



SPFF ON-LINE AUCTION HAS BEGUN!

See page 5

CONTENTS

Zoom General Meeting:	
When All Else Fails: Catching Fish When Fishing is Tough with Jason Randall.....	1
President's Message	4
SPFF Online Auction: Week of April 1	5
Women's Programs	6
Social Media	6
Directors & Committee	
Chairs	6
Membership	6
Fly Tying on Zoom in the World of Covid-19	7
SPFF Event Calendar	7
Remembering Max Port.....	8
Upcoming Women's Program	9
Casting Corner.....	9
Owens River Cleanup	9
SoCal Saltwater Saturdays.....	10
Southwest Council Club	
Management Day.....	11
Because Our Words Matter: Sexual Violence and the Fly Fishing Industry.....	12
Conservation Report: Energy and Salmon Concept	14
Report: New California Fishing Regulations.....	15
Santa Clarita Casting Club	
Yard Sale	16
Support Our Sponsors	17

ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 15

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS: Catching Fish When Fishing Is Tough with Jason Randall

by Marshall Bissett

Did you ever have one of those days when nothing seemed to work, when you've tried everything you can think of and you end up staring into your fly box for the tenth time that day looking for the magic answer? Yeah? Well, truth be told, we all have them. And the answer to catching fish on days like that lies not in a single fly choice or a magic solution but is the sum of a lot of little adjustments that add up to putting fish in the net. Understanding the 'why' of slow days offers insight on 'how' to adapt as anglers. Jason Randall's power-packed seminar will help you the next time the fishing is tough.

Jason was born in Morris, Illinois, a small rural town in the north-central part of the state. His father introduced him to fishing, hunting and camping and his growing love of the outdoors led Jason to become an Eagle Scout when he was just 15. He attended veterinary school at the University of Illinois, served in the Army and then moved to Woodstock to start his practice. He is not only a veterinarian, but a veterinarian



(Program continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science.

Jason picked up a fly rod in 1983, but with no guidance or instruction, became frustrated with fly fishing and casting and didn't handle a fly rod again for almost a decade. It was, during a Colorado vacation, that a friend suggested they go fly fishing. Fortunately, they hired a guide who gave them casting instruction and solid, accurate advice. After these brief, though valuable lessons, Jason proceeded to catch several native trout and this experience, says Jason, hooked him on fly fishing for life. And "hook him" is an understatement.

Jason proceeded to not only study and learn fly fishing, achieving great success as thoroughly and quickly as few others have, but he also became adept at communicating the knowledge he gained. For the last twelve years, he has been an outdoor writer with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines.

During just the last several months, Jason has appeared and presented programs at fly fishing shows,



conclaves and club week-ends throughout North America in places such as Somerset, New Jersey; Denver, Colorado; Detroit, Michigan; Philadelphia, Allenberry and Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Memphis, Tennessee; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; and in other states as diverse as California, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Carolina, Arkansas and Illinois.

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 2)

In 2012, Stackpole/Headwater books released Jason's first book, **Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents**. This book studies and explains the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

Jason's second book **Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat**, was released in August of 2013. This valuable book focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

And in 2014, the third book in his publisher's "Fly Fisher's Guide" trilogy was released -- **Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell**, which offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

Jason's forth book was released from Stackpole / Headwaters Books. Titled '**Nymph Masters; Fly Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers**', this book

explores the depths of nymph fishing and advanced nymph fishing techniques.

In 2017, Jason joined Luminaries Bob Clouser, Ed Jaworowski, the late Lefty Kreh and many others on the TFO National Advisory Team. Jason appears and presents at shows, clubs and events throughout the North America. For more information: visit www.jrflyfishing.com



SPFF

1971-2021



50TH

ANNIVERSARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It's finally beginning to happen, a bit at a time; baby steps. We visited our daughter and her family for the first time in nearly a year, went to our niece's new house not 15 minutes from ours and had a barbeque, outdoors even though all the adults are vaccinated. We are starting to feel like it's returning to normal while at the same time it feels a bit scary, unnatural.

