

It's Time To Do It Again!

Purpose Statement:

The second Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium will be held September 29-October 1, 2005, at Fort Worden State Park, near Port Townsend, Washington. Sponsors include the Oregon, North Pacific International, Alaska, and Humboldt American Fisheries Society chapters, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The first Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium, held in 1995 in Reedsport, Oregon, was attended by more than 200 anglers, general public, biologists, students, and managers, from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. The 1995 Symposium was a resounding success, with more than 30 technical papers, a panel discussion, and numerous posters sharing coastal cutthroat trout state-of-the-art knowledge and assessment of coastal cutthroat trout status. A peer-reviewed Symposium proceedings was published by the Oregon Chapter, American Fisheries Society (Hall et al. 1997). Unfortunately, the 1995 symposium did not fully accomplish one of its key objectives, to “encourage the development of a coordinated management plan to restore sea-run cutthroat trout populations”. The 2005 Symposium steering committee desires to place a stronger emphasis on this conservation objective in 2005, with an emphasis on planning and actions to conserve all life history strategies of coastal cutthroat trout throughout its range.

Since 1995, extensive coastal cutthroat trout research and management actions have been occurring. The objectives of the 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium are to update coastal cutthroat trout information presented during the 1995 Coastal Cutthroat Trout symposium; enhance knowledge on all facets of life history and ecology; provide current assessment of the status of populations coast-wide; and encourage development of a coordinated, range-wide conservation plan. Session topics include Biology; Status, Trends, and Management; and Conservation Planning.

The 1995 Symposium was held during an important Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing decision regarding the Umpqua River searun coastal cutthroat trout. The 2005 Symposium will also be held during a time of ESA activity associated with coastal cutthroat trout: a proposed rule to list as threatened the Southwestern Washington/Columbia River Distinct Population Segment of coastal cutthroat trout has recently been withdrawn by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Plaintiffs sued the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005 over the decision to withdraw the proposed rule. It is against the backdrop of these previous and current ESA activities that the Symposium planners hope to review the rangewide status and trends of coastal cutthroat trout; discuss current management efforts; describe uncertainties in our knowledge, and describe research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME) efforts necessary to address uncertainties; and discuss conservation activities and opportunities to establish rangewide conservation priorities and action plans.

Low-cost registration, lodging, and meals will be available to Symposium attendees, including **free student lodging**. The Symposium Arrangements Committee is planning a poster session/welcoming social/light buffet dinner on September 29, with an evening seminar by noted coastal cutthroat trout fishing guides and authors. On September 30, a full banquet with raffle will cap the Symposium's activities. The Symposium will conclude by lunch-time on October 1. Please bring your whole family and enjoy the Olympic Peninsula and beautiful Port Townsend.

For more information and to register for the Symposium, please visit the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium homepage at <http://www.orafs.org/cutthroat.html>. Or contact the Program Committee chair (Tim Cummings, Tim_Cummings@fws.gov), or Arrangements Committee chair (Doug Young, Doug_Young@fws.gov).