

# Columbia River Bassmasters



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[www.columbiariverbassmasters.org](http://www.columbiariverbassmasters.org)

April 2016

### \*\*\* MARCH MEETING \*\*\*

**Who Song & Larry's**  
 Tuesday, April 5th @ 7PM  
 111 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver

#### Meeting Agenda

Call meeting to order/Guest Intro -----Gabe  
 Fishing Reports ----- Members  
 BASS/FLW Report ----- Gary  
 Treasurer's Report -----Chuck

#### OLD BUSINESS

Celilo Results ----- Mark

#### BREAK

#### NEW BUSINESS

Hood River Draw ----- Mark

## First 2016 Tournament

The first Columbia River Bassmasters tournament of 2016 will be staged out of Celilo Park on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Celilo pool has been a club favorite over the years as evidenced by the selection of this pool for two tournaments this year. Based on previous years, if you plan to cash in, you had better plan on bringing in 15 or more pounds to the weigh in. This year's tournament is a little earlier than normal. Water temperature on March 16<sup>th</sup> was 46 and a slow bite has been reported by the few who have been out on the Columbia so far this year however a number of good catches were made this past weekend. Good luck to all season.

## 2016 Tournament Schedule

Date	Ramp	Lake/River	Meet Time	Alt Location
02 April	Celilo Park	Celilo/Columbia	8:00 AM	Newberg, Or
16 April	Hood River	Bonneville/Columbia	7:30 AM	Swan Is. Or
14 & 15 May	McKay Dam Launch	McKay Reservoir	6:00 AM	None
04 June	Cascade Locks	Bonneville/Columbia	6:00 AM	Boone's Ferry
25 June	Taidnapam Park	Riffe Lake	5:30 AM	None
16 July	Hood River	Bonneville/Columbia	5:30 AM	Newberg, Or
13 August	Celilo Park	Celilo/Columbia	6:00 AM	Swan Is. Or
17 Sept	La Page Park	Umitilla/Columbia	7:00 AM	Boone's Ferry
01 Oct	Cascade Locks	Bonneville/Columbia	7:00 AM	Newberg, Or
08 Oct	NWCC	TBD	TBD	
15 Oct	Don Abbott Classic	TBD	TBD	

Location of the Don Abbott Classic to be determine TBD during the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting. Northwest Club Classic is scheduled for 8 October and the Location is TBD.

## March Meeting Items

1. The club approved a change to the tournament rules that would allow a guest boater to be brought in once per year for a non-boater who did not get drawn. This matches up with the rules that allows a boater to bring a guest co-angler when he does not have a partner to fish with.
2. Randy Mock presented a proposal regarding how the co-angler draw is conducted. Mark indicated that he could easily accommodate the proposal to enable the members present at the meeting to draw prior to the members who are not present. No rule change would be necessary since there was no rule for the previous method.

## OREGON BASS NATION

The format for Oregon B.A.S.S. Nation has changed for the 2016 season. All four of the following Qualifier events will be a Professional/Amateur format. This basically means that the boater has full control of where you fish during the whole day. Each person fishes for their own limit (3 for Amateur). The entry fee for the Professional is \$150 and \$75 for the Amateur. Rules require that there must be two people in each boat. Currently there is a shortage of Amateurs to fish these events. If you are interested please contact Jason Hooper or Nick Fitzsimmons. All four events will be a draw event. Last year Jeff Reid and Zip Decker qualified as non-boaters for the Western BASS Nation Divisional to be held on Lake Mead April 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. There are some changes and details that are not yet available but Jason, Nick and the other board members are currently working to get everything out soon. All CRB members are eligible to fish these tournaments. Just complete the entry form and go fishing. As of now, I believe that Mike Ieletzky, Zip Decker, Jeff Reid, Gary Harral and other psibles are fishing BASS Nation this year.