Conversation is still about what we should and shouldn't do, where it's safe to go and when we'll be able to travel, go to the movies, plan a trip without worrying that we might be cancelled or worse, catch the dreaded virus. This will undoubtedly go on for quite a while, in fits and starts depending on the news, the variants, the vaccination schedules.

Meanwhile, spring has sprung, seemingly overnight. The bushes around our house are blooming, the trees are dropping seeds into the pool and clogging the filter. It's been a long time since a change of season has seemed so definite in SoCal. Usually they just slop one into the other, rain if we get it alternating with Santa Ana winds bringing summer days.

With anticipation and trepidation our fishing world is opening. Jim and David watched Wednesday fly tying from Mammoth, mixing skiing with fishing, *a propos* to the season. Kevin sends pictures of wherever he has gone fishing this time. Marshall and Michael are probably on a boat somewhere off Mexico.

It is all so familiar, and yet not, not yet. The annual Missoula trip, without PHW vets this year, will happen soon. HCR is on track for June, the GSO for July. One day soon we'll be

able to have fly tying, monthly dinner and Board meetings in person.

By the time you read this, our online Auction will be a reality. I am bowled over by the progress Rich Hoffman has made in setting this up. It looks professional and there are dozens of great items to choose. The catalogue is fantastic, the items are enticing and the trips look great. Most are good for the rest of the year and some for a full calendar year. I know a few I will be bidding on and I hope you bid against me so we can raise a lot of money for our conservation and education programs that we can now go ahead with. Kudos to all who worked to make this happen.

Tight lines (fingers crossed)!



SPFF ONLINE AUCTION: WEEK OF APRIL 1

SPFF On-Line Auction

Catalog Now Open!

Over 80 Items to Choose from!

Bidding will begin April 1st 9:00 AM, ends April 10th 9:00 PM

Guide Trips and Vacation Rentals

Rods & Reels

Fly Collections

Fishing Gear

Clothing

Specialty Items

You do not need to register to view the catalog or make cash donations.
You must however register to bid on items (name, phone number, address required)

Credit card entry suggested at time of registration however not required. If you do not register your credit card prior to check out, you will be requested to pay via credit card link on statement at checkout.

Certificates and Cash Cards will be mailed to winners. Physical items will be available for pick up April 24th & 25th at 7120 Hayvenhurst Ave. Van Nuys, CA, between 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

Auction Link: <https://www.auctria.com/auction/SPFFAPRIL2021>

Contact us: SPFF3746@gmail.com

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

by Catrina White

SPFF's Women's Programs offers support and friendship, as well as top notch programming that is not found in other Fly Fishing clubs!

Due to necessary public health concerns, all programming is currently via zoom. Programming can be also be accessed on our Facebook group page, Women of Sierra Pacific (found under the umbrella page of SPFF Foundation).

This group is open to all who identify as female. It is not to exclude the men, but rather to provide a safe, supportive environment for us to learn, have fun, fish, tie flies, and share our stories as women in one great sport.

We look forward to meeting you all in person when it is safe to do so.

For any questions, comments or to be added to the email list for notification of upcoming programs, please send an email to womensprograms@spff.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

by Catrina White

Please join us on our social media sites:

Facebook - SPFF Foundation

Instagram - SPFF Foundation

We have many groups under the umbrella heading of SPFF Foundation to suit your needs from making new fishing friends, Women's programs, participate in programming live on Facebook, and other great groups such as rod building, fly tying, and trade/barter/sell your fishing equipment.

We have over 100 likes and followers to our page with plenty of content to keep you busy!

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

For questions, comments, and suggestions, Please contact: Socialmedia@SPFF.org

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Richard Ress
Vice President	Bernie Ecker
Secretary	Jody Martin
Treasurer	Mike Hembree
Calendar Maintenance.....	Tom Wright
Communications.....	Bill Luddy
Conservation	Bill Luddy
Development Chair	Rich Hoffman
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Head Fly Casting	
Instructor.....	Marshall Bissett
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Programs.....	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Social Media.....	Catrina White
Special Projects.....	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative	Tom Wright
Technical Advisor.....	Aran Dokovna
Web Master.....	Ren Colantoni
Women's Programs.....	Catrina White

MEMBERSHIP

by Jay Bushore

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. New membership signup is at spff.org/New_Member_Signup. SPFF always welcomes new members. Our newest member is:

Barry Freeman

FLY TYING ON ZOOM IN THE WORLD OF COVID-19

By Michael Peratis

At first, I hoped our little group of 10 fly tying class graduates would be tying virtually for a short period of time. Well, our "little group" is now 113 and this month we celebrate the One Year Anniversary of our Zooming every Wednesday evening!

