

Director's Report to the Fish and Wildlife Commission

August 3-4, 2007

"A Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife"

We serve Washington's citizens by protecting, restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats, while providing sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities.

FISH AND WILDLIFE GOAL:

ACHIEVE HEALTHY, DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND THEIR SUPPORTING HABITATS

Hanford Cleanup: Department of Energy (DOE) has announced they will cooperatively conduct a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) for injuries associated with contamination at the Hanford facility. WDFW staff, in collaboration with the other Trustees, is developing a proposed strategy for conducting an injury assessment at the Hanford facility that will characterize and mitigate for injuries to fish and wildlife. WDFW is involved with developing plans and providing strategic leadership to the Trustees and DOE for conducting a NRDA, including methods of field sampling, historical data analysis, conceptual models, and restoration planning. Meanwhile, the state of Washington, in collaboration with the state of Oregon and the Yakama Nation, continue to press the need for initiating a NRDA via the judicial process to help ensure DOE develops adequate plans and provides enough funding for our meaningful involvement. WDFW staff continues to provide technical assistance on the development and assessment of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (to be published this summer) and the Columbia River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (in planning and development phase). WDFW staff collated and integrated geospatial metadata to help DOE in their risk assessment data gap analysis and their conceptual models for the river corridor.

Snohomish Public Utility Districts Tidal Power Projects: WDFW staff attended international talks hosted by Snohomish Public Utility District (SPUD) on tidal power projects in Scotland and Ireland. Project proponents from Ireland discussed manufacturing, designs, and environmental factors associated with projects already being implemented in Europe. Afterwards, WDFW and other public agencies discussed environmental issues with the speaker and with SPUD.

Draft Northwest Area Wildlife Response Plan: The draft 2007 Northwest Area Wildlife Plan is posted on the web at http://www.rrt10nwac.com/nwacp_document.htm. Comments are due by July 27, 2007. The draft Wildlife Response Plan covers the coastal and inland zones of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and describes how oiled wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts will be managed and coordinated in the event of an oil spill.

Oiled Wildlife Rescue Training: An Oiled Wildlife Search and Collection class was held on Lopez Island. This was the first class given on search and collection techniques; past classes have focused on basic and advanced rehabilitation skills. The Oil Spill Team staff provides project management for the training, which is funded by moneys from the Department of Ecology. Island Oil Spill Association and Focus Wildlife have developed the curriculum for these training courses and provide instructors. Approximately 20 people attended the one-day class and learned how to find and capture oiled wildlife through both classroom instruction and field practice.

International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference: Two Oil Spill Team staff members attended the International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference in Monterey. Two hundred representatives from numerous states and countries were present at the conference. Over the course of the conference, presentations were given on oiled wildlife planning, response, and rehabilitation capabilities in North America, South America, Australia, and Europe. Information on the latest animal husbandry techniques for oiled birds and mammals was also provided. Spill team staff members were able to visit California's sea otter rehabilitation facility located in Santa Cruz. In addition, Don Noviello represented Washington State as a panel member during the sea otter panel discussion. Besides collecting a wealth of useful information, team members were able to meet world experts in oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation.

SS Catala No Longer an Oil Spill Threat: After 14 months of hard work, the 82-year old vessel SS Catala no longer poses an oil spill threat to the many sensitive fish and wildlife resources of Grays Harbor. The SS Catala grounded on Damon Point during a windstorm in 1965 and was subsequently buried in the moving sands of the spit. When it partially resurfaced again in 2005, it was initially viewed as just a historical curiosity. That all changed in April of 2006 when it was discovered that heavy fuel oil was still present in the tanks of the mostly buried hulk. The Department of Ecology, with help from the Oil Spill Team staff, immediately began developing a contingency plan to address the threat of an oil spill. Salvage experts were called in to assess how much oil might remain on the vessel and how to best remove the pollution threat. Oil Spill Team, Region 6 and headquarters staff from the Habitat and Wildlife Programs provided technical assistance during the planning process and salvage operations. These personnel will continue to assist in the habitat restoration that will follow the removal of the SS Catala. The significance of this effort in terms of environmental protection is demonstrated by the amount of contamination removed as of mid-June of 2007:

- (1) Over 32, 000 gal of heavy fuel oil;
- (2) More than 1300 cubic yards of oil-contaminated sand; and
- (3) Over 290,000 gal of oil-contaminated water.

At the current pace of operations, the vessel should be completely removed by mid-July and the habitat restoration work completed by late August.

Proposed buried rock wall along the main stem Nooksack River: Some time ago Whatcom County, at the request of the local Diking District, buried a rock wall adjacent to the main stem of the Nooksack River in an attempt to prevent future river migration and flooding. This was done without the benefit of the required Hydraulic Project Approval. Now the County is proposing to extend these illegal buried rock walls even farther for additional protection. WDFW Habitat staff is working with the County and the Diking District to determine appropriate mitigation for both the illegally installed rock wall and the proposed extension while achieving the objectives of the Diking District. Mitigation may include incorporation of large woody debris, the construction of engineered logjams, and substantial riparian planting.

Local Demands for Priority Habitats and Species (PHS)/ Growth Management Act (GMA) Technical Assistance Continue at High Level: It has been a busy season of major updates to county comprehensive plans, shoreline master programs, and critical areas ordinances, with June seeing over 112 requests from local governments for technical assistance from PHS/GMA biologists. Jurisdictions throughout the state continue to submit draft land use plans, critical areas ordinances (CAOs), and shoreline master programs (SMPs) for review.

Many westside jurisdictions playing catch-up to already past deadlines, and major update deadlines are looming for most eastern Washington communities. Examples of major updates that PHS/GMA biologists have provided in-depth technical assistance to, including comment letters, review committee participation, and testimony at local hearings, are the Island County CAO update, Chelan County CAO update, Clark County urban growth area expansions, Yakima County CAO and SMP, King County SMP, and several large city updates. Numerous smaller cities and towns are also submitting requests for assistance, but current staff resources often make it impossible to respond to these jurisdictions. Chris Parsons, Regional Habitat Program Manager, Region 2, took extra effort to collect data and inform the Chelan County Planning Commissioners and Board about ongoing violations of critical area and shoreline protection in their jurisdiction, providing photos of several violations and recommendations for the County to adopt a clearing and grading ordinance (to ensure site clearing activities are reviewed for impacts to fish and wildlife). The county has not yet adopted such an ordinance, and WDFW is meeting with the other state agencies to discuss next steps.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB): At the May 3rd Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting in Cle Elum, the SRFB approved funding for the Lead Entity Operational Grant Program for 2007-2009. The Legislative appropriation totaled \$3,250,000, and the Departments proposal included additional funding in the amount of \$162,598. The resulting biennial budget for the program will total \$ 3,412,598. Additional funding was requested by WDFW to cover costs of a new lead entity in WRIA 20 (North Pacific Coast), lead entity training, increased costs associated with administration of the program, lead entity day, Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) and WST coordination.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP): In Round 5 (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program received applications to correct 45 fish passage barriers. This is down from last year's 75 fish passage barriers; thus, we have put more effort into to promoting the program. We are currently determining projects to fund and construct next year from the 328 fish passage barriers currently in the program. Also, the FFFPP Fish Passage team is trying to identify high priority sites for funding earlier to reduce sponsors going out on bids after construction season has started. Late bidding tends to reduce competitors and result in high project costs. The Team is also working on guidance materials for sponsors and giving presentations to the agencies and landowners on the program.

Federal Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan: On April 26, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft federal northern spotted owl recovery plan. The plan covers the full U.S. range of the owl (Washington, Oregon, and California) and contains two options, a first for a recovery plan. Both options identify federal lands as the backbone of necessary conservation lands to recover the owl, with state and private lands contributing as well. The plan options differ in that Option 1 identifies "mapped owl conservation areas" (MOCAs) that are specific federal lands that will contribute to the recovery of the owl and where all recovery actions will be measured. Option 2 does not identify mapped areas, but provides a rule set for federal land managers to establish "habitat blocks" where recovery actions will be measured. Both options also contain a second tier of state and private lands, called Conservation Support Areas (CSAs) that are between or adjacent to either the MOCAs or the Habitat Blocks. In Washington, the CSAs generally overlap with our Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Areas (SOSEAs), which provide the regulatory boundary for Forest Practices rules related to the northern spotted owl. The plan extends over 30 years with a cost of \$198 million.

Forest Practices Board: On June 6, 2007, the Forest Practices Board (FPB) adopted an emergency rule to extend the moratorium on the practice of decertifying northern spotted owl circles. Decertification is a process where administrative owl circles are removed from regulatory protection as a result of a three-year survey effort where no spotted owls are found. The permanent rule had a sunset date of June 30, 2007, and was scheduled to expire; therefore, the FPB decided to extend the protection to the owl until the FPB has time to discuss the issue further. The sunset date was in the rule because the FPB believed that the final federal spotted owl recovery plan would both address this issue and be published by now. Unfortunately, the timeline for the recovery plan slipped and the first draft was just recently released (see above). Key items for future FPB discussions are the timing and geographic scope of the decertification moratorium, as well as the effectiveness of the survey protocol used to determine presence or absence. The FPB also began the rulemaking process to craft a permanent moratorium on decertification, time and scope to be determined.

