

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

August, 2020

A Message from the President *by Matt Woodard*

Fellow Chapter Members:

I must tell all of you know that the Snake River Cutthroats still here! We recently had a small board member meeting to talk about how we're going to move forward during the COVID19 Pandemic.

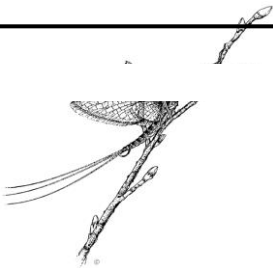
We are currently exploring the options of using Zoom to allow us to do presentations and meet online safely. We realize that not everyone has that ability to get online or has access to a computer. Maybe some of you can hook up with someone you know that can access the virtual presentations we are exploring. We're just trying to be as safe and responsible as possible while still being able to communicate with all of you. We are currently talking to several presenters about our Fall schedule (likely via Zoom).

Here's some good news. I attended a DEQ Basin Advisory group meeting, and Troy Saffle informed me that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rejected the County Line Hydro Proposal being put forward by New Sweden and Idaho Irrigation Companies on the Snake River where it crosses the Jefferson / Bonneville County Line. The irrigation companies have the opportunity to appeal or address the multiple objections sighted by FERC. I'll keep you abreast of this as it moves forward.

I hope all of you have had a safe and enjoyable summer thus far and that you have been able to get out and do a little fishing. There is a plan to organize a group to work on the TU Tin Cup Project on September 12. For further information contact our VP of Conservation Arn Berglund at fishvik@aol.com or 208-523-2451. With that in mind, these sorts of things are somewhat fluid as there has been an uptick in COVID19 in Bonneville County.

Stay tuned as we continue to work through the logistics of communicating with all of you during these troubling times.

UPCOMING EVENTS **General Mambership Meetings** **Cancelled Until Further Notice**



Snake River Cutthroats

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SRC Board of Directors Meeting Highlights, July 10, 2020

By
Paul Voegeli

The SRC board of directors met on Friday evening July 10, 2020 at George Klomp's home in Idaho Falls for the first time since the onset of the Covid 19 phenomenon with its resultant constraints and restrictions in our significantly different and ever-changing world. A full and customary agenda was reviewed by the board under the direction of president Matt Woodard and the discussions and ideas exchanged in the course of the meeting were positive and productive. The major focus was on promoting continued communication among the board members and with renewed consideration of reaching out to and communicating with the general membership in all matters pertaining to the Snake River Cutthroats organization. Exploration of the development of an appropriate social media platform (e.g. Zoom) through which the organization could all effectively, efficiently and safely communicate was successful and efforts are now underway to make this happen in the very near future. Email updates will be sent in this regard to advise you of the progress of this project. The usual agenda items including conservation and agency contacts, the newsletter, web-site, education, monthly programs, "Tie one on", outings, and the EIFTE Expo for 2021 were reviewed. The composition of the board of directors was also addressed and currently there are five board of directors positions that are vacant. This is traditionally taken care of via an election at the May general membership meeting which did not occur this year - and in keeping with requirements of by-laws - needs to take place. There is a list of individuals who have expressed interest in taking a board position and these people will be contacted by the current board members. Anyone in the TU/SRC is eligible to serve on the board of directors. Please contact a club officer or a member of the board of directors if you are interested in a board of directors seat.

Thanks to George for hosting this board of directors meeting and to those (especially John Rivera and the others) who have served so generously during their terms on the SRC Board. Tight lines and happy trails.

Recipe of the Month Breaded Lake Trout

Ingredients

- 4 lake trout fillets (about 8 ounces each)
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup bacon-flavored crackers, crushed
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- Pinch pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- Lemon wedges *and/or* minced chives or parsley, optional

Directions

- Rinse fish in cold water; pat dry. In a shallow bowl, combine the cheese, cracker crumbs, cornmeal, garlic salt and pepper. In another bowl, beat eggs and milk. Dip fish in the egg mixture, then gently roll in the crumb mixture.
- In a large skillet, fry fish in oil for 3-4 minutes on each side or until it flakes easily with a fork. Garnish with lemon, chives *and/or* parsley if desired.

Electronic Newsletters Available

For those still receiving hard copies of the newsletter via standard mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair, at casbas@cableone.net.

Fewer mailings mean more dollars for conservation projects. The fish will appreciate your cost-saving efforts.



Brett Jones released this 31.25" Rainbow Trout at American Falls Reservoir to claim a new catch/release state record.



Congratulations to Brett Jones, of Rock Springs Wyoming on a new catch-and-release state record rainbow trout! Jones caught the huge trout while fishing American Falls Reservoir on May 25, 2020. The 31.25-inch monster was just long enough to break the previous record of 30.5 inches, held by David Raisch since 2018.

