



Cocolalla Lake Association
Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813
Protecting Cocolalla Lake
Since 1984

SPRING - SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016



Annual Meeting

Thursday June 23rd, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Come One Come All

Cocolalla Community Center



✧ Inspection Stations ✧

State-wide, Idaho's watercraft inspection program is up to over 12,000 inspections this season. To date, they have intercepted 8 watercraft with mussels on them. (more on Idaho's mussel prevention on page 4)

MILFOIL REPORT

by: Tom Woolf

This season milfoil was found in high densities in the southern part of the lake and in scattered areas along the western and northern shores.

Treatment was conducted on June 3rd and water use restrictions are currently in place. There are no restrictions on swimming, fishing or fish consumption and watering established grasses is allowed.

Due to herbicide label restrictions, we have to wait for 2 weeks before we can pull samples to determine if water use restrictions can be lifted. At this time we are scheduled to pull water samples on June 20th and have results back by the 21st. Fortunately it appears that the 90 degree weather has subsided a bit, so hopefully irrigation restrictions will not be too burdensome.

Welcome to our New Board Members

Mr. Tom Park
Mr. Dale Sprecher
Mrs. Kathy McGonigle

Many Thanks to these individuals that have stepped up and accepted board positions to ensure the ongoing stewardship of our lake will continue.

Additionally there will be elections for several different officer positions at the June board meeting. Please plan to attend.

Time to Revisit Bonner County Boating Regulations

In Idaho, No-Wake Speed is No greater than 5 miles per hour!

- NO WAKE: The act of operating any vessel whereby the visible tract of turbulence is not more than six inches (6") or the speed is not more than five miles per hour (5 m.p.h.).
- NO WAKE ZONE: A designated area Within two hundred feet (200') from any shoreline, dock, pier, bridge, other structure, or **any person** in the water where the operation of watercraft must be accomplished at not more than five (5) miles per hour, nor with more than a six inch (6") wake.

Within fifty feet (50') of any other vessel shall be no wake.

~Have A Safe Summer~

Considering Shoreline Restoration?

The department recognizes landowners' desires and needs to protect property from erosion and we support efforts to achieve that goal. The cumulative effects of lake and river shoreline riprap projects negatively affect hydrologic functions and are also detrimental to fish and wildlife habitat and may have profound effects on wave generated erosion both up and downstream of the armored bank. We believe that it is important that projects be designed to avoid uniformity of habitat and to minimize other impacts to the environment.

Prior to any shoreline development or stabilization projects, land owners should also contact the Bonner County Planning Department to determine any and all Bonner County permitting requirements. For more information please contact Michele Andersen, Pend Oreille Supervisory Area Navigable Waters Resource Specialist at 263.5104 or mandersen@idl.idaho.gov .

Camp Host

Sadly Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game did not secure a camp host again this season. Not only is this a concern to the condition of boats entering our lake but the rock barrier that was placed to prevent campers entering BNSF closed off area has done little to discourage those so inclined...

ISDA has provided funding to have Isabel DaSilva assist us on Saturdays, she is following ISDA inspection protocols and is not washing all boats that come through that station. If there are any questions regarding watercraft inspection protocols, please contact Tom Woolf @ 208 608-3404.

Stop by and let Isabel know you appreciate her continued interest and support.

~Welcome Back Isabel~

Wetlands Restoration Project

Miles Benker of IDF&G gave a comprehensive report on the progress that they have made at the south end wetlands. Two ponds have been constructed and five more are planned. These ponds are constructed to mimic natural wetlands. On higher banks around the ponds, straw will be used to enhance stability and shrubs and trees, native to the area will be planted around each pond. Grass will also be planted, being very careful that no noxious weeds such as Reed Canary Grass are introduced in the process. The goal is to attract migratory shorebirds and wildlife, as well as help to halt and reverse the eutrophication process in the lake. There are eight acres of surface water in these wetlands and the ponds should hold water throughout the year. 1,400 feet of Fish Creek was restored; the meandering water is directed to the various ponds by channeling the creek flow.

Mr. Benker mentioned they were looking for volunteers to help with plantings of the many native plants and shrubs they designed in this project late summer or early fall. More information will follow.

Study Finds Salmon Caught Near Seattle Full of Cocaine and Antidepressants

Disturbing research has indicated that young salmon found in Puget Sound tested positive for more than 80 different drugs, including cocaine, antidepressants and dozens of medications like Valium, Darvon, OxyContin, etc.

Jim Meador, an environmental toxicologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and a lead author of the study of the contaminants found in the Puget Sound told the Seattle Times, "We analyzed samples for the 150 compounds and we had 61% of them detected in the effluent. So we know these are going into the estuaries."