San Juan Initiative: The San Juan Initiative is a pilot assessment of ecosystem protection strategies. The Initiative grew out of the Puget Sound Salmon Plan, where the working hypothesis provided that existing ecosystem protection is adequate to restore salmon. The Initiative is designed to test this hypothesis in San Juan County; to improve ecosystem protection in a manner that supports the prosperity of the community, builds capacity for ecosystem protection, and serves as a pilot for the rest of Puget Sound.

The San Juan Initiative had its public launch the week of June 18 in Friday Harbor, with Bill Ruckelshaus hosting state and regional agency directors (WDFW, DNR, USFWS, NOAA, etc.) and policy staff. Agency policy staff (IRM) will represent the Department on the Policy Committee that is comprised of local community and regional policy representatives. The Policy Committee will identify and evaluate specific threats to the San Juan ecosystem and generate solutions and commitments to address those threats. The Initiative is working in close coordination with the newly formed Puget Sound Partnership.

Lake Washington Sockeye: Counts at Ballard are still very slow. There is a persistent issue with the tide level gauge resulting in conditions that have significantly reduced the passage of sockeye through the ladder. The cumulative passage total through July 17th was 50,553. At the current rate it is unlikely that the return will exceed the pre-season expectation of 124,515.

A Large Illegal Discard of Rockfish in the Commercial Fishing for Whiting: On July 17th the department began to receive reports from the public of “thousands” of dead fish washing up on the beaches of Long Beach Peninsula. Bruce Kaufman of the Nahcotta Lab and our Enforcement staff investigated the reports and confirmed that large numbers of fish were washing ashore. The fish were almost all of one species, widow rockfish, which were apparently discarded overboard from commercial fishing operations. A fishery for whiting is occurring in the same area. This fishery has a limit on the amount of widow rockfish that can be taken incidentally to the whiting catch and the fleet has nearly taken its annual limit of widows for the year. Once the limit has been reached, the fishery will be closed. Our Enforcement promptly launched an investigation that was joined by other agencies. The investigators were able to identify a suspect who confessed to the illegal dumping of the rockfish. The fleet is required to carry monitoring equipment on board (such as cameras to film the fishing operations). This person disabled the monitoring equipment in an attempt to avoid detection. The number of fish involved is quite substantial. The investigations found more than 6,000 pounds of dead fish on the beaches and the boat operator admitted to discarding 8,000 pounds of widow rockfish.

South Fork Nooksack Spring Chinook: July 2, 2007 in-stream flow had dropped sufficiently (~500 cfs) to safely allow for the weir to be installed in the South Fork Nooksack. Lummi Nation Skookum Creek Hatchery staff and Natural Resources staff, along with folks from the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) and WDFW's, Watershed Steward Steve Seymour spent much of the day installing the weir near Skookum Creek Hatchery. The weir is an integral part of the recovery plan for South Fork Nooksack Spring Chinook; once captured fish will be held at Lummi's Skookum Creek Hatchery, tissue samples will be transferred to the WDFW Genetics Lab in Olympia where they will be compared to a south fork "baseline". Fish that are determined to be of South Fork origin will be held and spawned; the resulting progeny will become part of a captive brood program that will be housed at WDFW's Kendall Creek Hatchery. Recovery of a South Fork Nooksack Spring Chinook stock is critical to the overall recovery of the Puget Sound ESU.



Lake Roosevelt White Sturgeon Hatchery Supplementation: Columbia Basin Hatchery (CBH) in Moses Lake is part of the Priest Rapids Hatchery Complex managed from Region 3. CBH staff contributes to the recovery of the upper Columbia R. white sturgeon population by hatching and rearing juvenile sturgeon for release back into L. Roosevelt. In mid-May, two maternal families of brood year 2006 sturgeon produced at the hatchery were released (age 1 juveniles, 12-15" long). One group consisting of 1,964 fish taken from both families was stocked at Kettle Falls. A smaller, mixed group of 1,458 fish was released at Marcus Flats. 2007 brood year sturgeon production was initiated with the capture and spawning of adult sturgeon on June 21-22 at Sherman Creek Hatchery by Region 1 Fish Program staff. Two females were spawned with two males on June 21 to create four sub-families (two maternal families). On June 22, another female was spawned with one male to create a third maternal family. The fertilized eggs from all five groups were transferred to CBH and hatching was complete by June 30. Survival to hatch ranged from 72 - 88% and currently there are 70,000 larval fry on-station. The production goal is to rear 4,000 yearlings from three of the five groups (1,333 per group) for release in May 2008.

Capital Program and Action Plan: Capital Programs and Engineering is fully engaged in scoping the projects of the approved 07-09 Capital Budget, as well as the projects contracted with Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), formerly known as Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Scoping includes the evaluation of costs, schedules, and priorities.

Recreational License Sales: The Licensing Division saw revenues increase to \$33.2 million (not audited) in FY07, an increase of 4.9% over the previous year. This increase is partially due to increases in administrative penalties and sales of special permits. The Division will have more detailed numbers explaining the rise in revenue once the FY07 figures have been audited.

Promote Development and Responsible Use of Sound and Objective Science to Inform

Decision-making: Record numbers of White River Spring Chinook have returned to the Minter Creek Hatchery and we will continue trapping through September. Planning efforts are underway to identify issues, discuss, and recommend solutions that may not already be approved in the current recovery plan on how to deal with the delightful issue of; what to do with all these fish? The 2006 return year was 921 adults and the most recent five-year average is 563. What a great problem to have.

YEAR	Dates	5/31	6/15	6/30	7/15	7/31	8/15	Season Total
1995		24	124	222	369	442	504	565
1996		1	60	197	252	401	509	604
1997		5	12	125	196	278	317	374
1998		25	89	204	312	361	371	389
1999		0	34	263	383	444	479	565
2000		40	177	308	368	476	508	626
2001		31	79	222	226	318	361	492
2002		7	64	172	315	400	409	399
2003		25	152	269	321	396	403	508
2004		36	193	232	357	427	509	589
2005		17	44	120	180	281	322	399
2006		3	85	205	478	546	563	921
AVERAGE		18	93	212	313	398	438	536
2007		120	806	1113				

Lake Sammamish Kokanee: Region 4 Fish and Habitat Program staff, along with Statewide Inland Fish Division staff met with representatives from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT) and King County Department of Natural Resources (KCDNR) to discuss Lake Sammamish kokanee. This group is a subset of those involved with the Lake Sammamish kokanee technical team. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status and potential supplementation options for native late run kokanee in Lake Sammamish. The status of the late run was recently questioned by Trout Unlimited in a petition to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requesting that its population be listed under the Endangered Species Act. WDFW, MIT, and KCDNR identified several gaps in knowledge regarding the status of this population. Answering many of those questions will inform the decision with regard to supplementation.

Should supplementation be deemed necessary, the group has concluded that the Issaquah Hatchery would play a role in that project. It was further identified that supplementation would need to be minimally invasive from both a kokanee perspective and from an ESA listed species perspective (e.g. Chinook and steelhead.). Supplementation should also be approached as a method to inform restoration activities, as well as to educate the public on the importance of habitat protection and recovery from an ecosystem-wide viewpoint.

Olympia Oyster Restoration: More than 1,000 cubic yards of Pacific oyster shell were spread over two acres of agency-owned tidelands in Liberty Bay over the weekend. The shell will serve as setting substrate for juvenile Olympia oysters, which occur naturally in the area but are limited in where they can successfully “set” by the large expanses of mud in the bay.

Partners in this project include the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, the U.S. Navy, NOAA, the Suquamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and the Russell Foundation. Past applications of Pacific oyster shell have proved very successful in providing habitat for juvenile Olympia oysters; this weekend's work extends the available habitat in the bay. Media present for the event included the Seattle Times, KING-5 television, and the Kitsap Sun.

Fish Program receives grant to remove tires from Puget Sound: The Department received a grant from the Department of Ecology to remove old automobile tires from Puget Sound. The tires were originally placed in the Sound to form reefs during the 1970's and early 1980's in an attempt to improve fish habitat and fishing opportunities. This idea was not successful as the tire reefs frequently broke up and the tires moved along the bottom, destroying habitat. Additionally, the tires were found to leach toxic chemicals into the water. The Department will work with the Washington Scuba Alliance, an association of recreation divers, to identify and remove the reefs starting this summer.

Statewide Steelhead Management Plan DEIS – Department staff have recently completed a DRAFT Statewide Steelhead Management Plan, and initiated the public review and formal input process through release of a DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in August 1, 2007. A series of seven public meetings will follow during the weeks of August 13 and August 20 throughout the state. This DEIS presents 4 alternatives containing 32 proposed policies grouped in 2 major policy categories: Steelhead Program Operations and Steelhead Program Administration. The DEIS considers the possible environmental effects of each. Selection of these policies will ultimately determine the contents of the *Statewide Steelhead Management Plan*, which currently reflects the preferred alternative in the DEIS.

Stakeholders have clearly articulated that the foundation of a plan to restore and maintain wild steelhead must capture an increased level of commitment towards protecting wild stocks. The foundation and goal of the proposed *Statewide Steelhead Management Plan* is to “place the highest priority on the protection of wild steelhead and restoration of these stocks to healthy levels.” The placement of the “highest priority on the protection of wild steelhead and restoration of those stocks to healthy levels” creates a strong interconnection between natural production, artificial production and fisheries management. In addition, it also articulates a commitment towards habitat protection and restoration since it is key to achieving the long-term conservation goals. Actions that reduce the risks associated with artificial production and fisheries management are identified within the “preferred alternative”. The performance of steelhead program operations strategies must be carefully monitored to insure that the actions are restoring and maintaining abundance, distribution, diversity and long-term productivity to steelhead and their habitats.

