

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA) Accomplishments 2021

- NSIA joins Fishing, Conservation Groups in Court Challenge to Federal Plan for Columbia-Snake Salmon.
- NSIA supported bipartisan legislation, Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will, in part, "dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement their science-based wildlife action plans."
- Liz Hamilton, NSIA's Executive Director, representing the sportfishing industry and interests, served on Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force Prey Work Group. Many of the recommendations from the Prey Work Group are manifested in Governor's proposed salmon budget. (see bullet re: Governor Inslee's Salmon Initiative)
- NSIA joined Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in submitting a motion in the United States District Court to ask for a preliminary injunction for violations of the Endangered Species Act. The motion argued for increased spill over several Snake and Columbia River dams and reservoir drawdowns beginning in spring 2022.
- NSIA worked with NOAA leadership to expedite the ESA coverage for Clackamas River Hatchery Genetic Management Plan to allow native Spring Chinook brood stock into their hatchery program. This genetic infusion should help restore dramatically depleted fisheries!
- Liz Hamilton, NSIA's Executive Director, was appointed to the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC), with a seat at the head (Integration/Recommendations Group). The State, Federal, Tribal CBC has an important role in determining how we move forward on such issues as hatcheries, harvest, predators, hydroelectric power, etc.
- Finally, after years of efforts by NSIA and our allies to reduce lethal river temperatures on the Snake River, the EPA this year issued permits for the lower Snake River dams setting monthly limits on the amount of hot water dam operators can release in the lower Snake River and requires the US Army Corps of Engineers to collect and report water temperature data at each of the dams.
- U.S. Senator Wyden selected Liz Hamilton, NSIA's Executive Director, as one of only 12 negotiators to craft an Owyhee Canyonlands protection package supported by hunters, anglers, ranchers, and conservationists. This package will be presented to the U.S. Senate.
- NSIA joined other organizations this year in advocating in favor of the Forage Fish Conservation Act of 2021 (H.R. 5770) to conserve the abundance of smaller fish species upon which salmon and other large fish prey.
- In what may be a critical turning point in the efforts to save the imperiled Columbia Basin salmon stocks, the fishing and conservation organizations (including NSIA) challenged the federal salmon plan in the Columbia Basin, seeking to pause litigation until next summer. Liz Hamilton, NSIA's Executive Director, is participating in direct conversations with Oregon Governor Brown, Chair Penny of the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Biden Administration in hopes of finding a workable solution to the decades long legal battles. <https://nsiafishing.org/general/snake-river-conservation-fishing-groups-agree-to-pause-litigation-discuss-long-term-comprehensive-solution-to-aid-struggling-salmon/>
- U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Washington, secured nearly \$2 billion for salmon hatcheries, habitat restoration, and research. "These investments give real hope to our industry, which generates over \$3 billion in economic benefits annually for the Pacific Northwest." NSIA worked

with all four Northwest Senators in support of this funding, which included an unprecedented increase of \$400 million in hatchery funding.