### 2016 BASS Nation Schedule

Date	Location	Date	Location
4/30/16	Boardman/ Columbia River	7/9/16	Tenmile Lake
6/15/16	Prineville Reservoir	8/20/16	Hood River/ Columbia River

The website has been partially updated for 2016 including entry forms and State Team Qualification Rules. <http://www.oregonbassfederation.org/> Go to BASS Nation to read official Rules of BASS Nation. If you want to fish as a boater or non boater, please contact:

Jason Hooper at [fish4hooper@gmail.com](mailto:fish4hooper@gmail.com) or Nick Fitzsimmons at [micahash1@yahoo.com](mailto:micahash1@yahoo.com)

## OREGON TBF

There are a total of five (5) TBF Oregon State Team Qualifier events, These are Team events with a \$220/boat entry fee. TBF is scheduled to sponsor several other events as indicated below.

### 2016 TBF Oregon Qualifier Schedule

Date	Location
4/23/16	Tenmile Lake
4/24/16	Tenmile Lake
5/21/16	Hood River
5/22/16	Swan Island
6/11/16	Green Peter Reservoir

### Other 2016 TBF Events

Date	Location
4/9/16	Icebreaker Open Hood River
5/14/16	Oregon High School Cascade Locks
9/11/16	Cast for Kids Hagg Lake
10/15/16	TBF Oregon Big Bass Open The Dalles

If you are looking to do a little more organized fishing but not interested in fishing TBF Oregon, you might want to look at fishing Greater Oregon TBF (GOT). We have four GOT events this year. Entry fee is \$25/team. At least one person in the boat must be a TBF member. The member can bring anyone as a partner as a boater or non-boater. This is a new format that we started last year. Beginning this year, the two highest finishing GOT members who did not qualify as a State Team member will be eligible to fish in the Nationals Semi-Final event provided that person fished at least 2 TBF Oregon Qualifier events.

If you are interested in fishing TBF Oregon, or GOT or if you have questions, please contact the following: Ed Chin at [LOOK4CHIN@MSN.COM](mailto:LOOK4CHIN@MSN.COM) or Gary Harral [Gary.D.H@comcast.net](mailto:Gary.D.H@comcast.net)

### 2016 GOT Schedule

Date	Location
6/26/16	Swan Island Willamette River
7/17/16	Celilo Park Columbia River
8/28/16	Cascade Locks Columbia River
9/18/16	McKay Reservoir Pendleton Oregon

# Get Your Boat Ready for Fishing!

By: Mark Forbes

So, you're getting the bug to get out on the river. The boat has been sitting since October though, so here are some ideas for getting it ready to go out. If you haven't performed any of these maintenance items yourself, give it a go; they are easy.

## Don't be Unbearable

The bearings on your trailer wheels need periodic lubrication, just like other points on the trailer (and your tow vehicle). If you do not have a grease gun, for Pete sake get one! They're about \$10 at auto parts stores or Walmart.

Your wheel bearings support the entire weight of your boat and trailer. They need grease. Without grease, they will heat up and fail...sometimes spectacularly. On my first boat, the bearings literally blew out of the axel and I never found them. Putting bearings on an axel on the side of the road is NO FUN, so get a grease gun and use it regularly. Here's what you do:

1. If you have Bearing Buddies or similar, checking to see if you need to add a squirt of grease is easy. If not, give each a couple of squirts. Here, the Bearing Buddy is nearly flush with the axel. That says it needs some grease.
2. Pop off the bearing cap with a blurry screwdriver.
3. Now you can see the zerk (new vocabulary word for some!). Push the end of the grease gun fitting over the zerk (it requires a solid push, and it will "pop" onto the zerk). Then, pump the handle until the Bearing Buddy moves out about 1/4".
4. Put the cap back on, and you're done! Note the happy bearing that is about 1/4" extended from the axel.
5. While you're on the ground near the wheels, check your tire pressure with a tire gauge (\$5 at Walmart)...chances are they've lost a little air over the winter.