The Commission was provided a briefing at the January 2007 meeting, which articulated the three-phase process initiated by the department in 2004. This plan is necessary because in spite of seventy years of conservation efforts, many steelhead stocks are at a fraction of their historic numbers and five of the seven distinct population segments that exist in Washington are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act. To ensure long-term conservation of such stocks and production of fish for human use and ecological integrity, the Department of Fish and Wildlife started with a scientific foundation that summarized the distribution, status and previous management strategies in the draft report “*Oncorhynchus mykiss: Assessment of Washington State's Anadromous Populations and Programs*”(Draft July 21, 2006).

Findings and recommendations identified within the report represent the underpinnings of the proposed Statewide Steelhead Management Plan. The plan also takes into account how current science fits in with actions mandated by the Salmon Recovery Act of 1998 as well as protections provided by the Forest and Fish Act so that wild steelhead stocks can be effectively and efficiently restored and protected. (Heather Bartlett, Headquarters (360) 902-2662).

PUBLIC GOAL:

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FISH AND WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Selective Fishing: Efforts by Public Affairs, Intergovernmental Resource Management and Fish Program staff to raise awareness of Puget Sound mark-selective fishing opportunities and the importance of properly releasing wild salmon are getting results with coverage in major regional newspapers. Puget Sound selective fisheries have been featured in the Seattle Times, the Seattle P-I, Tacoma News Tribune, Bellingham Herald, Everett Herald, Kitsap Sun and the Olympian, as well as special-interest publications, such as Fishing & Hunting News. The coverage has been extremely positive, with headlines such as, “Anglers reliving good ol’ days” (*Seattle Times* July 24). The Times story begins, “These are exciting times for Puget Sound salmon anglers, and many are claiming it to be just like the good old days when the waters were teeming with fish,” and quotes one angler saying, “These types of fisheries are just fantastic, and we’ve waited a long time to have this kind of thing work.” Both the Seattle Times and Everett Herald have also emphasized on-water enforcement efforts, with the Herald advising anglers to “remember the fishery will be monitored closely by WDFW, and if more openings such as this one are to take place, anglers must make a sincere effort to follow the rules.”

Damage Season Issues: Local crop assessors have reported the statewide crop assessor contract requirements are prohibitive, expensive, and too onerous. Consequently, we have only three local crop assessors available for the impending damage season statewide. We are anticipating numerous damage claims. There is the potential for tremendous demand on Officer time to do damage claims this summer and fall without crop assessor availability. Additionally, revisions in WAC 232.12.025 have essentially nullified an important tool for Officers to use to resolve many damage claims by issuance of preference permits. New WAC changes will require a landowner to buy the license and tag now. Previously, we issued antlerless preference permits as a free license and this served as an in-kind payment for crop loss. We resolved many thousands of dollars of damage claims over the years via preference permits. Given new WAC revisions and new damage assessor contract demands, this year’s damage season has the potential to be a disaster.

Black Bear Captures/Relocations:

- Region Two Officers handled calls for service regarding bears in the Leavenworth area. Three bears were captured and relocated. A sow and a yearling cub were reported in Enchantment Park in Leavenworth. Biologist Beausoleil, Officer Grant and Sergeant Ward were able to dart the bears and pack both out to a parking area where they were both placed in a live trap and transported out of the area. In order to educate the masses, Sergeant Ward gave one radio program presentation with KPQ Radio and provided one article for the Wenatchee World. Biologist Beausoleil did an article with the Leavenworth Echo.
- The saga of the black bear that swam across Puget Sound came to a successful end. After swimming from Kitsap Peninsula to Vashon Island, spending a couple of days on Vashon Island, swimming from Maury Island to Des Moines, hanging out at Salt Water State Park, crossing Highway 99, crossing Interstate 5, hanging out in Kent and Auburn, the bear rested on the Weyerhaeuser complex. That is where Officer Richards and Biologist Spencer were able to capture the bear in a live trap, ear tag it, and release it in the foothills of the Cascades.

This wandering black bear caught the attention of the media and was fondly referred to as “Columbus” and his eastward migration.

- After setting one trap in East Whatcom County, Officer Jones responded to the Mt. Baker area where two different black bears had been receiving handouts along the side of the road. Officer Jones was able to locate one of them and shot him with a dart. After 15 minutes the bear went into the brush. Officer Jones wore his best honey glazed bacon scent and went into the woods after him. After tracking the bear for about 200 yards, Officer Jones put a second dart in it with the same lack of results. A trap was eventually deployed and Officer Jones was able to trap the bear at the site of the original complaint. The bear was successfully relocated up the North Fork of the Nooksack River.
- Officer Hart responded to a report that we had a bear in the trap in the east Vancouver area. When Officer Hart arrived, the bear had apparently opened the small escape opening and reached out and pulled the release lever and escaped. The opening was covered with muddy paw prints. It is possible, however, that the neighbors had opened the small door for photographs. The homeowners told Officer Hart that they were looking at the bear in the trap just five or ten minutes before he arrived.
- Officer Hahn offered advice to a subject in the Cheney area with a bear near their residence and received a call the next day from a subject wanting to confirm it was okay for them to shoot the problem bear near Cheney. He was told no and the original reporting party was contacted to clarify the issue.
- Officer Stevens responded to an injured bear that had been hit by a car. Upon Officer Stevens' arrival, the 25-pound cub had expired. Sergeant Chandler responded to a call for service the same night for a bear that had been hit by a car in Issaquah and was still alive. Upon arrival, Sergeant Chandler was dismayed to find that the bear was still writhing in the middle of the road in a pool of blood with two Issaquah Police Department officers standing by directing traffic. The 100-pound female was quickly dispatched and removed.
- Sergeant Erhardt received a report of a young bear sitting in a tree at the north end of town at Grand Coulee. People were moved from the area, and after a short time, the bear climbed down and left the area.
- Bear sightings and complaints continue to come into the Region Four Office. Most reports are generated from the New Castle, Issaquah, and Sammamish plateau areas. Captain Hebner worked with two different reporters from KIRO TV regarding bear behavior, problem prevention, and safety measures.
- Officer Jorg handled one chronic bear problem in Monroe area. The Reporting Party (RP) has been leaving garbage cans of chicken mash and corn out. The RP was extremely mad upon contact and advised that she wrote a letter about WDFW to KING 5. By the end of the contact, the RP was apologizing for the behavior and had a much more rational understanding of Washington's black bear. (Region 4)
- Officer Allen worked with a local timber company to find the correct GPS coordinates for reported bear damage that Officers had previously been unable to locate. It came out that the timber company has not been verifying any of the damage that they are claiming, instead relying on reports from the hound hunters. (Region 4)

Coyote Den in Lakewood Neighborhood: Television news media followed a story last week regarding a coyote and four pups in a den next to a home in a Lakewood neighborhood. Captain Brinson coordinated with Craig Bartlett to provide information while Sergeant Jackson and his officers provided advice to the landowner along with a list of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators in the area.

Bear Depredation Hunt Violations: Officer Stevens was on patrol in the McCoy Creek area where a depredation bear hunt permit had been issued and he located two hound hunters who had been listed on the depredation permit. An inspection of the vehicle revealed a dead bear crammed into the toolbox of the pickup. Further inspection determined the bear to be sealed with the proper depredation tag for the permit area and the only minor issue was that they could not produce the gall bladder. The story was that they gutted the bear and sat the gall on a stump and then out of nowhere, one of pups snatched it off the stump and swallowed it whole. The bear and two firearms were seized for the violation of the permit conditions, which constitutes hunting bear closed season and unlawful use of hounds. The information received was from a citizen who lives in the area.

Bobcat Attack Reported: Officer Allen was called out first for a bobcat attack that had supposedly left a woman covered "head to toe" in claw marks. The woman was found to have several small scratches and admitted that they likely came from a neighborhood cat that her dog had agitated. The second call was an injured bobcat that was dispatched after efforts to reach rehabilitators in four counties were unsuccessful.

Illegal Poaching Operation: Three Longview men were charged with illegal hunting following an undercover investigation conducted by WDFW's Statewide Investigations Unit (SIU). WDFW enforcement officers in the Longview-Kelso area arrested several subjects after a seven-month investigation stemming from a complaint from a concerned citizen. The lead subject was charged in Wahkiakum County Superior Court with one count of hunting black bear, cougar, bobcat or lynx with the aid of hounds; one count of animal cruelty; one count of unlawful big game hunting; one count of possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle; five counts of criminal trespass onto private woodlands; and two counts of malicious mischief. Another subject was charged in Wahkiakum County District Court with one count of hunting black bear, cougar, bobcat or lynx with the aid of hounds; one count of unlawful big game hunting; and five counts of criminal trespass onto private woodlands. Another subject was charged in Lewis County Superior Court with one count of unlawful big game hunting. Concurrent with the arrests, WDFW officers searched five residences and a taxidermist's shops.

Three hounds were seized, along with firearms, computers, vehicles, tracking equipment and other evidence. The dogs and the other items will be held by WDFW as evidence in the case.

Sturgeon Sold on Internet: Officer Hughes looked into a complaint of a subject selling live sturgeon on the popular Internet site "Craigslist". He has found the sturgeons are raised from a hatchery in the Portland area. Vancouver sturgeon biologists said there is one company in Portland that has been licensed by ODFW in the past to rear sturgeon for the aquaculture market. It's unknown yet if they are related.