Along with fly tying, our sessions have been a terrific opportunity for us to stay connected with old friends and make some new ones. We FT Zoomers reside everywhere from Washington State south to San Diego; from the West Coast east to Missouri and from many places in between. Our sessions are also live-streamed and recorded on SPFF Foundation's Fly Tying Group Facebook page, so there possibly are participants out there who we don't even know about.

We anticipate continuing with Zoom meetings at least through May. I hope that we'll be able to resume our in-person sessions back at Mt. Aire sometime soon thereafter. We'll likely begin with something similar to our pre-covid routine, but restricted to people who've been fully vaccinated.....probably with masks and some social distancing too. If we can figure out how to hook up the camera, wires, lights and computer I'd like to try to "simulcast" our in-person tying to the distant Zoom tiers.

Anyone interested is welcome to join our tying sessions; just send me an email at education2@spff.org and I'll put you on the email list. You'll get the Zoom invitations and other information so you can tie along with us or just watch and socialize.

The Fly Tying Group Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/277399086787570>.

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL

SPFF Annual Angler Auction &

Fundraiser (on-line auction)1-10

Board Meeting via ZOOM	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	3
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	7
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	14
General Meeting and Presentation with Jason Randall via ZOOM.....	15
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	17
SWC Quarterly Meeting - Club Management Day	17
SoCal Saltwater Saturday	17
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	21
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	28

MAY

Annual Lower Owens River Clean-up ...	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	5
Board Meeting via ZOOM	6
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	12
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	15
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	19
General Meeting and Presentation with Skip Morris via ZOOM	20
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	26

JUNE

Board Meeting via ZOOM	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
General Meeting & Presentation with Ryan & Rob Buhler via ZOOM	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	19

REMEMBERING MAX PORT

by Ren Colantoni

Long time SPFF member Max Port passed away on March 19, 2021, at the age of 86. He was a regular participant in most of the dinner meetings and many of the outings. He was of particular value to me as a mentor and tutor. On two different GSO events, he took me under his wing and showed me how to read the river and cast to the most likely spots. He was a warm, supportive and very patient instructor. On one occasion, we worked Hot Creek together and I actually caught something. On the other, we worked the upper Owens and I learned a lot about how to wade across a really deep river. He always preferred Sage rods and Ross reels. He was a stalwart member of the Pesca Maya group. I will always think well of him and be grateful that I knew him.

Here are some thoughts from other members.

“Max spent time showing me some good tricks tubing on Crowley and was always ready to share his knowledge with everyone. The last few times I spoke with him was at dinner meetings, not on the water. He was a real gentleman and I’ll miss him.” – *Michael Peratis*



“Years ago Max was my nymphing clinic instructor. I had a couple of days instruction from him and he was great. Will miss him.” – *Jay Bushore*



“I have a wonderful memory of fishing with Max on the West Fork during winter some years ago, and memories of many dinners sitting at the same table with him at our meetings. It was Max and Chris Taylor who introduced Bruce Altrock and me to Hot Creek at the Graduation Outing when Bruce and I were new to fly fishing. It was the day I caught my first fish on a fly. I know we will miss him.” – *Glenn Short*

“Max was a legacy member of our Pesca Maya flats fishing group from 2008 until 2016. We all believed that his superior height allowed him to spot fish more readily, allowing his boat (with partner and lifelong friend Bob Yokoi) to record a flats Super Slam. He won the admiration and respect of the local guides for his angling skill, modesty and willingness to wade the flats and endure the bumpy boat rides even as his health

was failing. At dinner we would task him with the most complex engineering questions that he would field with a crisp sense of humor. He had the rare ability to be both a teacher and a student and was a mentor to many new Club members. We will raise a glass in his honor on our upcoming Pesca Maya trip.” – *Marshall Bissett*