The presence of these drugs in the water appears to be related to the inability of the wastewater plants to fully remove these chemicals during treatment. But high fecal coliform counts in some areas of the Sound suggest that **leaky septic tanks** may also be contributing to the problem.

"Treatment plants in King County are effective in removing some drugs in wastewater, but many drugs are recalcitrant and remain. Seizure drugs, for instance, are very hard to remove, and ibuprofen levels are knocked down - but not out during treatment, said Betsy Cooper, permit administrator for the county's Wastewater Treatment Division."

Unfortunately, the contamination levels will not likely let up; according to one study, 97,000 pounds of drugs and chemicals could be entering the Puget Sound each year.

Ensure your Septic System is Operating Properly - Have it Inspected and Emptied Regularly

For more information Contact: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality~
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/657502-septic_systems_and_drainfields.pdf

Idaho and the Fight Against Mussels

Idaho and a few surrounding states are the last places where invasive quagga and zebra mussels haven't taken hold, Montana Rep. Mike Cuffe, R-Eureka, told the House Resources Committee this afternoon, and a group of Pacific Northwest states and Canadian provinces want to make sure it stays that way, using a "regional perimeter defense strategy." Cuffe, representing the Pacific Northwest Economic Region – a collaborative of five states and five Canadian provinces that currently is chaired by Idaho Sen. Curt McKenzie – said a significant step has been made, as a result of pressure from PNWER and others including Idaho 2nd District Congressman Mike Simpson.

In June of 2014, Congress approved using Water Resources Development Act funds for the problem, including \$4 million in one-to-one matching funds to supplement efforts in four states – Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon – appropriated for fiscal year 2016 to keep the invasive mussels out. The funding is for watercraft inspection in the Columbia River Basin, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Cuffe said PNWER is advocating for Congress to continue the appropriation in future years.

“We’ve been saying a long time, the feds, this is what U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service should be worried about,” Cuffe told the Idaho lawmakers. “They get to chasing a lot of other things that I think they should stay out of.”

The key now, he said, is for the four states to continue and step up their efforts – not cut back and figure the feds can handle it now. “This is matching money,” he said. “For it to really work for us, you’ve got to at least continue the program you’re doing.” He noted that Idaho spends \$1.2 million a year on that effort now, with funding from the Idaho invasive species sticker sales. “Good for you guys for coming up with a way of doing it,” he said. “In Montana, I did it through the general fund for a few different reasons. At any rate, we did a pretty good program also.”

Cuffe paid tribute to former Idaho Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest Lake, who led years of efforts to bring attention to the invasive mussel issue; Anderson is now a member of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. “Eric, he led the way, he forced the way and without him there would not be a lot,” Cuffe said. He warned, "If we get 'em in the region, it's going to cost a half billion dollars a year," and said, "My worry is somebody's going to come along and say, 'Gee, we can cut this program in half. ... That defeats everything that Mike Simpson, Eric Anderson and every one of us have worked for."

“When you get mussels, you’ve got ‘em – it’s a game changer,” Cuffe said. "The body of water is never going to be the same again. They filter out the lower life, algae and bugs and little plants ... that all your bigger fish and other animals feed from. ... They interrupt that food chain, and ... there’s no sure-fire way of getting rid of them.”

Cuffe said a perfect example is Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba, which Canadian officials thought couldn't be invaded because of frigid water temperatures and the lake's acidity levels. Two years ago, mussels showed up there. Officials heavily treated the lake with potash and thought they'd killed them all, but when they checked again the next spring, the huge lake was still heavily impacted.

House Resources Chairman Dell Raybould, R-Rexburg, told Cuffe Idaho's been a leader in keeping the mussels out. “We’ve done everything and we’re even considering some other things that may be useful would be huge fines for people who do not get their boats inspected,” Raybould said.

Idaho Invasive Species

Idaho has 67 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by state law – 16 are aquatic.

CATEGORIES:

Early Detection Rapid Response– (EDRR) Weeds shall be eradicated during the same growing season as identified.

Containment– Concentration of weeds where control and/or eradication may be possible.

Control– Reduce or eliminate new or expanding weed population.