Thousands of Acreage Burned Maliciously: Officer Myers was called to assist with a wildfire that burned over 17,000 acres of the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area as well as private lands. With the assistance of an Asotin County Deputy and Officer Merritt from the USFS two 18-year-old males were apprehended that started the fire. Both subjects were charged with multiple counts including felony reckless burning and felony malicious mischief.

Youths Investigated for Vandalism of Agency Vehicles: Officer Hart investigated the vandalism of four agency vehicles in the Region Five Office parking lot. All four vehicles had their windshields broken out. Officer Hart checked with local surveillance cameras and found that none viewed the vandalized area. The Region Five Office Manager, Will Morrison, received an anonymous call with four first names of local juveniles, and provided that to Officer Hart along with the caller's ID. Officer Hart was able to back track the caller, and convince them to provide more information. Officer Hart interviewed the owner of another vehicle that had similar vandalism and was able to identify four suspects with some full names and addresses. Since Vancouver Police Department had responded initially all the info was turned over to them for follow up. Indications are that the case will be solved by next week.

Officers Assist Capsized Sailboat: While on a Columbia River boat patrol, Officers Bolton and Vance received a call of a capsized vessel close to their location. Officers were on scene within five minutes of the call where two other vessels were towing a small sailboat that was upside down in the middle of the Columbia River near The Dalles pool just upstream of the Biggs Bridge. The two subjects onboard the capsized sailboat had been safely transferred to one of the towing vessels and their sailboat was towed into a dock by Mary Hill Park.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) met in Sitka, Alaska in early June. The primary issue was adoption of management measures to control catch levels for the halibut charter sector in Area 2C, but there were several other halibut charter issues on the agenda as well. The Council adopted management measures for Area 2C for 2008 that included the measures adopted by NMFS for 2007, and added an annual bag limit of four halibut. These measures apply to the guided sector only. Additionally, the Council adopted a one fish daily bag limit recommendation as a precautionary measure to be adopted if the 2008 abundance decreases sufficiently to trigger a decrease in the charter guideline harvest level (GHL).

The Council reviewed the work by the charter stakeholder committee developing frameworks for compensated reallocation between sectors. Potential frameworks include broadening the IFQ system to include charter businesses, establishment of an Angler Days framework, and sale of bonds or use of public funds to purchase commercial IFQ on behalf of the sector (pool approach). The Council took three major actions on environmental issues at this meeting.

First, it adopted an approach to Essential Fish Habitat in the Bering Sea that is designed to minimize benthic impacts by restricting areas open for bottom trawling, encouraging further development of bottom trawl gear modifications to reduce the amount of physical contact with the bottom, and developing a research plan to compare un-trawled areas with trawled areas.

Second, it adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands that is designed as a living document, with the immediate intent of ensuring that ecosystem level considerations are included in the annual TAC setting process.

Third, it announced the intention of developing a Fishery Management Plan for the Arctic Ocean, largely un-fished at present, which will establish a conservation framework guiding development of commercial fisheries as conditions change to allow fisheries. Chinook by-catch in Bering Sea Pollock fisheries reached a new high this year, increasing concerns from Yukon River and other native fishing communities that are salmon dependent. The Council is continuing development of management measures to control by-catch that include hard caps and abundance-based approaches. The Yukon River Panel has formally expressed its concern about the increasing by-catch trend and has cited Pacific Salmon Treaty principles as its basis of concern and involvement.

GMU 418 Meeting: The Department hosted an informational open house on June 20 in Mount Vernon on North Cascade elk herd management in Game Management Unit (GMU) 418 for the 2007 fall hunting season. The presentation included a brief presentation on the North Cascade elk herd population, a summary of state seasons for 2007, a summary of treaty rights and state Supreme Court cases regarding tribal hunting, and a description of the draft interim co-management hunting agreement between the Point Elliott treaty tribes and the Department. Following the presentation, the attendees were divided into three groups to provide increased opportunity for the public to interact with Department staff. Each group was staffed with IRM, Wildlife Program, and Enforcement staff.

Solduc Hatchery Chinook Program: Solduc Hatchery has experienced an annual pre-spawning mortality of returning adult spring Chinook salmon of 50-60% for 2 decades. The cause of mortality is the blood parasite, *Cryptobia salmositica*, transmitted by freshwater leeches.

Current plans call for a doubling of the Chinook program, so Fish Health and Hatcheries staffs are in the eighth week of an experimental drug trial. Returning adult Chinook salmon have been injected with Samorin, a drug used in Africa to prevent trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) in cattle.

While still early, results are looking promising as only 11 of 29 (38%) fish have died in the treated tank versus 17 of 29 (58%) in the control tank. The experiment will continue until all fish have spawned in late September. The progeny of all surviving adults will be followed to determine the level of birth defects, if any. Hatchery staff has contributed a lot of extra effort to carry out this experiment.

Skagit Winter Steelhead for Release to Local Lakes: Steelhead production at Marblemount Hatchery has been reduced from 534,000 to 229,000 yearling smolts. This reduction is the result of Seattle City Light funding that was discontinued in 2005. Production on-hand at that time was reared to yearling smolt release at WDFW expense.

Fish Management included in our 2007-09 biennial budget package a request to provide funding for that portion (350,000 smolts) of the cost to maintain full production at 534,000. Optimistic of receiving funding, staff at Marblemount took enough eggs for full production. Once the Governor signed the final state budget, which did not include monies for production above the 229,000 bases, Region 4 staff initiated discussions with the affected tribes to achieve an agreement to release the additional production. At that time there were about 179,000-350/pound fry, which the co-managers agreed to release into lakes on Fidalgo Island. Unfortunately those lakes – Campbell, Erie, Heart, and Whistle – are not within the disease management zone so WDFW has requested a waiver to the Disease Policy rather than disposing of this additional production.

Cooperation Enables Planting of Trout: Cooperation by the Yakama Indian Nation enables planting of trout by WDFW into many popular sport fishing lakes on the northwest flank of Mt. Adams in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Thanks to the Yakama Indian Nation allowing WDFW to use a reservation road, Goldendale Hatchery was able this week to plant over 8,000 catchable rainbow trout and 20,000 fingerling brown, eastern brook, and tiger trout into seven lakes on the northwest flank of Mt Adams. The public road access from the south to these lakes was destroyed this past fall by the heavy November storms and it looked like it would be extremely difficult or prohibitive to plant from Goldendale this year. This would have been a huge loss of opportunity for the thousands of anglers and families who camp and fish in the area each summer. The public can still access the area from the north out of Randle.

Merwin “Special Kids” Fishing Event: Once again, the Merwin Hatchery Special Kids Fishing Event was a great success. About 100 special needs children participated, along with their families, in the 9th annual event. We had a great group of volunteers attending, and they provided help with one on one coaching, fish cleaning, lunch prep and rod repair. The weather was great and the fish were awesome, many in the 5 to 6 pound class, and one tipping the scales at 10.4 pounds! Children participating were able to take home their catch of seven fish and also their rod and tackle box.

Many thanks to the hatchery staff that participated and all the folks from Olympia that made the trek southward: Pat Kelly, Monique Homan, Mark Sherman, Carol Gleckler and Keith Underwood. Thanks also to the folks from GPO, WHEIA, Fish First, Vancouver Wildlife League, Oregon Bass & Panfish Club, and the Swift Community Action Team. Very special thanks to John Mankowski from Governor Gregoire’s office; he was very impressed with the event, and has pledged that the Governor will attend next year.

Wheelchair Angler Fishery: A special fishery for people who permanently use wheelchairs opened at the new Cowlitz Trout Hatchery outfall on July 7, 2007. The fishing site was developed by Tacoma Power as a replacement for the current wheelchair angler fishery on nearby Blue Creek. That site will no longer provide access to good fishing now that the hatchery discharge water has been rerouted from Blue Creek to the Cowlitz River. This site is particularly important because wheelchair fishers have limited options for fishing. The new fishing site will be open year round and will provide angling access to salmon, steelhead, cutthroat and other trout. Looking ahead, Tacoma Power will be developing additional access for wheelchair fishers on the lower Cowlitz River in the future as part of their new FERC license.

Mark Selective Fishery for Hatchery Chinook: The mark-selective fishery for hatchery Chinook in Marine Area 5 and the western portion of Marine Area 6 provided steady fishing action during the opening week. Anglers saw as many Coho as Chinook, with a good number of early pink salmon as well. Through July 8, approximately 780 Chinook had been caught, leaving about 3,220 Chinook remaining for this fishery, which runs until 4,000 Chinook are landed or August 31, whichever comes first.

Recreational Oyster Enhancement: Staff coordinated the move of 1,000 bushels of oysters from the state reserves to the Nahcotta Tidelands parcel for recreational harvest. These oysters were growing on top of the graveled area where we are selling clams. In order to get to the clams, the oysters had to be picked or moved out of the way. The 1,000 bushels should provide 125,000 oysters for recreational use.

Commercial Razor Clam Fishery: The commercial fishery at the Willapa spits has landed approximately 91,000 pounds of razor clams through June 14. Digging conditions and effort in the fishery are similar to last year when roughly 130,000 pounds were dug. Clam condition is good as spawning has only just begun to be evident, but overall abundance seems somewhat lower. Until a few years ago the majority of razor clams were frozen, for use as bait in the Dungeness crab fishery. However, interest in the fishery as a source of fresh clams has grown and buyers have shifted their focus to this market.

