockpile for the first time and you are trying figure out where to fish, my suggestion is to head to the southeast corner and branch out from. Believe me you will see a fleet of boat out there and when possible see which ones are catching fish.

You cannot fish on the actual Rockpile itself, so be sure and download the GPS numbers posted in the Fishing Regulations booklet on to your GPS system. Halibut eat a variety of fish, squid and octopus and every halibut angler has a personal preference when it comes to bait. You can use a chunk of shad, squid, octopus (if you can find some), salmon belly, tuna belly, greenling or herring or a combo. Then just like with your salmon herring brine, there are a variety of brines and marinades you can use to cure your bait. I have been fortunate to have



made several halibut trips with Phil Pirone from Pro Cure. If you look at the Pro Cure web site under halibut you will see a picture of myself and a friend holding up a couple of big halibut by the Yaquina Bay Bridge. On this particular trip, the three of us had started off fishing by the Rockpile and by noon we did not have a

fish in the boat. We pull up our gear and headed out to the Chicken Ranch.

As expected there were a hundred or so boats in the area and the easy fish had already been caught. I reach into Phil's tackle box and pulled out some garlic scent and as soon as my herring hit the bottom I was into a forty-eight inch halibut. Then Phil put on some garlic, same result. Our friend at this point was getting really frustrated so we let him in on our secret and once again, bam, he was into a fifty-two inch halibut and his frustration turned him into a happy camper. My advice is to experiment and be willing to change things up. I try to keep my halibut gear as simple as possible. A spreader bar, weight and a circle hook. Some people do not like circle hooks, all I say is that I have had more hookups with circle hooks than with J hooks.

When a halibut hits, give him a few seconds to take the bait and start reeling, it is that simple. A couple of other things I have learned, is never hook your bait through the eye balls, halibut

want to see those eyes. My other suggestion is that those blinking lights you see at Fisherman's Marine and on Amazon work. Every halibut we caught last year had a blinking light attached to the spread bar. My last comment is, be safe and watch the weather forecast as a twenty to forty mile run on a nasty ocean is no fun, and can be dangerous. There are several halibut days this year, and waiting for a calmer ocean is something your family and fishing buddies will appreciate.



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## Angler Education Fishing Booths: Spring 2021

### Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to teach people how to fish in a more personal method than what was traditionally done in large-scale events such as Free Fishing Weekend and Family Fishing events. This will not only solve the obstacles of COVID group size restrictions but allow us to be present at locations for more than one day.

Family Fishing Events and Free Fishing Days are a great way to help novice anglers catch their first fish but rarely did we have time to teach *how* to fish. By spending more than one day at a location to offer advice and assistance, we can work with novice anglers on multiple occasions until they have the confidence to fish

on their own. This will give anglers just the boost they need to stay in the sport.

### Layout:



\* Note: this photo is intended to illustrate the minimum of what it would require to get a booth set up initially. We can edit this or upgrade materials depending on volunteer and participant needs.

These fishing booths will include but are not limited to:

- Fishing equipment for 10-20 people
- Table/chairs/canopy/signage
- Hygiene materials
- Knot-tying and casting kits
- Tackle and bait
- Educational materials
  - How-to
  - Where-to
- Anything else you can think of.

#### **Overview:**

This project plans to target individuals and groups of individuals who are new to the sport of fishing. It also plans to target individuals who may not be new, but who are inexperienced and/or just may need more information, such as “where to go” or “how to do it”. We also will

be able to send targeted messaging to people who recently purchased their first license in 2020 (we have that technology now).

It is expected that ODFW and partner group presence at local ponds will enhance local knowledge and participation in angling. If people know how to do something and where to go, they are more likely to enjoy themselves and therefore continue to participate.

These booths are intended to be fun, simple, and variable.

- We do not have to just target trout.
- The whole idea is to be out and talk to folks and help them if they need it.
- If something doesn’t work, we will help fix it.
- We will get everyone everything they need to be successful and have a good time.

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## **Brine and smoking for Salmon**

By Nancy McHugh

### **Brine for Chinook**

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup Montreal Steak seasoning
- 1/2 cup teriyaki sauce
- 1/3 cup molasses
- water (enough to fill container after fish is added)

Mix ingredients, minus water. Add fish and gently mix again to coat fish. Add water to almost fill container, then gently stir.

Repeat stirring for up to two days.

Rinse before smoking. Pat and air dry until slightly sticky.

Just before smoking, lightly brush warm honey on fish.

Smoke 4-5 hours with one pan hickory or apples chips per hour.

### **Smoked Salmon Salad**

- Flake smoked salmon by hand
- Chop one each multicolored bell peppers
- Chop one small bunch green onions
- One pack toasted sunflower seeds
- One to two cups "cran-raisins"
- One package whipped cream cheese
- Mix thoroughly

Serve on crackers



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## Fishing Report

Just a few pictures to remind members that fish are being caught.



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## Newsletter Note

We hope you are enjoying this newsletter. If you have an article, recipe, picture, or item of interest you feel would be a great addition to this newsletter, email it to: [billandaj@centurytel.net](mailto:billandaj@centurytel.net). Please include the words "Steelheaders Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for newsletter items is the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## How to Join the Chapter Meetings

Mid-Valley Chapter Meeting are available using Zoom. This meeting is FREE and open to the public! All are welcome to attend.

### Join Zoom Meeting using audio and video

<https://zoom.us/j/92332137381?pwd=Q3JCSzFlSEdVWmJkSjNuaXJndVZSUT09>

Meeting ID: 923 3213 7381

Passcode: 901284

### To join by phone (audio only):

Dial: 253-215-8782

Enter meeting ID: 923 3213 7381

Passcode: 901284

### From your computer (if using a cell phone for video and audio, you will need to download a Zoom app):

- Open the Zoom desktop client or Zoom app
- Join a meeting using one of these methods:
  - Click Join a Meeting if you want to join without signing in.
  - Or sign in to Zoom then click Join.
- Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.
  - If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
  - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
- Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and click Join.

### By Phone audio only:

- On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number provided in your invite.
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted using your dialpad.



## JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS

Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Check one:

- ☐ Annual Member..... \$30 per year
- ☐ Sustaining Member..... \$10 per month
- ☐ Lifetime Member..... \$500 one time
- ☐ Budgeted Life Member.... \$100 in 5 annual installments

*\*These are the standard rates as of January 1, 2020\**

Contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total charged/enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER

*Note that we cannot process payments via debit card*

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Auth Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter or Member at Large \_\_\_\_\_

*A portion of your membership may be tax deductible.  
Check with your tax advisor.*

Mail this membership forms to:  
George Larson, 414 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Albany, OR 97321

Memberships received by the Mid-Valley Chapter will be forwarded to the NW Steelheaders main association.