Containment Invasive Species



Milfoil



Parrotfeather Milfoil



Common Reed

Control Invasive Species



Curlyleaf



Flowering Rush



Yellow Flag Iris

Native to Eurasia ☒ Inhabits deep and shallow waters of rivers, lakes, ponds, canals; can tolerate fresh or slightly brackish water ☒ Reproduces by fragments and turions; high germination and viability rate of turions ☒ Decreases diversity; disrupts recreation ☒ decaying plant material can decrease oxygen levels

☒ Native to Eurasia; likely introduced as an ornamental ☒ Inhabits wetlands, canals, lakes, streams; can grow in slow and fast moving water; can tolerate a wide temperature range ☒ Reproduces by seed and rhizomes ☒ Displaces native vegetation and disrupts recreational activities

Native to the Mediterranean; introduced as an ornamental ☒ Inhabits the edges of rivers, lakes, ponds, canals; can spread downstream 100 yards per year ☒ Reproduces by seeds and rhizomes; seeds have increased germination after fire; rhizomes can survive in heavy drought conditions ☒ Displaces native vegetation and disrupts recreational activities ☒ **Toxic to grazing animals and can cause skin irritation in humans**

Keep Our Dogs Safe

After learning of a local Sandpoint breeder losing one of her precious golden retrievers and a Cocolalla resident narrowly saving their lab I thought it was prudent to do some research and share this important information~

Please Note: The veterinarian in our resident's dog case did not diagnose the condition, fortunately the owner did his own research, followed the recommended treatment and saved their dog.

This information is not meant to be a substitute for veterinary care. Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

Fishing can be wonderful recreation, but sharing the catch with your dog can be an act of kindness that kills. Salmon Poisoning Disease is a potentially fatal condition seen in dogs that eat certain types of raw fish. Salmon (salmonid fish) and other anadromous fish (fish that swim upstream to breed) can be infected with a parasite called *Nanophyetus salmincola*. Overall, the parasite is relatively harmless. The danger occurs when the parasite itself is infected with a rickettsial organism called *Neorickettsia helminthoeca*. It's this microorganism that causes salmon poisoning.

"Salmon poisoning occurs most commonly west of the Cascade mountain range," says Dr. Bill Foreyt, a veterinary parasitologist at Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He adds, "Canids (dogs) are the only species susceptible to salmon poisoning. That's why cats, raccoons and bears eat raw fish regularly with out consequence."

Generally clinical signs appear within six days of a dog eating an infected fish.

Common symptoms of salmon poisoning include:

- vomiting
- lack of appetite
- fever
- diarrhea
- weakness
- swollen lymph nodes
- dehydration

If untreated, death usually occurs within fourteen days of eating the infected fish. Ninety percent of dogs showing symptoms die if they are not treated.

Thankfully, salmon poisoning is treatable if it's caught in time. A key to its diagnosis is telling your veterinarian that your dog ate raw fish. If you have a dog that wanders, or raids trashcans and you are unsure of what it's eaten; consider the possibility of salmon poisoning. Salmon poisoning can be diagnosed with a fecal sample or a needle sample of a swollen lymph node. Detecting the parasite's eggs as they are shed in the feces confirms its presence. The rickettsial organism can be detected in a needle sample from a swollen lymph node. The combination of symptoms, and the presence of parasite eggs or the rickettsial organisms, are enough to justify treatment.

Given the severity of the condition, treatment is relatively simple. Your veterinarian will prescribe an antibiotic and a "wormer". The antibiotic kills the rickettsial organisms that cause the illness, and the wormer kills the parasite. If the dog is dehydrated, intravenous fluid are given. Once treatment has been started, most dogs show dramatic improvement within two days.

Next time you are fishing or purchase raw salmon and you hear the familiar begging whine of your dog, ignore it. They may not understand it, but not sharing the fish is the best thing for them. This will save them from suffering salmon poisoning, and save you from a veterinary bill.

Fishing Report

BY: CARY POSTON

Not having returned from my winter boondoggle in the sunny southwest, I can't give a first-hand report of the spring fishing in Cocolalla Lake. But a couple of descriptive items I've received have me planning a return to Cocolalla earlier than originally planned. A report by our Lake Association president cited a moderate number of campers at the campground by the boat ramp in early May. He described a parking area full of boat trailers with overflow parking extending up the access street. To this fisherman, that can really only mean that the fishing is pretty good; nobody's waterskiing out there I'll bet. I had a phone discussion with a neighbor on the north end of the lake on May 5 and she indicated that her son had come off the lake the previous day after fishing a short time, mumbling and swearing under his breath about losing a whopper described as being 4 lb if an ounce.

We know that fishing success runs sort of in cycles. One year spring fishing is poor, followed by a year of higher poor, followed by years of good to great spring fishing. I'm guessing we're experiencing some good fishing this spring. You don't have to take my word for it. After all, I'm not there. But if they're biting and they're good sized, and I catch some I'll think of those of you who decided to stay home and watch LPGA.

FISHING REPORT UPDATE

The Catfish are Alive, Well and Biting ~



Caught June 2nd at an undisclosed location by an undisclosed resident.