Clam Enhancement: A total of 400,000 hatchery-reared Manila clam “seed” were planted on the public beach at West Dewatto (DNR-44A) with the assistance of Washington Sea Grant and Puget Sound Water Watchers. This effort is expected to produce roughly 100,000 legal-sized clams within 2-3 years. The enhancement will probably allow a reopening of the clam season on this small oyster-dominated beach next year. In addition, 200,000 Manila clam “seed” were planted at Cline Spit County Park beach near Sequim. This effort is expected to yield about 50,000 legal clams in 2-3 years.

Sustainable Fish and Wildlife-Related Opportunities: Starting June 9, the daily bag limit for hatchery summer steelhead on the Cowlitz River will increase to six by emergency regulation to give anglers every opportunity to catch returning fish not needed for hatchery brood stock. This increase in the daily bag limit is one of a number of management actions being taken as a result of new requirements within the Cowlitz River Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan, which is now a part of Tacoma Power’s FERC operating license. The plan directs that downstream recycling of summer steelhead be suspended until studies can be completed to determine the effects of recycling on wild steelhead in the lower Cowlitz River.

Other actions taken include releasing excess steelhead into Kress Lake for additional harvest opportunity as long as water temperatures allow. This was conducted through last week but has now been ended due to high water temperature. Beginning next week, excess steelhead returning to Cowlitz hatcheries will be provided to local food banks. Additionally, late in the season returning non-food grade fish will possibly be utilized for nutrient enhancement in the lower Cowlitz.

The Fishing Kids event at Gene Coulon Park, Lake Washington, was a success! The weather was excellent and though fishing was a little slower in the afternoon, kids were happy to be out fishing. Parents were especially happy to have their fish cleaned. Several thousand fish were stocked into a netted area along the dock. Fishing guides were available to help kids that were not familiar with fishing.

There are two Fishing Kids events coming up this weekend. One will be held at Cascade Park, Moses Lake, and the other will be held at Gilchrist Pond in Colfax. Fishing Kids events are held statewide and provide kids with the opportunity to catch fish and get a Zebco rod and reel that they get to keep. These are generally pre-registered events. Information on upcoming events can be found here at: http://castforkids.org/Fishing_Kids/fishingkids_2007.html

Yakima "Fishing Kids" Youth Fishing Event: Yakima's annual "Fishing Kids" event at Sarge Hubbard Park Pond came off without a hitch on Saturday, May 12. Approximately 800 kids enjoyed good weather (no wind or rain like last year) and caught lots of rainbow trout. In addition to the 2,000 regular "catchables" planted by Naches Hatchery and the 3,200 catchables purchased from Trout Lodge by the event sponsor, Goldendale Hatchery stocked 71 surplus broodstock fish that averaged 8.5 lbs each. Several of these large fish were hooked and caught during the event.

Region 3 Fish Management staff purchased 72 dozen worms for the event and assisted volunteers from the Mid-Columbia Walleye Club in instructing the kids in how to fish, fish cleaning, fish identification and fishing ethics.

Environmental Education Fair: Shellfish staff from the Point Whitney Shellfish Laboratory in Brinnon participated in the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's annual "Environmental Explorations" fair for area seventh graders. An iced live bivalve and intertidal creature display was a huge hit again this year, with a moon snail drawing the most impressive *oohs* and *ewwwws*. Approximately 750 seventh graders visited our exhibit, a cooperative effort with Washington Sea Grant.

Dosewallips Clam Enhancement: A total of 900,000 hatchery-reared Manila clam "seed" were planted at Dosewallips State Park, assisted by Washington Sea Grant staff and students from Quilcene High School. This enhancement is expected to provide 225,000 legal-sized Manila clams in two to three years.

FUNDING GOAL:

ENSURE EFFECTIVE USE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF WASHINGTON STATE'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC

Water Team Funding: Collaborative efforts by IRM, Habitat Program, the Director's Office, and Executive Management Team members has resulted in successful negotiations with Ecology to continue funding for the Habitat Program's water science team through this biennium. Three of the teams' seven positions were in imminent jeopardy with the loss of prior federal funding sources. Water science team staffs provide the essential science and advocacy necessary to support statewide steam flow protection and enhancement actions. Thanks to all involved for in the teamwork for this effort.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds Progress Report to the SRFB: A presentation was made to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) on July 13, 2007, regarding the status of the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) project. The IMW project is a multi-agency effort to validate that salmon populations positively respond to salmon recovery activities, and is a key component of the Statewide Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy recently adopted by the legislature through SSB 5224. Demonstrating progress toward salmon recovery is key to maintaining the momentum that we all hope will lead to future de-listings. Highlighted during the presentation was a culvert replacement project on Hood Canal that contributed to an average increase in Coho smolt production from the watershed of 300 percent. The presentation also discussed a funding shortfall in FY08 that resulted from a SRFB unfunded request for additional species monitoring, better precision on escapement estimates, and inflation relative to the baseline funding level set in 2004. Discussion among board members was positive with strong verbal support for the project. Concern was raised, however, about the potential cost of restoration projects in these IMWs in addition to the monitoring costs. Development of a restoration plan by the summer of 2008 should address this concern. IMW project scope and funding will be discussed during the September meeting to resolve the shortfall.

WDFW Projects rank high in the NPCC Independent Science Review of 59 Innovative Project Proposals: Two WDFW proposals got fundable ISRP reviews – the Lower Columbia River "Selective Harvest" and "Shad for nutrient enhancement". Charmane Ashbrook's Selective Harvest proposal - that includes mainstem and Cowlitz River live-capture fishery gear feasibility - made the A-list, and the Region 5 Shad proposal made the B-list. Five other proposals submitted by various sponsors made the research list and 45 other proposals were not ranked.

One highly ranked proposal by Smith-Root Inc on new technology to exclude sea lions from dam tailraces would take \$1.4 M of the available \$2.0 M set aside by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Power Planning & Conservation Council. BPA may decide to increase the funding allotment to accommodate a few more projects. For more details check out the following link: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/isrp/isrp2007-9.htm>

Willapa Bay Oyster Reserves: The oyster reserve sale is progressing smoothly. To date we have sold over 50,000 bushels of oysters worth \$120,000 and 7,800 pounds of manila clams worth \$4,700. Harvest has been completed on three of the eleven picking tracts and is currently underway on four tracts.

COMPETENCE GOAL:

IMPLEMENT PROCESSES THAT PRODUCE SOUND AND PROFESSIONAL DECISIONS, CULTIVATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND BUILD PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND AGENCY CREDIBILITY

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Enforcement Results: AIS Officer Eric Anderson compiled the final results from the last emphasis patrol. Thanks to everyone who assisted. A total of 72 officers conducted 1,152 boat inspections and contacted 3,750 persons during the eight-hour emphasis.

Recent Aquatic Invasive Species Patrols: Officers Orr, Meyers, Hart, Thomas, Schroeder, Martin, along with Sergeants Webb and Holden and Captain Schlenker worked the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) emphasis. We found that folks were pleasant overall, and appreciative that something was being done to gear up to combat AIS. Many of the public commented that they had seen the news spot from last month and were just becoming aware of the problem.

Numerous Enforcement Program Officers from WDFW Detachments 2, 7 and 9 participated in a region-wide Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Emphasis patrol. Hundreds of inspections were performed. Most of the recreational boaters contacted seemed to be very understanding and receptive to the voluntary inspections. In addition, several of the boaters were already very informed on the AIS issues.

Trash Burn Spotted Out of Control: Officer Crown and Captain Anderson were in the Lower Crab Creek Area when they observed some smoke in the area. They arrived and saw that a small brush fire had just escaped from a trash pile on a piece of private property. By the time fire units arrived some 45 minutes later, the fire had destroyed an unoccupied mobile home, burned a ¼ mile of power poles and lines, and had climbed up the side of the Saddle Mountains onto public lands. Officers attempted to interview the landowner, but he would not engage in any conversations until cornered by Officers in his vehicle.

Photographs were obtained, and Officer Crown will be referring a Reckless Burning charge to the county prosecutor's office against the landowner. Grant County Fire District #10 also indicated that they would be pursuing recovery costs from the rancher.

Landowner Kills Cougar: Officer Paschall responded to a call on Union Valley Road near Chelan after a landowner shot and killed a cougar. The reporting party heard his 20-year-old son yelling. The son had been sleeping in the yard when he awoke and noticed a cougar watching him from approximately 50 feet away. When he yelled for his dad, the cat ran around the side of the house and up the driveway. The man grabbed his rifle and ran back outside where he observed the cat between his wife and himself. The cat did not seem aggressive, however, the reporting party was concerned for the safety of his wife and shot the cougar. The wounded cat ran into a nearby orchard and was treed by some local dogs in a pine tree approximately a ¼ mile away from the residence. The reporting party shot and killed the cat. Officer Paschall responded and picked up the carcass after the reporting party called and notified Washington State Patrol communications of the incident. The cat was a male, in good shape, and estimated to be about 16 months old. The carcass was delivered to Biologist Rich Beausoleil in Wenatchee

Crab Season Violations Abound: Detachment 1 (Snohomish County) conducted six boat patrols over the four-day crab opener. Crabbing was generally lousy, with crabbers averaging 1.2 crabs per fisher. Records from Marine Area (MA) 8-2 showed only 49% of crab fishers were recording their harvest.