UPCOMING WOMEN'S PROGRAM

by Catrina White

Hi everyone! I hope you can join us for the next SWC/SPFF event on April 23:

Picking up the Clues and Building Awareness on the River with Alyssa Halls

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4112941257?pwd=cmxZOFYxcFljQ2xyU3h2T2FWQjllQT09>

A discussion with Alyssa Halls, trout guide and tyer of all sorts of flies. Alyssa has been in business for 10 years, and has guided for 7 of those years alongside her husband Neil Strickland, who taught her to tie flies and fish when they started dating. As an instructor, she believes awareness is step one in learning any aspect of fly fishing... and this is not always as easy as it sounds.

This presentation will hopefully shed some light on how to go about finding more knowledge, inspiration, and even joy - on your next fly fishing trip.



CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin

Last month's question: Can you think of a reason or situation in which you might not want to have a narrow loop in your cast?

Answer: When casting a complex setup, such as a dry-dropper rig or multiple nymphs and split shot suspended below a strike indicator, it is actually beneficial to cast a more "open" or wide loop, in order to minimize the chance of tangling up the flies, indicators, weights, etc. Another reason would be when using a very heavy fly, such as a weighted streamer, or when using a sinking or sink-tip line, again to avoid tangling in the forward cast.

This month's question: What is meant by "tracking" as concerns casting a fly rod? How does it affect your cast? What are some ways to practice good tracking?

Feel free to email me with your answers, questions, or suggestions for future topics! jmartin.nhm@gmail.com

OWENS RIVER CLEANUP

Owens River Annual Clean Up!

Bishop, California - Saturday, May 1, 2021

Meet @ 8AM @ Pleasant Valley Campground @ the metal footbridge Bring gloves. Please practice social distancing etiquette when in large groups.

Bring family and friends! The more people, the cleaner the river!

Coffee and baked goods provided for all volunteers at 8AM.

Lunch will be provided for all volunteers at 12PM @ Pleasant Valley Campground @ the dumpster.

There is a free raffle for participants with a lot of swag to be given away!

For information call Chris Leonard. 818.288.3271. Luong Tam, Chris Leonard, and Jarett Coons will have a free clinic on fishing tenkara rods after lunch. Please join Luong, Chris, and Jarett. Rods provided.

SoCal Saltwater Saturdays



With the largest body of water at our doorstep, and literally year round fishing available, the Southwest Council brings you SoCal Saltwater Saturdays. This series will explore the many opportunities that await a fly angler with near and off-shore possibilities.

In bringing together experts from three different locales and three different access methods, we will show you everything you need to know, what equipment is needed, and various costs involved.

WANT TO SEE YOUR BACKING?

Join us April 3, 10 & 24 at 10 a.m. via Zoom as your host, Marshall Bissett interviews:

APRIL 3 – MICHELLE BOWMAN

PADDLE BOARD TECHNIQUES FOR INSHORE FLY FISHING

Michelle Bowman kicks off our Saltwater Saturdays by sharing her craft of fly fishing from a standup paddleboard (SUP). She'll take us from the warm flats to the cold deep water kelp beds to teach us the ins and outs of sneaking up on fish using this stealth mode of fishing. You can leave the boat keys at home but don't forget your paddle!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87917888747>

APRIL 10 – CONWAY BOWMAN

FLY FISHING IN BAYS AND HARBORS

Fly fishing the bays of Southern California is a unique experience that will hone any fly fisherman casting and angling skills. Learn the techniques for successfully catching Spotted bay bass, halibut, corvina, bonito and barracuda plus understanding tides, moon phase as well as choosing the correct fly lines and most productive flies. This is a must tune in for fly anglers if all levels." | Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87309795770>

APRIL 24 – GRAHAM P. DAY

OUTFITTING AND USING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT FOR BAYS, HARBORS, AND INSHORE FLY FISHING

Inshore guide and Scout Inflatables pro staff **Graham P. Day** discusses the possibilities unlocked by fly fishing from personal watercraft. He will share an overview of tools and techniques that can be used to make the most of our bays along the Southern California coastline | Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82746288933>