## Give Your Boat Props

If you boat on the Columbia, you probably have dinged your propeller. I have mine repaired at Sheffield Propeller on Vancouver Way near the racetrack in Portland. Here's what you do:

1. The first task is to remove the cotter pin securing the prop nut. Be sure not to lose this like I did the first time I changed props! I went to several hardware stores and never found a correct one. Then I found the old one under the boat. Notice that now I tie a bit of monofilament to it. That way, when it pops out and springs across the garage, I can just reel it in.
2. Next, remove the prop nut. This is a BIG nut...on mine (probably standard) it requires a 1 1/16" deep socket. Be sure to put the nut and cotter pin in a safe place. Now, pull off the prop. On the propeller, where the nut was, is a metal disk that you pop off with a screwdriver. Save that with your nut and cotter pin.
3. When you're ready to put your repaired (or your spare!) prop back on, be sure the prop shaft has fresh grease and slide the prop over the shaft, all the way to the bottom. Notice that it does not cover the knurling completely? That's where that metal disk fits. Drop it on and hand tighten the nut. Finally, torque the nut ALMOST tight...then check to see if the cotter pin hole is exposed. You can move the nut slightly to get the entire hole exposed. Then, install the cotter pin and bend the pins to secure.
4. You're done!

Two final suggestions:

1. Use a fuel additive to combat Ethanol. I had some injector clogging a couple of years ago and started using Startron. I haven't had any trouble since.
2. Be sure you fully charge your batteries. Most batteries prefer to be on trickle charge all winter (your charger will automatically do this).



## **WDFW suspends fishing limits for bass, walleye, channel catfish on Columbia River**

OLYMPIA – Starting March 3, anglers can fish for bass, walleye and channel catfish without daily catch or size limits from the mouth of the Columbia River 545 miles upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.

An emergency rule approved by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) removes the remaining limits for those species on the Columbia River downstream from the Washington/Oregon state line, 17 miles above McNary Dam.

It also lifts fishing limits for those species on nearly two-dozen tributaries flowing into that section of the Columbia River.

The new rule is consistent with fishing regulations in effect since 2013 on the upper Columbia River and with those approved last year for boundary waters shared by Washington and Oregon further downstream, said Bruce Bolding, WDFW warmwater fish manager.

“The immediate purpose of this emergency rule is to bring the fishing regulations into alignment on both sides of the big river,” Bolding said. “Oregon’s rule deregulating these fisheries has been in place since Jan. 1, but Washington’s new permanent regulations don’t take effect until July 1. This emergency measure bridges the gap so that both states have concurrent regulations.”

Tributaries affected – all or in part – by that action include Camas Slough, Chinook River, Deep River, Grays River, Skamokawa Creek, Elochoman River, Mill Creek (Cowlitz Co.), Abernathy Creek, Germany Creek, Coal Creek, Falls Creek (Cowlitz Co.), Kalama River, Cowlitz River, Lewis River, Salmon Creek (Clark Co.), Washougal River, Hamilton Creek, Rock Creek (Skamania Co.), Wind River, Drano Lake, White Salmon River, Klickitat River, and Rock Creek (Klickitat Co.).

## **Rod Guide and Tip Replacements**

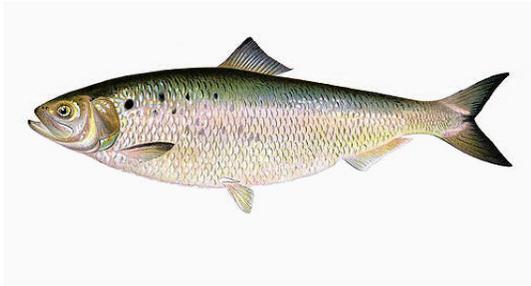
If you have broken rod guides or tips, contact Gary Harral. He has a good assortment of quality Fuji Alconite stainless (Black and Polished) guides and tips. This is just a new hobby so there is no charge for labor, only material. Expect at least 2 days to allow epoxy to dry, possibly more if more than one coat is required. If you need a tip replaced that is not wrapped, then the job takes about 5 minutes. This is a basic service, sorry no fancy wraps. He does not rebuild rods. If you want a specific guide or tip, it can be ordered, but you will be expected to pay shipping costs. Call or TXT Gary at 856-313-8320.