The violation rate was 83% for 98 crabbers checked by Detachment 1 during week one of the crab operation. The first closed day, Detachment 1 (with assistance from the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office) removed 50 closed season crab pots from MA 8-2.

WDFW Lands Issues: Migrant workers have begun camping at the Ringold Access as the cherry harvest begins. All of the current campers are using the north side (3 day stay) as opposed to the south side (14 day stay) and none were registered as required. The dumpster provided by the Farm Bureau is on the south side and the few garbage cans on the north side are overflowing. Detachment 19 (Benton County) Officers contacted about 50 campers (37 tents).

Officers Fulton, Horn, McLerran and Sergeant Beireis worked an emphasis patrol at the Ringold access. They contacted several subjects fishing and bathing in the hatchery creek. Virtually none of the migrant campers had registered according to the posted regulations and were ordered to leave the site. Two subjects were booked in the Franklin County Jail and five others cited for failing to obey posted regulations. A total of nine citations were issued. The orchardist employing these workers contacted Sergeant Beireis and vowed to help minimize conflicts in the future.

WDFW Assists with Wild Fires: Sergeant Erhardt received a call at 0130 hours Sunday morning regarding a 50-acre brush fire burning on the Seep Lakes Wildlife Area just east of Lower Goose Lake. Fire District 11 could not find their way in to access the fire. Sergeant Erhardt contacted the crew chief and the Columbia National Wildlife Area fire crews who were able to get to the fire and control it by late morning.

Sergeant Ward and Officer Oswald assisted Chelan County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) with the EZ Street Fire, which has consumed about 6,000 acres and is burning just north of Wenatchee in an area of very expensive homes. The fire may have been started by a group of people playing paintball where a "smoke grenade" was set off. The fire is now burning WDFW lands on Burch Mountain, and in the Swakane Wildlife Area. This area is very valuable to winter mule deer and sheep wintering habitat.

Sergeant Ward also assisted CCSO with two small fires in the Leavenworth area, both started by illegal fireworks. On one fire, Sergeant Ward apprehended the 16-year-old subject that started the fire, and he was turned over to the deputies for charges.

Sergeant Erhardt and Officer Crown responded to a 150-acre brush fire on WDFW lands at Lind Coulee near Road M S.E. and Highway 262. No suspects were identified and the probable cause was identified as fireworks.

A fireworks-related fire started on Department lands in Asotin County. By Saturday the fire reportedly was in excess of 3,000 acres and still growing. Department of Natural Resources fire crews have been brought into fight the fire.

Walla Walla (WRIA 32) Water Management Initiative (WMI): At a well-attended public WMI workshop in Walla Walla, Ryan Murphy displayed a poster presentation and Paul LaRiviere handed out documents on how WDFW evaluates water acquisition projects. The Project Management Team (PMT) representatives reported on the process of setting water-saving goals, organizing local water users on both sides of the border, and developing collaboration efforts that will benefit the users and fish. The attendance was a demonstration of local support and their keen interest in building partnerships with Ecology. Paul explained fish restoration priorities in the lower Walla Walla Basin to the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance.

The lower basin is not a habitat restoration or protection priority area as recognized by Sub-Basin or Salmon Recovery Plans, though it is a focus area for the WMI because flow limits fish during the summer and early fall. The biologists and planners who drafted the priorities in the other planning forums are also advisors on or to the WMI PMT. Frequent coordination and collaboration will be imperative for successful flow restoration in the lower basin.

State agencies will need to mediate differences between the special interest groups regarding flow and habitat restoration. As a part of the WMI PMT, Paul submitted comments on an incomplete draft of the Integrated Water Management Report drafted by the Ruckelshaus Center and Martin Consulting. This is an independent review of how to work within the Basin to achieve flow restoration.

Farm Bill: Paul LaRiviere gave a presentation on the Trust Water Right Program at the NRCS State Technical meeting. The NRCS representatives asked Paul to return for more presentations and information. Paul also attended the Farm Bill, South Central Local Working Group (LWG – Benton, Yakima, Klickitat and Kittitas counties) to give the same Trust Water Program presentation. Paul and the LWG chairperson submitted a proposal to include the Trust Water Program as a scoring modifier for conservation projects seeking Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding. The LWG agreed and adopted the Trust Water component as the highest scoring modifier for an irrigation project. Irrigation district water right holders submit many of the Yakima Basin irrigation projects, but numerous opportunities remain in Kittitas, as well as the other counties that the LWG represents. Other LWG's from around the state have contacted Paul regarding incorporation of the Trust Water Program into their project scoring criteria.

Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines Training: Training was completed for the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines in Olympia, Mt. Vernon, and Yakima. Approximately 190 people attended the session, including AHBs, WSTs, Lead Entities, local-state-tribal governments, and consultants. Funding was provided by a grant from the DOE.

Mineral Prospecting Rule Development Workgroup: The final formal meeting of the mineral prospecting rule development workgroup was held in June. The workgroup did not quite complete final draft language for proposed mineral prospecting rules, but got close enough that the group was comfortable with select representatives completing unfinished work. Yet to be completed work includes development of new authorized work windows and consolidation of draft rules for different prospecting methods into a single package. While the date for presentation of the rule package to the Commission may have to be delayed, we are still anticipating adoption of rules in time for implementation in the summer of 2008.

Salmon and Steelhead Spawning Bed Protection Project: Regulatory Services completed production of materials informing the public about methods to protect salmon and steelhead spawning beds from impacts of some recreational activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, wading on spawning beds, driving motor vehicles on spawning beds, use of high-powered jet or propeller-driven boats across spawning beds, dragging anchors through spawning beds, digging or removal of gravel from spawning beds, or any other physical disturbance capable of disturbing spawning fish or damaging or destroying nests of incubating eggs. This project was required by the 2006 Legislature in a proviso in the 2007 operating budget for WDFW.

Millard Deusen produced pages in the 2007 Fishing and 2007 Hunting regulations pamphlets, a tri-fold brochure to be distributed by license dealers and other outlets, and a webpage on the WDFW Internet site. The budget proviso requires reporting to the legislature on the program's effectiveness after two spawning cycles, but no funding was provided to determine the program's effectiveness or to produce a report to the legislature.

Hydraulic Permit Management System (HPMS) Update: Pat Chapman completed the contract with Milestone Technology for updating and improving the Hydraulic Permit Management System. Many regional and headquarters staff in Habitat, Information Technology, and Enforcement programs were instrumental in ensuring the success of the improvements. A major portion of this project was the development of a site visit component in which Enforcement and Habitat staff can enter data regarding technical and compliance visits at hydraulic project sites.

WDFW Climate Change Team: The Department's Climate Change Team had its first meeting, led by Bridget Moran of Intergovernmental Resource Management. This team will be developing a strategy for how the Department can prepare and plan for the projected impacts from climate change on the fish and wildlife resources of the state, as well as the impacts on the Department itself. The team will also serve to exchange and share information about climate change-related activities occurring at the state, regional, and national level.

Sprague Lake Public Meeting: A public meeting was held in Spokane on July 12th to review the proposed Sprague Lake rehabilitation project. Twenty-five people attended this meeting, along with three Department staff representing Fish and Enforcement programs. Overall the response from the public was positive. The general opinion was that the project was a good idea and that future prospects for much improved trout and warm water fisheries were positively anticipated. One individual expressed his opposition to the project, as he felt that Sprague Lake was a valued walleye fishery. However, this individual did concede that the current Sprague Lake fishery has generated very little use, and that WDFW's proposal is rational given the Department's objectives for improving overall fishing opportunity for this lake.

Annual Community Service Outreach at the Minter Creek Hatchery: Ten representatives from the Key Peninsula Windermere Realty Branch participated in their annual community service outreach at the Minter Creek Hatchery on Friday, June 15th. All Windermere staff from every office volunteered their service, time, and talents towards the community each year, with the WDFW's Minter Creek Hatchery, this year's recipient of the event from the local branch.

Many projects were completed, including re-painting valve covers, grooming hatchery grounds, organizing and updating the visitor information area in the hatchery building, pressure washing, preparations for adult fish transfers, and assisting in predation improvements at the Hupp Springs Hatchery.

It was an outstanding day as the staff provided their knowledge and expertise in areas helpful to the facility and hatchery staff. Many projects were completed that have otherwise not been attended to due to other workload priorities at the hatchery.

The Minter Creek Hatchery staff and the Department owe the Key Peninsula Windermere staff all their gratitude for jobs well done!

North Pacific International Chapter (NPIC) of the American Fisheries Society: NPIC held its annual meeting in Tacoma's Landmark Center Wednesday through Friday, June 6th to 8th, last week. Numerous agency staff attended this session covering a wide variety of topics surrounding the conference theme of "Fisheries and Development: Can they Co-Exist".

This conference was filled with powerful, impassioned, encouraging and supportive speeches from WDFW Director Jeff Koenings, King County Executive Ron Sims, to WDFW Commissioner Shirley Solomon, messages focused on continuing to move forward in our efforts to save our salmon. A great job by all of the agency staff in attendance, in their presentations and others for their thought provoking questions of presenters.

Angler Education Program: The Angler Education Program completed two public workshops in partnership with the South Whidbey Island Parks and Recreation on June 2nd. Keith Underwood, Angler Education Program Coordinator reports that:

Two separate workshops, Clamming 101 and Crabbing 101, both intended for new audiences, were held on June 2nd, following the initial Bottom Fishing workshop held March 31st.

