



Cocolalla Lake Association
Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813

*Protecting Cocolalla Lake
Since 1984*

SPRING - SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2013



Annual Meeting and Election

Thursday, June 27th

7:00 p.m.

Cocolalla Community Hall

✕ No Milfoil ✕

The Idaho Dept. of Agriculture conducted its first survey of the year last week and NO milfoil was found.

Tom Woolfe said, "That doesn't mean that it is not still hiding out there, but we did not see any this time around".

Treatment on Hayden will be conducted next week and then I am going to focus a team on giving Cocolalla a real close look.

✕ Stream Test Results ✕

Janet Conlin reported that the latest results of the water quality tests of Westmond and Johnson Creek were, "OK". Both had low phosphorus, Westmond nitrates were a little high, e coli measured 63.1 which is not considered dangerous.

Another party testing higher up Westmond found levels very high, most likely due to the extremely large geese population there.

Many thanks to Tom Herron and the IDEQ for the continued support in collecting these samples and monitoring the test results.

Membership Drive

Our active membership is down to 83 active paid members. If you have not paid your annual dues of \$25.00 please do so, and make sure we have a current email address. Our association can only be as strong as the members that support it, please encourage friends and neighbors to join in our goal to protect and reverse the eutrophication of our beautiful lake.

Zebra and Quagga Mussels



The Battle Continues.... What is being done?? Are We At Risk??

Janet Conlin and Tom Herron of IDEQ gave us new information on the threat to Lake Cocolalla by invasive mussels. There is evidence that the water chemistry and temperatures are suitable for Quagga and Zebra Mussels to survive if they get introduced. We must remain vigilant in keeping them out of the lake. It was found that the biggest threat of invasive mussels come from Lake Mead and Lake Powell in Nevada. Inspections of watercraft entering these lakes are followed but often watercraft leaving them are not inspected or cleaned.

Idaho Invasive Species Program 2012 Program Summary
Idaho State Department of Agriculture

For a comprehensive report go to:

http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/Environment/InvasiveSpeciesCouncil/documents/Idaho_Invasive_Species_Report_2012.pdf

Aquatic Hitchhikers! Partnership Campaign Announces Bold Changes

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced it is passing the "red stop sign" baton of this unique aquatic resource campaign to the Minnesota-based nonprofit conservation organization Wildlife Forever.

<http://protectyourwaters.net/news/display.php?id=15306>

Thousands of dead loons on northern Michigan shorelines might be linked to invasive species

The rapidly changing ecology of the Great Lakes Basin, brought on in large part by non-native, invasive species, is causing devastation among Michigan's waterfowl, especially common loons.

http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/01/07/news/local_news/doc50ea12a669ef9650094304.txt?viewmode=fullstory

Fishing Report

by Cary Poston

My wife and I returned from our Arizona winter home in late April; she with thoughts of her flower gardens & I with thoughts of trout fishing. We arrived to find a large fir tree on top of our pole barn. Now that right there will get you thinking about other things.

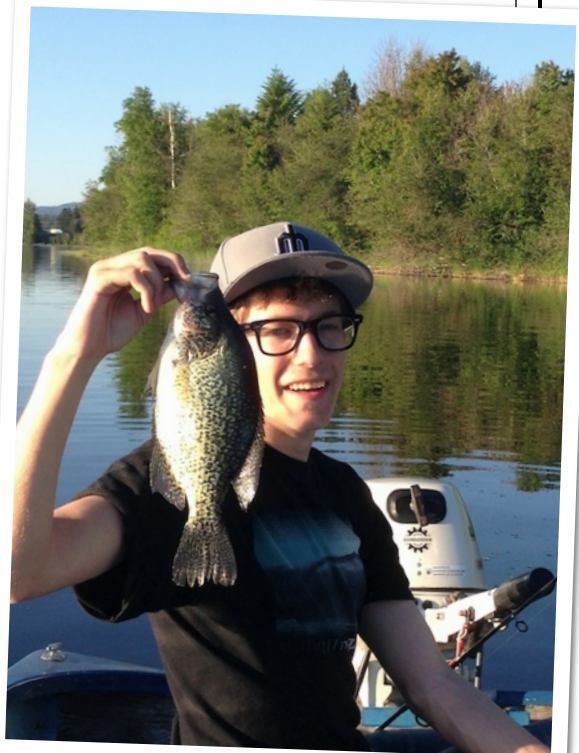
Her gardens flourished, but the trout fishing was slow, with no impressive fish caught during May. I sent my grandson out on a search for some tasty perch and crappie. But during May the water temperature seemed to be the villain too warm now for the trout bite, but still too cold for aggressive perch and crappie. Off to substitute Morton Slough, where we did have some spiny ray success.