Join us for any or all of the programs and have those questions ready. We want YOU to be able to enjoy this fishery that is right at our doorsteps. Join Our Community on the lower right side of the page to be added to our subscriber list. <https://www.swcffi.org/>


SOUTHWEST COUNCIL CLUB MANAGEMENT DAY

**SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFI'S
CLUB MANAGEMENT DAY
ZOOM ON SATURDAY
APRIL 17, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM - 12:30PM**

PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER



**WHERE YOUR CLUB CAN GROW AND
PROSPER BY NETWORKING WITH
OTHER LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS**



**TOPIC SPECIFIC
BREAK-OUT ROOMS!**

**FUNDRAISING
GROW MEMBERSHIP
ORGANIZE EVENTS
SOCIAL MEDIA
SUPPORT BOARD
MEMBERS
VOLUNTEERS
WEBSITE
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS**

For more information contact secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org

BECAUSE OUR WORDS MATTER: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE FLY FISHING INDUSTRY

by Jay Nicholas

(reprinted with permission from OregonFlyFishingBlog.com)

I'm sitting here at my keyboard, paralyzed. My hands trembling. Heart pounding. Squinting at the monitor through tears. I've written hundreds of posts for the Oregon Fly Fishing Blog, but this is the highest stakes article I've ever had the courage to write. And that's odd, because it shouldn't require courage to write this, but somehow I know that writing about this topic involves breaking a taboo. The taboo of calling out my fellow anglers and our industry for inexcusable behavior.

Here goes.

Sex Dungeon.

Read the words aloud, please. Now tell me what the words mean.

I know it is a fly name. Anyone who fishes for trout with streamers knows what it is, but I want you to stop for a minute, think, and tell me what the words mean. Do you think the words are funny?

What do you think goes on in dungeons?

I'd be willing to bet that most people know that bad things happen in dungeons, and sex dungeons?

Let's step back for a minute and try a game of *imagine if* ...

Imagine you are a grandpa, sitting at your fly bench, with your seven-year-old granddaughter standing beside you, watching how you blend materials and craft your masterpiece streamer fly.

"What's that fly called, Grandpa?" She asks.

"This is a **Sex Dungeon**," you answer.

"What's a **Sex Dungeon**?" She asks.

How will you answer her? Will you lie? Will you change the subject. Will you laugh it off?

Are you still with me here? Are you still reading? Have you dismissed me and this blog post as over-reaction to harmless locker-room banter?

If so, you are part of the problem, and you need to change your behavior because the words aren't harmless. This kind of talk normalizes sexual violence. Harsh words? Yes. True? Yes.

The demographic realities of fly fishing say that if you are reading this blog, you probably identify as male. Could gender influence a person's perceptions? What if you were a grandma instead of a grandpa?

"Grandma, look at this pretty fly that Grandpa tied for me!"

"Why, that is a beautiful fly," you answer. "What is it called?"

"It's a **Pole Dancer**, Grandma. What's a **Pole Dancer**?" Your granddaughter asks. "Grandpa just laughed and said I should go ask you."

How do you feel, Grandma? Is this harmless?

Let's play *Imagine if* again.

BECAUSE OUR WORDS MATTER (CONT.)

Imagine that you are a mid-twenties male, out in the drift boat with two male friends, floating down the river one fine autumn afternoon. The trout are biting and you're having a great time with your buddies, when someone says, "I think I'll try a **Pearl Necklace**."

Do you think anyone will laugh? Do you imagine any one of you will say anything about the meaning of the phrase? Perhaps you think it is OK to use some of these names because they are double entendres and the real meanings can be debated?

dou·ble en·ten·dre

noun

A word or phrase open to two interpretations, one of which is usually risqué or indecent.

Just because it is a double entendre doesn't make it OK. The language serves to endorse and coddle and perpetuate a culture of male sexual dominance.

Excuse me. I'm under the impression that the fly fishing industry is making a determined effort to recruit women and children as fly fishers. Is this how we plan on making them feel welcome?