29 participated in the Bottom Fishing workshop and all were new introductions to the basics of fishing.

34 attended the clamming workshop, four of which had dug for clams before;

40 attended the crabbing workshop; only three had crabbed before and were unsuccessful.

During the break between the two workshops on Saturday, two families stopped at the local WDFW License vendor and purchased fishing licenses.

This was the culmination of three workshops over a three-month period where 103 residents of Island County participated in learning about a variety of fishing activities, managed by WDFW for the public good.

Sturgeon Festival: Staff from the Region 5 Fish Program participated in the 11th annual Sturgeon Festival, June 3 and 4, at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver. Close to 1,000 people attended this two-day event. The Festival raises the public's awareness of sturgeon, increases their knowledge of the Columbia River ecosystem, encourages involvement in community-based conservation efforts, and helps to promote recreational fishing.

241,000 Pounds of Salmon Donated: During the 2006 season, approximately 241,000 pounds of processed salmon filets, obtained from WDFW hatcheries were donated by the State contract buyer, American Canadian, LLC, to the Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties Food Bank Distribution Center (GHPCFB) by American Canadian, LLC. The GHPCFB serves as a statewide distributor for this product and provides services to 496,586 individuals across 35 counties during their fiscal year 2006. Approximately 37% of their client base is children and fifteen tribes were also provided these salmon filets. The product and processing of these fish is donated entirely by American Canadian, LLC.

State Parks Ranger Training Class: Jennifer Whitney (Region 4), Camille Speck (Region 6) and Doug Rogers (Region 6) spent a day at Ala Spit on Whidbey Island presenting bivalve management principles as part of State Park's annual ranger training class. Recognizing that there is a lot of staff movement from one park to another, State Parks has been committed to providing training on an array of resource issues for a group of about 40 rangers and other Parks staff each year. This year's group also included a Parks and Recreation commissioner.

This year's class was on an extremely low tide, which allowed us to conduct a mini-clam population survey. The rangers acted as beach samplers, to introduce them to clam identification and scientific survey principles. Lecture topics also included state-tribal co-management and the distinction between DOH's health advisories and WDFW beach closures.

This is an excellent forum for bivalve managers to provide the best information to staff that regularly interfaces with our user group, as well as to introduce non-saltwater park rangers to bivalve management.

ALEA Grants Awarded: The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program recently awarded 73 grants totaling \$1.2 million to volunteer organizations undertaking cooperative projects in the 2007-2009 biennium. An eighteen-member panel comprised of representatives from all WDFW regions and programs, reviewed and ranked the project proposals. Each of these projects has one (or more) of the following goals: to protect and enhance fish, wildlife and their habitats, improve public access to the outdoors, collect and disseminate fish and wildlife science or educate the public about resource conservation. Projects began on July 1, and will continue for up to two years.

2007 Special Permit Drawing: The Special Hunt drawing for 2007 encountered a number of difficulties. Due to system outages in June, the application submittal process was extended several days.

On July 14, a preliminary special hunt draw was invalidated when the Division discovered that hunter points had been incorrectly tabulated (as directed by WAC 232-28-291). Unfortunately, results from this invalidated draw were prematurely released to the Internet, and many hunters were greatly disappointed to later find they had not actually been selected. The Division conducted an accurate draw on July 20, which was then properly validated by the Department.

The Licensing Division understands how important it is to the public and the Commission that special hunt draws be conducted accurately and fairly. In light of this, the Division is working with their vendor to ensure this does not happen in the future. It should also be noted that this vendor has repeatedly failed to meet operational deadlines with regards to this application.

SCIENCE GOAL:

PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF SOUND AND OBJECTIVE SCIENCE TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

A Whale Of A Good Time: Sgt. Mullins and NOAA Special Agent Wolf took King 5 reporter, Gary Chittam, on a whale-watching ride along. The reporter was very interested in enforcement efforts being made to protect orcas. They also took an attorney from Friends of the San Juans on patrol in order to provide some enforcement perspective on proposed orca protection regulations.

Local Habitat Assessment for the Snohomish Alternative Mitigation Pilot Project: To provide some of the science background for the Snohomish Alternative Mitigation Pilot Project, Habitat Program staff completed an analysis of a large part of Snohomish County by using the WDFW Local Habitat Assessment (LHA) methodology. The LHA is a broad-scale tool to characterize the relative value of habitat across the landscape. LHA uses Eco-regional Assessments, PHS data, land use/land cover, and weighted road density to provide the relative ranking.

Guidance for Shoreline Planning in the Works: Science-based guidance to local planners and regulators responsible for permitting and planning land use activities that affect the nearshore environment (e.g., overwater structures, bank armoring, and clearing of marine riparian vegetation) is under development by the Habitat Program and multi-agency stakeholders through the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines (AHG) group. A consultant draft of an interim guidance document (prepared with very limited funding at the end of the last biennium) is currently under review by AHG, and additional legislative funding of \$320,000 was awarded to expand shoreline guidance in the next biennium.

Snohomish County Alternative Mitigation Pilot Project: WDFW Habitat staff met with Snohomish County Surface Water Management and Planning staff in a continuing effort to plan and map areas in the county that have a high potential to meet multiple natural resource needs as potential sites for future mitigation. Analysis of potential sites includes watershed characterization, salmon recovery and local habitat assessments. The Office of Regulatory Assistance supports this pilot project in an effort to develop a watershed-based alternative mitigation program. This is part of the Governor's regulatory improvement strategy.

DOT Project – Wildlife Corridors: John Jacobson assisted in providing GIS advice for a DOT project initiative called "Integrating Transportation and Resource Planning to Develop Ecosystem Based Infrastructure Projects." DOT hopes to convene a small core group that would include WDFW, with WDFW possibly doing the GIS analyses required of this project. One of the main goals of this project is to identify and prioritize important wildlife corridors across the state highway system for potential future efforts by DOT to build mitigating structures.

Identification of Data Gaps: IRM, Habitat Program, and Region 2 staff involved in the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program (CRBWMP) hosted the first of many discussions among regional fish and wildlife biologists intended to identify data gaps related to activities to develop new water supplies in the Columbia Basin.

CRBWMP includes several proposed construction projects that could affect fish and wildlife, even as those same projects, when built, would benefit fish and stream flows in the mainstem Columbia River.

Although some studies are already underway (kokanee immigration and white sturgeon productivity in Lake Roosevelt, circulation and primary productivity in Moses Lake, and an aquatic inventory in Lower Crab Creek), it is anticipated that additional studies may be needed in order to collect and compile the data needed to assess impacts to fish and wildlife and to begin to develop proposals for mitigation for some of those impacts. Gaps in data include not only inventories of animal presence and distribution, but also inventories of habitat types and extent, plant communities, and recreational use of affected areas and the fish and wildlife resources occurring there.

Work groups were identified, that will further articulate data gaps in the Lower Crab Creek, Lake Roosevelt, and Hawk Creek project areas, and begin to develop study plans. An additional large-group meeting will occur sometime in August to focus on the Potholes Feed Route and Odessa project areas. Once data gaps are inventoried and study plans developed, the Department ad hoc Columbia River Water Management Program staff group will further discuss and prioritize those proposals for submission to various funding entities.

New Contract: Staff work and projects relating to Department of Ecology's Columbia River Basin Water Management Program are continuing, and some new projects commencing, as the new biennium's contract between our Department and Ecology is executed. The contract provides a total of 5.5 full time employee's (FTE) to the Department to conduct assessment work related to the development of water supply in the Basin. Components of this project include policy-level participation with Ecology on implementation of the program; technical support for review of conservation projects submitted to Ecology for funding, assessments of impacts to fish and wildlife from large storage projects and potential 1-foot drawdown of Lake Roosevelt, and impacts assessment and mitigation project development related to changes in irrigation feed to Potholes Reservoir and delivery of surface water to replace groundwater used for irrigation in the Odessa sub area.

Within these major categories, four studies have been funded for the 2007-09 biennium. The Large Lakes Research Team (LLRT) will continue studying kokanee immigration in Lake Roosevelt and make recommendations to Ecology on mitigation needed for a 1-foot drawdown as it relates to kokanee production and migration. A small investment of equipment will result in significant new information collected as part of the ongoing Lake Roosevelt white sturgeon recovery program. The Department will also study effects to Moses Lake walleye productivity related to changes in volume and timing of irrigation feed through the lake. The activity gaining the most attention is the commencement of the long-awaited aquatic inventory in Lower Crab Creek. The Lower Crab Creek project represents just the beginning of efforts to characterize fish, wildlife, and habitats in Lower Crab Creek. That data will be critical when the Department is asked to assess impacts to fish, wildlife, habitats, and related recreation from any of the many CRBWMP-related proposals that would affect Lower Crab Creek.

The new contract with Ecology totals \$1,543,825 to our Department to cover this work. Copies of the work plans related to this contract can be obtained by contacting Teresa Scott at 360.902.2713 or at scotttls@dfw.wa.gov.

The Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) finishes Review of Lower Columbia River facilities: Paul Seidel and Andy Appleby from the Fish Program, Science Division participated in the HSRG review of the lower Columbia River hatchery programs (minus the Willamette sub-basin).

Washington and Oregon hatchery programs for Chinook, Coho, Steelhead and Chum were reviewed and recommendations made on altering programs to help achieve conservation goals while providing harvest. Draft recommendations will be presented to the managers over the next several months. The review of other Columbia River facilities will continue to move upstream with the hatcheries in the Columbia Gorge set for review next month. The review of all facilities in the basin is expected to be complete by July 2008.

