



NEWSLETTER

Protecting the resource *and* anglers' access to it.

CCA Connect September 2023

2023 DATES

King of the Reach October 27-29

October 5

North Sound Banquet (Mt Vernon)

October 27-29

King of the Reach Derby



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Experience the ultimate Chinook salmon angling adventure at the King of the Reach Live Capture Derby, a renowned fishing event from **October 27th to 29th** on the Hanford Reach. Sign up today by [clicking here](#).

This derby stands apart by offering participants an exclusive opportunity to fish for hard-fighting upriver bright fall Chinook salmon, all while contributing to future hatchery production and competing for impressive prizes. Participants aim to catch live wild fall Chinook salmon, which are then transported to the Priest Rapids Hatchery, contributing to the enhancement of hatchery stock quality and the preservation of the iconic Chinook run in the Columbia River.

CCA Supports Increased Hatchery Production to Support Killer Whales



On September 14th, CCA Washington [sent a letter](#) to NOAA Fisheries supporting continuation of the increased hatchery production of Chinook salmon intended to support the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

CCA used this opportunity to acknowledge that fisheries managers must also couple hatchery production increases with harvest reforms that benefit the conservation and

recovery of both SRKWs and wild salmon populations. To maximize the conservation value of this increased hatchery Chinook production, we must also make commensurate changes to our fisheries by 1) reducing the amount of Chinook salmon harvested in commercial ocean fisheries; and 2) transitioning to mark-selective fisheries so we can better ensure the protection and perpetuation of wild Chinook salmon.

Peer Reviewed Hook Mortality Study



Results from a 3-year study on hook mortality, conducted on the Cowlitz River, have been published [HERE](#). One key finding is further evidence that using barbless hooks for salmon and steelhead in freshwater provides no conservation benefit. CCA will be sharing this important peer-reviewed, scientific study with fisheries managers in hopes of removing the barbless hook requirements in freshwater salmon and steelhead fisheries, including the Columbia River.

Important Columbia River Gillnet Update



Thanks to the legislative proviso language in the \$14.4 million Voluntary Columbia River Gillnet Buyback Program, which instructs WDFW to reduce gillnetting commensurate with retired licenses, Washington waters were closed to gillnetting during the September 19-20 fishery.

Only 5 gillnetters participated in the fishery landing 391 Chinook. Had the entire river been open, staff estimated that 4,760 Chinook would have been caught. This means that 4,369 less Chinook were harvested in gillnets plus there was a significant reduction in the number of wild steelhead, Coho and sturgeon handled and killed as bycatch.

CCA Washington developed a [News Release](#) on this 1-day fishery and also wrote a [letter to Director Susewind](#), acknowledging his recent [statement](#) reaffirming that the legislative intent of the \$14.4M voluntary gillnet buyback program is to reduce non-tribal gillnetting in the mainstem Columbia River.

Coastal Steelhead Town Hall Dates



Two dates have been added for the coastal steelhead town halls this fall - taking place October 25 and November 27. With a focus on conservation, this is your chance to have your voice heard on how to best structure angling opportunities on the many iconic rivers on Washington's coast. You can find more information [HERE](#).

Your CCA Membership ID # is %%IMIS||NAME||ID%%

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