Grandson found the crappie in early June, and every outing has been impressive. I have never before seen Cocolalla Lake perch and crappie in the sizes we are catching this spring. Large perch are in the 8 to 11 inch variety, and we've caught dozens of crappie larger than 14 inches. Fileting crappie 14" and larger is always a challenge, but in past years I hadn't caught too many that size so I just struggled through using my trusty Kershaw filet knife. This season I've had to use a combination of the Kershaw and the Ginsu knife. That Ginsu thing makes short work of a 16" crappie and produces a beautiful smooth filet.

When my grandson came home with that mess of large perch and a few giant crappie he was hooked and I was babbling. And, he'd done us all a favor by venturing out on the lake a number of times before finding the fish. A great deal for me too. He's old enough now to operate the boat/motor safely and properly, and all I had to do was wait for him to find the fish. I guess that makes me smarter than a twelfth grader. The greatest thing is that we go together now and I look forward each outing to being outfished. I get to comfortably sit up front and let him deal with the motor. I'm keeping him all summer this year.

Grandkids make great companions and they actually believe all the fishing stories you tell them.

Grandson Carter



Exciting Proposal for Cocolalla Lake

We were pleased to have Jim (JJ) Teare - Regional Wildlife Habitat Manager with Idaho Fish and Game and Jim Derring - WMA (Wildlife Management Area) Manager for the Pend Oreille WMA join us at our March CLA Board Meeting.

They brought to us a proposed lake wildlife enhancement plan for Fish Creek and the South End of Lake Cocolalla in the wetlands area. This has the potential to be a very important project to improve the habitat for wildlife in and around the lake and also decrease the sediment/external load that is considered a contributor to our algal blooms. It is a very ambitious project and would greatly enhance the condition of the area at the south end of Lake Cocolalla as well as the water quality of the lake.

In-stream restoration and bank reinforcement on Fish Creek will provide an opportunity to improve the fish habitat.

A design to bring back the original natural flow of Fish Creek will be created by a number of new small ponds and berms that will control the pollutants and nutrients entering the lake during high flows or spring runoff.

The plan includes use of upland planting mounds for shrubs and trees which would be native to the area.

This will be an extensive project and would require funding from various organizations both local and statewide.

Also, volunteers will be needed to help to fulfill the In Kind requirement. The total project cost is estimated to be about \$160,000.00 to include money and in kind work. It is hoped that some funding could come from Bonneville Power and State Funding in the form of a 319 grant.



Jim Derring

JJ Teare

Summer Has Arrived

And with that we have an increase in Boat Traffic...

A good time to review the State Guidelines and Regulations

Before you go:

Register your vessel.

Purchase your Idaho Invasive Specie Sticker.

Boating Safety:

Approved Life Jacket or PFD (personal flotation device) must be onboard for each person. Children 14 and under on board vessels 19 feet or less must wear an approved life jacket when the vessel is underway.

Speed Limits:

Within two hundred (200) feet of any shoreline or any dock, pier, other structure, or any person in the water, will be designated as a NO WAKE zone with a maximum speed of **5** miles per hour providing no wake is created at this speed.

Within one hundred (100) feet of any other vessel, the speed shall be reasonable and prudent, but not in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

Wake Surf Boats Present New Concerns:

Present regulations concerning ski boats were designed to control the wake impinging on a shoreline, method of operation and noise emissions from these boats, and were largely successful. For instance, the 200 feet from shore restriction has been generally adequate to allow the average ski boat wake sufficient time and distance to dissipate. 200 feet is completely inadequate and inappropriate for the large disturbance caused by a wake boat.

Large wakes have been proven to cause significant shoreline damage, through erosion of both natural habitats and shorelines and to docks and boats moored alongside docks in the area of excessive waves.

Operators of wake-generating boats must be made aware that they are responsible for any damage caused by their wake.

For those of you that have rental property on the lake please ensure your tenants have a copy of, "the Handbook of Idaho Boating Laws and Responsibilities".

Lake Host Returns

Joe Boscarino and his wife return to help ensure any vessel entering our lake are milfoil and mussel free.

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