Native Trout Restoration in Pend Oreille County: Regional Fish Program staff participated in a meeting with local natural resource managers in Pend Oreille County on July 19th to review the status of a collaborative project to assist in restoring native trout in upper Cee Cee Ah Creek. The outreach project goal is to bring federal, state, county, private and commercial resource managers together with a county citizen's advisory group, in a third party facilitated process, to identify why native trout restoration work is needed and how the project will be accomplished. Future meetings with collaboration partners will continue through 2007 and into 2008.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Workshop: Coastal Shellfish Lead Biologist Dan Ayres participated in a NOAA sponsored workshop last week (June 22-26) held at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, MA. The title of the workshop was the "National Scientific Research, Development, Demonstration, and Technology Transfer Plan on Reducing Impacts from HAB's (Harmful Algal Blooms)". The workshop's purpose was to provide NOAA with input on a report requested by the US Congress. Over 40 participants from around the nation contributed by breaking into three workgroups, each assigned to develop and then produce three specific plans designed to address; 1) HAB Prevention, Control and Mitigation; 2) HAB Research Infrastructure; 3) and National Plan for HAB Event Response. Dan was asked to lead the event response group. In addition, Dan has been a member of the steering committee that had been in the planning the workshop since December 2006. Those months of planning were evident in the very well organized event and the fact that all the three workgroups successfully completed their assigned tasks.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Issues may Impact US v. Oregon Plans for Hatchery Production: A US v. Oregon technical meeting on hatchery production was convened on June 27, 2007. The take home message from Mike DeLarm, the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries representative, was that hatchery management practices relative to ESA-listed stocks need to be scientifically defensible and sustainable – more legal challenges are expected. One major example cited was that NOAA Fishery scientists are advising that the current Snake River Fall Chinook supplementation program is not defensible or sustainable relative to three issues:

1. The broodstock needs more natural origin fish – the current level of < 5% natural origin fish in the spawners is not acceptable;
2. The Snake River fall Chinook stocks need more stock structure and diversity (both genetic and ecological/life history) – including separation of Clearwater Broodstock;
3. Enhanced monitoring (e.g. better marking methodology) is needed for Lyons Ferry Hatchery releases.

Tribal representatives indicated that terminating the Snake River fall Chinook supplementation program would be a "deal killer" for ongoing Columbia River Management Plan negotiations. NOAA responded that the program needed to be adaptively managed, not necessarily terminated.

Hood Canal Crab Tagging Database Linked with GIS Output: As part of an ongoing collaborative research project between WDFW and the Skokomish Tribe, data from Dungeness crab tagged by both parties in south and central Hood Canal was combined into a database and formatted for GIS output. This new format allows easy visual display of where crabs were tagged and how far they moved before being recaptured. Currently the database contains information on 2,890 tagged crab, 111 of which have been recaptured one or more times. Preliminary analysis indicates that crab rarely move over one-kilometer from their initial tagging site, even after being at large for as much as a year. After additional recaptures are made, this database and graphical interface will be combined with available dissolved oxygen data to examine the movement of crab in Hood Canal in response to low dissolved oxygen events.

Hood Canal Showing Signs of Declining Levels of Dissolved Oxygen: Dissolved oxygen levels in Hood Canal are beginning to decline. In mid- June the levels at depth were approximately 2 mg/l. While these levels are not fatal to aquatic life, they are low for this time of year, when the levels of dissolved oxygen are typically at their highest levels of the year. Additionally, a mat of white anaerobic bacteria, which grows on the surface of the bottom under conditions of low dissolved oxygen, has appeared in southern Hood Canal. As of June 19, the mat covered about one-square kilometer of bottom.

Preliminary Results of Trans-generational Marking of Larval Marine Fish Otoliths: Title: Buckley, R.M., L.L. LeClair, E.C. Volk and S.L. Schroder. 2007. Preliminary results of trans-generational marking of larval marine fish otoliths. Pages 87-98, *In*, Biology, Assessment, and Management of North Pacific Rockfishes, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, AK-SG-06-01, 2007.

Text: This paper reported on collaborative research by Marine Fish Science and the Science Division, and was presented at the American Fisheries Society Symposium 135th Annual Meeting, Anchorage, AK, September 2005.

Abstract: Dispersal, connectivity and retention of larval fish are key ecological processes affecting populations of marine fishes. Quantification of these parameters is vital for effective use of marine reserves and other resource management options, and yet these determinations are among the greatest challenges facing marine ecologists today. A major impediment is the lack of a reliable technique for marking extremely small marine fish larvae. Extensive testing with captive rockfishes (Scorpaenidae, *Sebastes* sp.) and surfperches (Embiotocidae) has validated that trans-generational mass marking of larvae *in vivo* occurs with the transfer of elemental strontium to otoliths of developing larvae via matrotrophic viviparity. The mark is induced by intramuscular injection of up to 30,000-ppm strontium chloride to gestating females *in situ*. The marks are permanent, and can provide unique identifiers for cohort and location. LA-ICPMS detects marks in juvenile otoliths as a zone of significantly increased ratio of strontium to calcium. The first field-test of trans-generational marking used brown rockfish (*S. auriculatus*) on Pt. Heyer reef in Puget Sound, Washington. Post-settlement juveniles were captured for otolith recovery only from Pt. Heyer reef.

To date, 127 otoliths from marked-cohort juveniles have been analyzed and one strontium marked otolith recovered. Analyses of additional otoliths are pending.

Puget Sound Crab Internet Reporting Tool: The Licensing Division is working with the Shellfish Division and a vendor to create an online website that the public can use to report their crab catches for the summer. This tool will greatly reduce costs within the Licensing Division and will streamline the process for the public in reporting their catch. It is expected that this tool will lead to more accurate catch statistics, due to the ease of use for the public.

EMPLOYEE GOAL:

CREATE AN AGENCY ENVIRONMENT THAT NURTURES PROFESSIONALISM, ACCOUNTABILITY, ENTHUSIASM, AND DEDICATION IN ORDER TO ATTRACT, DEVELOP, AND RETAIN A WORKFORCE THAT CAN SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT THE MANDATE OF THE AGENCY.

Enforcement Entity Training: WDFW Statewide Marine Division staff attended a two-day fisheries training event in Astoria, Oregon. Participants also included the Oregon State Police, NOAA, California Fish and Game and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Fisheries enforcement jurisdictional lines often cross and all of these agencies commonly network and patrol together in coastal areas. The training agenda included updates in federal fisheries law, an overview of the vessel monitoring system, fish identification, joint patrol planning, an overview from the USCG on available assets and protocols, an overview of the Pacific Fishery Management Council process and how it affects enforcement, monitoring and surveillance techniques, methamphetamine detection and awareness, and commercial groundfish enforcement.

Fish and Wildlife Crimes Prosecutor Training: The Enforcement Program hosted a training session for statewide prosecutors on June 20. WDFW's legal services representative, Lori Preuss, organized and conducted the training entitled "Fish and Wildlife Crimes." Approximately 13 district court prosecutors were in attendance from jurisdictions in both Regions One and Two. Four WDFW Officers, Sergeant Rahn and Captain Whorton were also in attendance.

Fir Island Snow Goose Collaborative Meetings: A tremendous amount of information has been disseminated and discussed over the past eight months and a small residential group is very reluctant to compromise or accept any recommendations that may influence the "quality of life" (peace and serenity) of the Island residents.

Island residents who feel any amount of hunting is "intolerable" and those from the hunting and agriculture community who wish to continue the long tradition of waterfowl hunting on Fir Island.

Because of our increased enforcement effort last year we were able to document no major violations or conflicts between residents and hunters. That effort has enabled us to get to the underlying cause of conflict as some residents have a strong philosophical objection to hunting and any increased visitation by outsiders onto Fir Island.

06/18 With the help of Sergeant Heinck, Officers Allen, Willette and Regional Wildlife Program Manager Lora Leschner, and Captain Hebner hosted another snow goose advisory council meeting. Commissioner Sullivan was also in attendance.

A few small landowners (residents) are not sympathetic to hunter wishes, increasing goose populations that need to be controlled, or the damages suffered by larger agricultural landowners. They are opposed to hunting and are not willing to accept or tolerate hunting in any form. This same group is also against other recreational pursuits from non-Island residents such as bird watchers, bicyclists, tulip festival visitors, etc. One more meeting is scheduled before the final recommendations will be summarized and made to the commission in August.

Washington Hydrological Society: Al Wald participated in a Washington Hydrological Society (WHS) board meeting to outline presentations for 2008. Upcoming topics include Hydrologic Effects of Global Warming – Impacts on Washington’s Water Supply; In-stream Flow Recommendations on Regulated Rivers; and Advanced Techniques for Delineation of Ordinary High Water Marks – the Role of the Private Sector.

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International Users Conference:

John Jacobson attended this users conference in San Diego along with nearly 14,000 other participants, indicating that ESRI’s GIS software, ArcGIS has market share worldwide. Numerous training workshops were taken that included Model Builder, Python Scripting, Geodatabase Structure, Tables and Charting, Suitability Modelling, Change Analysis, Image Server, and others. Numerous poster presentations were reviewed for content pertinent to WDFW GIS activities, and John engaged in discussions with ESRI employees on specific analysis issues, and direction of software development.