## American Shad

Ever wonder why the American Shad (Chrome/Blue) colored crank bait works on the Columbia for SM Bass? Last year over 3 Million Shad moved through the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam. A large number return to the ocean to return again. Their fry are a primary food source for our favorite Columbia River fish, the Smallmouth Bass. I wonder if the federal government, ODFW and WDFW would be targeting the American Shad if they could figure out a way to do it. Check out this link for additional information including how to fish for them. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shad/>

**DID YOU KNOW?** American shad was introduced in the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800's, and in 1990 the population of shad entering the Columbia River was over 4 million fish.

**DESCRIPTION:** A compressed silvery fish with a row of dark spots (3-23) along its side. It can be easily distinguished by its sharp saw-like scales or "scutes" along its belly. Average sized shad are 12-25 inches in length and 2.5 to 5 pounds. Maximum size in the Columbia River is about 24 inches and 8 pounds. (As of the date of this publication, no state sport-caught record has been established or even applied for in Washington.) Average size here is 17 to 19 inches and three to four pounds. Females run an inch or two longer than males, and are correspondingly heavier.



**LIFECYCLE:** The American shad is a highly migratory anadromous species that returns to its freshwater natal (birth) areas to spawn. Shad spawn in estuaries, streams, and rivers in the spring and early summer months. Spawning usually takes place over gently sloping areas with fine gravels or sandy bottoms. In small groups; males and females disperse eggs and sperm together and fertilization takes place in the water column. Males and females may return to spawn more than once, and female shad can produce 30,000 to 600,000 eggs. The fertilized eggs float downstream and hatch in 3 to 10 days. Juvenile shad tend to survive best in the slow waters of reservoirs. They migrate downstream towards the ocean during late summer and fall, with most migrating to the open ocean before winter. Some shad will reside in rivers and estuaries up to one year before entering the ocean. Shad normally spend 3-4 years at sea before returning to spawn.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY:** The construction of dams on the Columbia river basin has contributed to the decline of almost all species of anadromous fish except the shad. Since the completion of the lower Columbia river dams, shad populations have been on the rise. The slow moving waters of reservoirs apparently provide ideal conditions for juvenile shad. The shad is a plankton feeder who's diet varies depending upon the geographical region. Throughout its life a shad consume copepods, amphipods, shrimp, zooplankton, and other small fishes. In freshwater the shad itself falls prey to white sturgeon, juvenile salmonids, harbor seals, and other predators, while in the ocean phase of life a shad is preyed upon by sharks, tuna, sea lions, and others. The American shad is very temperature sensitive and any changes in the temperature of its habitat may result in negative impacts. Reservoirs often act as ideal rearing habitat for juveniles; however, fish ladders, and dam bypass systems are necessary to assist in migration past dams. Water irrigation projects may also negatively impact shad populations.

**ECONOMIC VALUE:** Sport fisheries for shad have been building for years in the Pacific Northwest. Shad are used as bait for other fisheries and it is considered a good fighting sportfish that is rich in flavor and is known for its excellent roe. Commercial fisheries have existed in the Columbia River since the 1930's. Due to poor market demand and incidental catches of protected salmon runs, significant commercial fisheries do not exist in the Pacific Northwest.

**Introduced in the North Pacific:** In recent years, shad counts at Bonneville and The [Dalles Dams](#) have ranged from over two million to over five million fish per year. Spawning shad return to the Columbia in May and June and migrate above Lower Granite Dam on the [Snake River](#) and above Priest Rapids Dam on the Upper Columbia. Unlike many introduced species, it has not been confirmed that American Shad have serious negative effects on the environment or other native fish species in the Columbia. Like salmon and steelhead, shad are anadromous. They enter freshwater rivers in the spring to spawn. Unlike Pacific salmon, they do not necessarily die after spawning. Many shad continue to spawn annually. Spawning takes place at water temperatures between 50 and 60 F, primarily at night, with the eggs being extruded in small numbers near the surface. The average female bears more than 50,000 eggs, sometimes as many as several hundred thousand. After fertilization, the eggs slowly sink as they drift downstream, finally becoming lodged in crevices or on aquatic vegetation. After the fry hatch in five to 10 days, they gradually work their way downstream, usually spending their first summer of life in the river. Males usually mature at three years of age, females at four.