State records are split for rainbow trout between common rainbows and the fast-growing Gerrard-strain trout found in the Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille drainages. Lake Pend Oreille still holds the current catch/release record Gerrard rainbow trout at 36.5 inches.

American Falls Reservoir has a well-deserved reputation for producing trophy trout, having produced several certified weight records already. The reservoir produced the 34-pound (41 inches!) record rainbow/cutthroat hybrid caught by Mark Adams in 2011, and the 20-pound rainbow trout record was caught by Michelle Larsen-Williams in the Snake River nearby.

Rainbow trout are the most common species at American Falls Reservoir, but Yellowstone cutthroat and brown trout are also in the neighborhood. The reservoir is popular for anglers trolling lures for big trout, but also has some good smallmouth bass and yellow perch fishing as well. You can learn more about American Falls Reservoir on the [Idaho Fishing Planner](#).

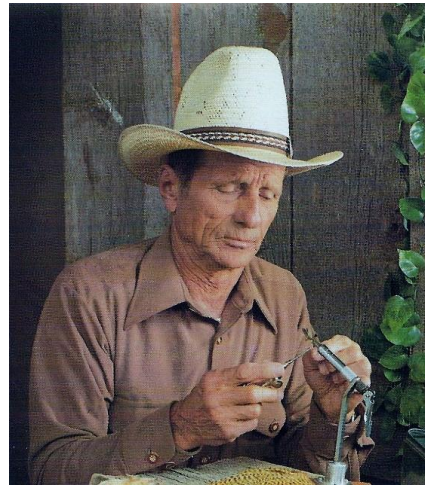
Our [State Record Fish](#) page has a complete list of [catch-and-release records](#) and [certified weight records](#) with details on how you can apply.

Bing Lempke's Story

Cyril "Bing" Lempke is likely the most celebrated fly tier-fly fisher coming out of East Idaho, if not the entire state of Idaho. Born in Minnesota in 1917, he came to Idaho Falls during the Depression with a family member. Always interested in fishing, he observed fly-fishers on the Henry's Fork and Teton Rivers. The activity fascinated him. Thus he began trading fish he caught for flies. These he took home to disassemble to see how they were tied. Soon he was tying his own.

As time went on he tried all waters of eastern Idaho from steelheading above Salmon, Idaho to the Wyoming border.

The Henry's Fork became his favorite, but World War II interrupted his fly fishing. He served in the Merchant Marines assigned to a freighter in the Pacific. On his return to Idaho, he briefly operated a fly shop in Salmon, but returned to Idaho Falls to work as a pipefitter. This allowed him to continue fly-fishing the Henry's Fork and to create fly patterns for the aquatic insects he observed trout taking there. Thus began his passion for aquatic entomology. He noted in his journal the life cycle of these insects, particularly mayflies, and was on his way to being a renowned expert on their identity and behavior. Doing so enhanced his creativity at the fly tying vise. By the 1970s he had gained fame with his abilities to create effective patterns for all the mayflies he encountered on the water. By the early 1980s he developed an extended body technique that was unique to the fly tying world. This technique was first presented in the media through the original *FlyTier* magazine in 1986. Thus he became famed on an international basis with offers to demonstrate his fly-tying skills at all major fly fishing events. In 1989 he became recipient of the Federation of Fly-Fishers coveted Buz Buszek Memorial Award, the first Idahoan to be thus recognized. But Bing's health began to fail because of the asbestos particles he inhaled while applying his trade. Thus began the limit of his ability to demonstrate his fly tying skills. He passed away in February, 1991 in Idaho Falls.



Bing's life in the fly tying spotlight was unique and colorful. To honor him this future editions of this newsletter will include stories that confirm the character of this generous and talented man.

Big Lost River Angler Use and Harvest
By
John Heckel – IDF&G Regional Fisheries Biologist

Check stations and fish tagging (i.e., “Tag You’re It”) studies were conducted simultaneously throughout the upper Big Lost River basin in 2019 to collect data on angler effort, angler use, catch rates, and harvest. The reason for this work came from our concern of declining fish numbers at sites IDFG monitors regularly, and from concerns of anglers who thought too many fish in the Big Lost were being harvested.