I'm not an expert. I'm not even a great writer, and I have no credentials to have researched these issues. But I know how I feel when I see these fly names. I know the meaning behind the names. They are intended to catch the consumer's attention. They are meant to sell a product to a consumer that is usually a white male.

But the words hurt everyone, regardless of gender. The words convey the approval of sexual dominance and violence in our society.

Let's play *Imagine if* again. Pretend for a moment that you're a female who is a professional fishing guide with two male clients. You are packing up after a riverside lunch, getting ready to resume the afternoon's fishing. One of your clients passes you their fly box and begins telling you about the contents. "That top row is filled with **Stacked Blondes**. Next row down is loaded with my **Barely Legals**. And the last three rows hold my **Lap Dancers**, **T & A Bunkers**, and **Bottoms Up**."

In case you didn't know, the English language dictionary says this.

T&A

in American English

noun

Informal

Entertainment, as TV programs or movies, characterized by the deliberately titillating display of the female form.

Remember, you are the female guide, hired by two male clients. How do you feel about these fly names? How do you feel about your clients?

Or more to the point, how do you feel about your fly fishing industry that allows this to go on? These fly names are not new. The fact that the industry hasn't had the guts or the courage or the smarts to put a stop to this bullshit says something.

Some people will claim it says that the industry is OK with this. Others will claim that this is only a tiny little naughtiness. And certainly some people will say that I'm making a fuss where none is warranted.

Well, it isn't a little transgression, and it isn't just naughty. These names and associated visual images don't belong in a box of fishing flies. These fly names reflect a culture of male dominance that expects superiority in all things, sex included.

And if this is a problem, then who is to blame?

BECAUSE OUR WORDS MATTER (CONT.)

Here's the thing about these little flies, all of them sitting so innocently in their fly bins in shops and in people's fly boxes and fly fishing vests and boat bags and strung on their fly rods: No one and everyone is responsible. It is you and it is me and it is every one of our fly fishing buddies; it is all anglers of all genders. Every one of us who has heard or seen these fly names and not spoken up is to blame.

I'm pissed at every one of my friends who has never stood up to this issue.

I'm pissed at myself, and I'm embarrassed that I've been too cautious to take a stand on this issue before now.

I'm pissed at every professional fly fishing guide, regardless of gender, for not taking a stand on this.

I find it difficult to understand the silence in the fly fishing industry on matters like this. I've been searching the Internet for a week, trying to find anyone who has called attention to the connection between the language we use and tacit approval of sexual violence.

Instead, I found articulate revelations by female fishing guides who are constantly on their guard to avoid situations where they might be vulnerable to male dominance (verbal and physical).

It makes sense. It makes perfect sense.

When female fly fishing guides work for male clients who live in a world populated by Stacked Blonde Pole Dancers who would love to get a Pearl Necklace in their Sex Dungeon, well, what else would you expect?

I'm done. No apologies.

Jay Nicholas, February 22, 2021.

CONSERVATION REPORT: ENERGY AND SALMON CONCEPT

by Debbie Sharpton

SWC-FFI Conservation VP

U.S. Representative Simpson (R-ID) announced a massive infrastructure proposal that includes removal of 4 dams on the Snake River to support anadromous fish such as salmon. In the past three years, he and his staff have held over 300 meetings with stakeholders, tribes, elected representatives and other interests trying to understand and break down the issues relating to the ongoing litigation, studies, appeals, biops, spill and other conflicts creating regional uncertainty related to salmon recovery, dams, energy and transportation.

Representative Simpson now has outlined his "concept" proposal as a possible path forward for the Northwest to transition to a better place that ends the salmon wars, protects all stakeholders on their terms and resets the energy landscape in the Northwest, so we maximize the benefits of the Bonneville System and our abundant renewable solar, wind and hydro and give our salmon a much better chance at recovery.

His concept is described in detail at: <https://simpson.house.gov/salmon/>

REPORT: NEW CALIFORNIA FISHING REGULATIONS

by Chris Leonard (*Chris is a guide for Kittredge Sports, Mammoth Lakes*)

If you think the 2020 United States presidential election was controversial, you haven't seen anything yet. Let's talk about the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulation changes that were put into place effective March 1, 2021.