## Fish Passage Data Report

Ever wonder when the different salmon come up river and where they are going or when the smolts go down river? The following table yields a lot of information that should tell you that there are a bunch of fish out in the river. This does not include all the American Shad moving up and down the river which is an even bigger biomass. Click on the following link to find the 742 page 2014 report. [http://www.fpc.org/documents/FPC\\_Annual\\_Reports.html](http://www.fpc.org/documents/FPC_Annual_Reports.html)

**Table 5.3. Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Populations: Upstream of Bonneville Dam**

Species	Freshwater Residence	Downstream Migration	Age at Return	Return to the Columbia	Major Tributary Spawning Areas <sup>1</sup>
Spring Chinook	1 + years	March-May	2-3 yrs. in ocean. Return as 4-5 yrs. Jacks 3 years.	Mar-June	Snake River: Clearwater, Grande Ronde, Salmon, Imnaha, Tucannon Upper Columbia: Chelan, Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow Middle Columbia: Wind, White Salmon, Klickitat, Yakima, Hood, Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla, Fifteen Mile Creek Lower Columbia: Willamette
Summer Chinook	1+years	April-May	Adults 2-3 years in the ocean; return as 4-5 year old.	June-July	Snake River Basin: Salmon River Basin Upper Columbia: Wenatchee, Methow, Okanagon, Entiat
Fall Chinook	< 1 year <sup>2</sup>	May-Oct	Adults 2-5 yrs.	Aug-Oct	Mainstem Snake River (below Hells Canyon above Lower Granite), Clearwater River, Upper Columbia mainstem, Columbia Hanford reach, Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla, Ives Island, Little White Salmon, Klickitat
Coho	1 year plus	April-May	3-4 yrs. Jacks 2 yrs.	Aug-Nov	Lower Columbia: Willamette, Clackkanie, Kalama, Lewis, Yamhill, Clackamas Middle Columbia: Herman Creek, Hood River, Umatilla River Upper Columbia: Yakima, Methow, Wenatchee Snake River: Potlatch, Clearwater, Selway
Sockeye	1, 2 or 3 yrs.	May	1, 2, or 3 yrs. in the ocean	June-July	Snake River: Pettit, Alturas, Redfish lakes Upper Columbia: Wenatchee, Okanagan
Winter Steelhead <sup>3</sup>	2 yrs. natural	May	4 yrs. (2 ocean)	Nov-Mar	Middle Columbia: Hood River, Little White
Summer Steelhead <sup>4</sup>	2 yrs. natural 1 yr. hatchery	April-May	4 yrs. (2 ocean)	Jan-Aug	Middle Columbia: Deschutes, White Salmon, Klickitat, John Day, Wind Upper Columbia: Yakima, Walla, Walla Snake River: Salmon River basin, Clearwater River basin
A-run					
B-run	2 yrs. natural 1 yr. hatchery	April-May	4 yrs. (2 ocean)	Aug-Dec	Snake River: Clearwater River, Salmon River basins
Pink Salmon	< 1 yr. Out-migrate in their first spring.	March-April	2 yrs.	Aug-Oct	Snake River, Upper Columbia River, Middle Columbia River
Chum Salmon	< 1 yr. Out-migrate in their first spring.	April-May	2 yrs.	Oct-Nov	Below Bonneville Ives Island, Pierce Island, Hamilton Creek

1. Major Spawning areas illustrated on Maps 5.1-5.7.

2. Some small, late summer migrating fall Chinook, primarily from the Clearwater River, overwinter and out-migrate the following winter as yearling fall Chinook in April.

3. Winter Steelhead timing at Bonneville Dam from USACE Annual Fish Passage Operations Plan.

4. A-Run and B-run Summer Steelhead passage dates from USACE Annual Fish Passage Report.