- Thanks to NSIA's direct involvement with bipartisan leadership in both the Oregon Senate and the House of Representatives, NSIA ensured the Columbia River endorsement fee is tied directly to harvest reforms (Senate Bill 59) and is eliminated if ODFW's Commission expands seasons for non-treaty gillnets. SB 59 would not have passed without NSIA's commitment and time over many years developing key legislative relationships. Interestingly, both key Republican and Democrat legislators involved in the passage of SB 59, are leading candidates to be Oregon's next Governor.
- NSIA directly lobbied members of the ODFW Commission about concerns about the OR WA Joint State Commission's discussion to rewrite the "bi-state agreement" on management of the Columbia River. After WA Commissioners proposed a new "Columbia River Accord," to change allocation benefiting the commercial fleet and increase mainstem gill-netting, Oregon's Commissioners rejected the idea and pushed a more conservation approach.
- WDFW Director, Kelly Susewind, gave special recognition to Buzz Ramsey with a Community Award at a Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. Buzz, long-time NSIA Board Member and sportfishing ambassador, was honored for his "decades-long career helping teach and promote fishing and spurring public involvement in fisheries and conservation issues."
- NSIA worked the legislative process during the 2021 legislative session to craft a bill to begin the buyout of Washington Columbia River Gillnet licenses. NSIA also initiated several similar conversations with Oregon legislators and interested parties and this discussion will continue into 2022.
- Thanks to NSIA work, the WA legislature also approved studies for the construction of a new salmon and steelhead hatchery to be constructed on the lower Cowlitz River. Both hatcheries received state funding to move ahead with the plans.
- NSIA worked with our coalition partners (CCA and NMTA) to do a fundraiser for WA State Senator Jesse Salomon (Dist. 32). The fundraiser raised significant funds for his re-election campaign, carrying on NSIAPACs important work to support members of the legislature who NSIA and our businesses.
- In December Governor Inslee announced his Washington State Salmon Recovery Initiative with Senator Christine Rolfe's (Chair of Senate Ways & Means Committee) as point person in the 2022 legislative session. Notably, the budget request appropriated \$16.7 million dollars for the voluntary buyout of Columbia River Gillnet licenses, monies to move forward in the protection of forage fish, increased hatchery funding and habitat policies aimed at reducing stream temperatures.
- NSIA, and other partnership organizations, intervened in a WA Pollution Control Hearings Board decision, that upheld the WA Department of Ecology's assertion that the US Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for regulating dam water flows to prevent elevated temperatures of river water from killing salmon and other species.
- Dave Strahan, long-time NSIA Board Member, served for two years on a task force developing a management plan for the salmonid species in the Rogue River and other southern Oregon coastal streams. Thanks to his efforts, combined with extensive work by NSIA with Commissioners and Oregon legislators, the ODFW Commission accepted the staff recommendation and management plan to protect salmonids in Southern Oregon streams. The plan included limited harvest of wild

steelhead and restoration of Coho hatchery production in Southern Oregon and implemented key mechanisms that would trigger any changes to harvest management.

- NSIA successfully lobbied to secure allocation of \$2.2 million in the 2021-2023 Capital Budget funding for the Deschutes River Watershed Center project. (Multiyear project for NSIA)
- Liz Hamilton, NSIA's Executive Director, represented the sportfishing industry in multiple media webinars throughout the year, which were viewed by tens of thousands of sportfishing enthusiasts in the Northwest, and in other states.
- Throughout all of 2021, NSIA staff and Board Members were featured in dozens of articles, editorials, podcasts and webinars all across the Pacific NW, including a #investNW campaign launched by Buzz Ramsey & Ashley Nicole Lewis of Bad Ash Outdoors.
- For Women's History Month, The Pew Charitable Trusts shined a spotlight on five women devoted to protecting our nation's rivers. Liz Hamilton, NSIA Executive Director, was recognized for her decades of commitment to Northwest fisheries and river conservation.
- NSIA helped organize the Rally on the River - FOR the River - on August 7th, 1:30-2:30!
<https://katu.com/news/local/conservation-groups-call-for-removal-of-snake-river-dams-citing-concerns-for-salmon>
- NSIA launched a Salmon Mean Business Campaign: **#SalmonMeanBusiness** for the peak of the Buoy 10 season, to educate United State Senators about the important link between sportfishing, businesses, and the employees that support the industry. On the heels of catastrophic steelhead returns and fishing closures, NSIA launched **#SteelheadMeanBusiness**.
- The Oregonian published this year an opinion piece authored by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Nez Perce Chair Samuel N. Penney, and NSIA's Executive Director, Liz Hamilton, united in our commitment to salmon recovery. This is a rare, published partnership between a state governor, tribal leader and non-profit director.
- NSIA organized in December the highly popular annual run forecast with fisheries managers of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This meeting reviews the final tallies of the year's fishing runs and predicts expectations for 2022 preparing the industry to better serve our customers in 2022.