At the start of 2019, California DFW announced that they were going to completely overhaul the statewide fishing regulations by proposing an "inland trout regulation simplification process." Why? According to state employees, the regulations in place at the time were generally scattered everywhere, thus confusing to many anglers. Confusing to anglers who don't read the regs, I suppose. I always understood them. Immediately, anglers from various backgrounds raised an eyebrow and took an interest and stances on the fisheries in question.

DFW employees told attendees of the first public meeting held in Bishop, California in March 2019 that there was no fish count surveys or data being used to make the decisions. At that first meeting in Bishop, DFW fisheries biologist Roger Bloom stated that there are over 500 fisheries being questioned, with an almost equal number of regulations to match them. Their team felt that it was time to tidy up the annually issued fishing reg booklets. Today, those regs are mostly online.

DFW held a total of six public meetings in March and April 2019 soliciting public input. Hot Creek alone generated over 4,000 responses to the proposal to allow spin anglers access to Hot Creek with lures. Those responses left a mark with DFW. They left it alone. That, to me, is a victory. Sometimes the best approach is, if it's not broken, don't fix it. Not changing Hot Creek is a win.

So how about the countless other fisheries in the Eastern Sierra? A lot of the fisheries came out with newly imposed reg changes. Some of the most profound include not allowing fishing on the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1, closing tributaries of Crowley and Silver Lake during certain spawn seasons, eliminating a barbless-only season on Crowley, opening up some high country fisheries that were otherwise closed, and closing the East Walker River during the winter months when it is flowing at a minimal trickle of water.

What I believe, and you need not agree with me, is that the Department of Fish and Wildlife really got a lot of the changes correct. First and foremost, I commend them for better protecting some of the Eastern Sierra's spawning fish. I think that is a critical component of improving the general health of some of the region's major fisheries. They left some spawning periods open to angling. For example, the Upper Owens with its famous spawning "snowbows" is still intact as a year-round fishery, but the cutts that move up from the lake are now more protected in tributaries like McGee Creek. I don't know why they decided to protect the cutthroat but left the spawning rainbows exposed. But, the cutts got a good deal. The closure of the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1 is a very interesting proposal. Given that these lakes see snow usually around October, it's going to be a short season for those golden trout habitat lakes. Crowley was generally left alone. Fly and spin anglers alike are wondering why the barbless-only season was changed. It's legal to fish barbs on Crowley from August 1 to closing.

The change in the Eastern Sierra that is bringing the greatest amount of attention and conversation is the East Walker River. The East Walker River was closed to fishing during the winter before it was opened up to year-round fishing along with the Upper Owens and Hot Creek, about 15 years ago. A few anglers enjoy bearing the sub-freezing conditions, and fishing for East Walker fish holed up in some of the few buckets and deeper pools found in the river, but most people wait till spring, summer, and fall to fish those fish. The split in opinion is about 50-50 regarding closing the East Walker in winter.

What's my opinion of the East Walker? I think those fish should be given a rest in the winter. Those fish have a hard enough time competing with each other for livable space. I also think it should be closed in August when temps are skyrocketing and that water is oxygen starved, but that opinion of mine fell on deaf ears.

The changes, I think we can all agree, would have made a lot more sense if DFW used fish count science and census data to consider the fisheries.

Guess what? You still have to read the regs to know the regs. That didn't change.

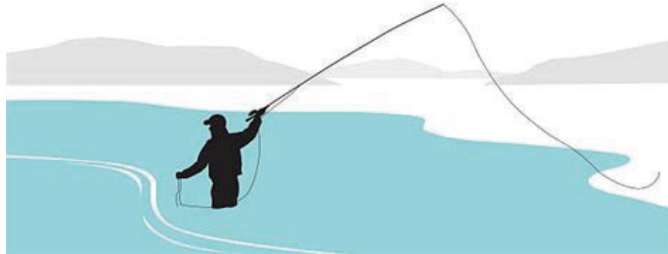
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishing Regulations effective March 1, 2021 can be found on their website at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=190456&inline>

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