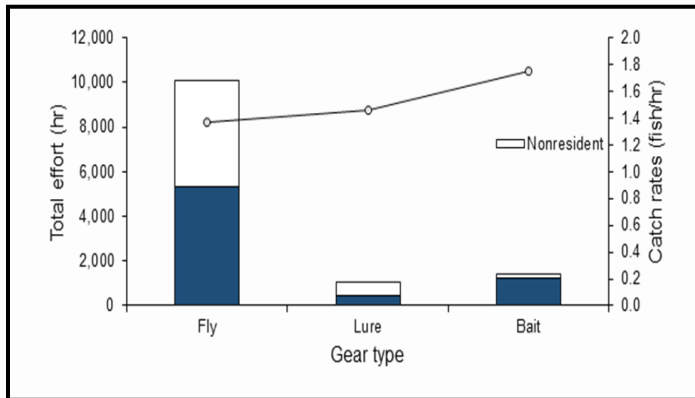


Figure 1

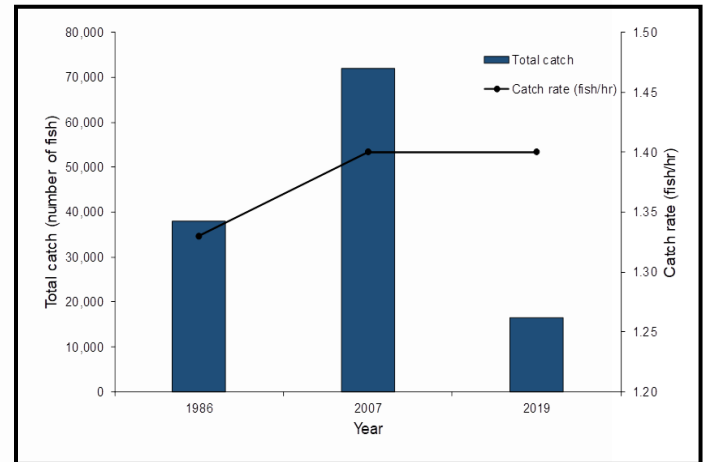


Figure 2

During surveys, bait anglers had the highest catch rates over other angler types (Figure 1). Bait anglers also reported the highest harvest rates at 38%, followed by lure anglers at 13%, and fly anglers at 1%. The overall estimate was 8% of the fish caught in the Big Lost River in 2019 were harvested. On average, anglers caught 1.4 fish/hr. This was similar to catch rates reported in earlier studies, although total catch was lower than previous studies because the total number of hours fished in 2019 was lower than previous survey years (Figure 2).

IDFG stocks hatchery fish in the Big Lost River. We marked several of the fish we stocked in 2020 with tags. Overall, 28% of the fish with tags that were stocked were caught by anglers. Some of these hatchery fish that were stocked (10%) were harvested.

We have observed declining numbers of trout in the Big Lost River since 2007, and anglers have been voicing their concerns in recent years. The creel and “Tag You’re It” studies were important in providing current data on where anglers are fishing, how many fish are being harvested, and how the hatchery fish are being used in the upper Big Lost River. These data provide IDFG with information to guide decisions on how to improve fishing. Based on these studies, it appears harvest of trout is low and is likely not the reason causing trout numbers to decline. We’ve also learned where anglers are spending their time and where hatchery fish are making a difference for anglers during their fishing excursions.

Fly of the Month

Lempke Green Drake

This was Bing Lampke's "flagship fly." Tied by Bing these are still sought as collector's items in the fly tying world. Bing tied other mayfly duns using the same extended body method. Just the size and materials varied depending on which specie he intended to imitate. If your tying skills are up to par, try this pattern!

Hook: TMC 9300, size 12
Thread: Black, 2/0
Wing: Goose primary sections with rounded tips
Tail & Body beam: Three black Mono fibers (0.006-in diam.)
Underbody: Art Foam strip, 3/8 in. wide
Egg Sac: Two peacock herls
Rib: Yellow nylon, size A
Body: Peacock olive floss
Hackle: One grizzly dyed yellow and one blue dun



2020 Calendar

Date	Activity
Saturday, September 12th	Tipcup Creek Project (Tentative)
	Other Activities Cancelled Until Further Notice

Note: all membership and board meetings are held at the Shilo Inn.
 Board meetings are open to all members and are held in the VIP room.
 General membership meetings are held in the Temple/River View rooms and are open to the public

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Ex. Vice President: TBA
VP Conservation: Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
Secretary: Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)

Senior Advisors

Gary Barnes
Jimmy Gabettas
Buck Goodrich
Ron Hover
Cal Johnson
Scott Long
Dave Pace
Bruce Staples
Marvin Stucki

Board of Directors

3 Yr Directors: Andy Bosworth (207-713-3457), Brian King (530-310-0529), Terrance Scott (503-432-6953)
2 Yr Directors: Kim Campbell (435-232-6608), Lee Morse (208-252-0703), Paul Voegeli (303-324-0104)
1 Yr Directors: Wade Allen (208-390-3130), (208-528-7997), Bob Starck (208-589-9339), Vacant

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Scott Long (208-520-3750), Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
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Publicity: Rob Knox (760-419-1682)
Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
Website: Scott Long (520-3750), Rob Knox (760-419-1682), Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)