

# TIGHTLINES



## Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds Invited Guest Speaker Tom Pero

*Award-winning National Editor Tom Pero will speak at the Wednesday, February 9, 2011 meeting.* Pero will read from stories he has written on exotic fishing destinations from Russia to Cuba to Guatemala to the Amazon and discuss his many adventures and colorful characters he has met along the way. He will also read uncensored excerpts from his book, *Till Death or Fly Fishing Do Us Part*, a collection of humorous essays about what happens when one person's obsession for the sport collides with his or her romantic relationship. Last year Tom Pero was awarded the prestigious Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal for his longtime and significant contribution to the enhancement, protection and preservation of coldwater fisheries. The award was presented in West Yellowstone, Montana at Wild Trout Symposium X, an international gathering of fisheries scientists held every five years.

## The Story of Oregon's Drift Creek

**D**rift Creek, a major tributary to the Alsea River has long been considered one of coastal Oregon's top coho salmon producing waters. It enters the Alsea near the town of Waldport. Because of its proximity to the ocean it is affected significantly by tidal influence. The headwaters of Drift Creek arise on lands owned and managed predominantly by the Siuslaw National Forest. Its middle section was protected by Congress in the early 1980s as the Drift Creek Wilderness Area. The 5-mile lower portion of Drift Creek is its most productive salmon producing waters.



Photo Credit Greg Lief

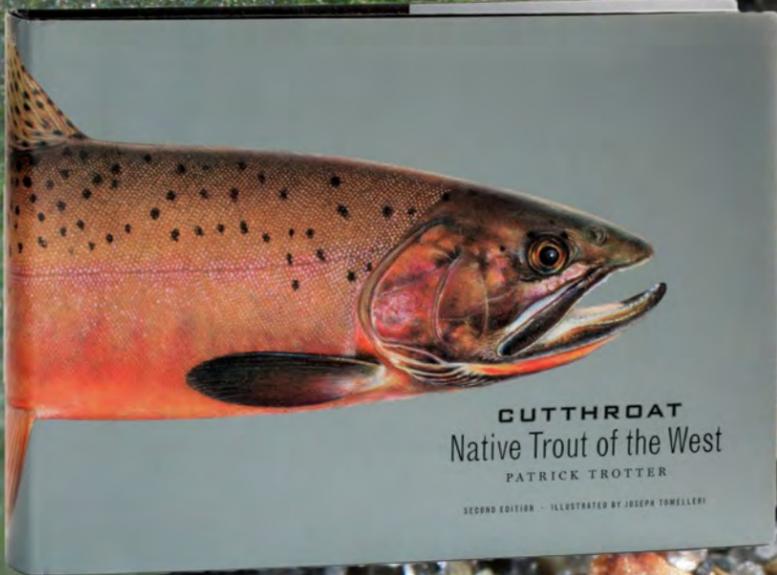
Drift Creek crosses gently sloping industrial forestland before joining the Alsea. The majority of the forestland along this lower segment had been intensively harvested over the past century and was subsequently converted into a young intensively managed forest plantation.

In the mid-1980s the industrial forestland along the lower portion of the watershed was owned by Times Mirror Company and Boise Cascade Corporation. In 1987, Times Mirror elected to sell its entire 120,000-acre ownership in Tillamook and Lincoln Counties, Oregon. It had stratified this ownership into three groupings: General Timberlands, Higher and Better Use Real Estate and a 1,400-acre Premier Fishing Property which was being

advertised in publications catering to the super rich. Times Mirror expected the property to be sold as an exclusive ranch similar to properties marketed to the likes of Ted Turner and other billionaires buying up ranch and forest land in Montana.

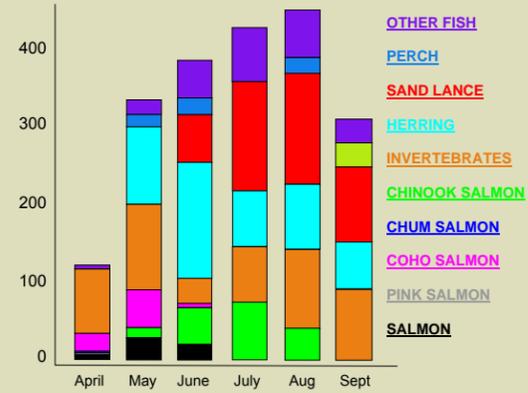
# Gearing Up for Coastal Cutthroat

- First: The most magnificent book on Cutthroat ever written
- Second: Report on diet of North Puget Sound Cutthroat
- Third: Images of local amphipods Cutthroat enjoy
- Forth: Images of local Cherry Point Herring...



**First: Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West**, by Patrick Trotter, Second Edition, 548 pages, sub-species illustrated plates, 2008. Cultural history, evolution/ prehistoric distribution, featuring *the* most authoritative review of biology, conservation, and management status of the 12 sub-species, by chapters: Coastal, Westslope, Lahontan, Humboldt, Willow / Whitehorse, Paiute, Yellowstone, Finespotted Snake River, Bonneville, Colorado, Greenback, Rio Grande, Extinct Subspecies. TIGHTLINES Editor's favorite book

**Second: Seasonal Patterns of Predation on Juvenile Pacific Salmon by Anadromous Cutthroat Trout in Puget Sound**, E.J.Duffy and D.A. Beauchamp, Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc., 137, 2008. Stomach content of beach seined CTT in SE Whidby Basin and South Sound. The chart below is TIGHTLINES' adaptation of Duffy (Fig.6): Estimated monthly individual CTT consumption (grams/month) of prey types:



**Forth: Local Cherry Point Herring**, from our friends at USGS Marrowstone, images from their captive research population. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN AND TIE ORIGINAL NEW HERRING PATTERNS!



## OLYMPIC FLY FISHERS OF EDMONDS FLY TYING BENCH



### HUGH JAMES Brackett's Landing Amphipod A New Pattern / Prototype For Puget Sound Pelagic Amphipods

- Hook:** Heavy Scud, TMC2457 or JStockard 500 Size 16
- Underbody:** Orange UNI-Thread 6/0: Wrapped from eye to farthest point in hook bend and back to eye; tag extended to complete tail; tie off and trim at head after body wrap is complete.
- Thread:** UNI Mono Med/Clear: Tie in at head and wrap to farthest point in hook bend.
- Tail:** Hareline Scud Back 1/8" clear: Split end of scud back extended length of straighter part of hook; cut split before tying in.
- Shell Back:** Hareline Scud Back 1/8" clear: Tie in with mono at farthest point in hook bend; place shell back rearward while attaching legs as described below; stretch over body and tie in at head with Mono after attaching legs.
- Legs:** Natures Spirit Finest Natural Dubbing-29. Ephron White (left image) Alpaca hair (right image) Attach wisps of material with spaced wraps of Mono from hook bend to within one hook; eye space behind eye.
- Eyes:** Spirit River Barbell Eyes - Black X-Small or Red: Paint with Sally Hanson Insta-Dri fast dry nail color - Rapid Red; tie in with Mono figure eight and wrap around; whip finish behind eyes with Mono.
- Head Shell:** Loon Outdoors UV Knot Sense: Place hackle stem in hook eye; apply small amount of Knot Sense; remove hackle stem; cure with hand held UV lamp.



**Editor's Note:** After fishing Picnic Point with Hugh in January I gave him this photo of Amphipods, with the suggestion it could serve as a first in a series of new patterns tied to match the diet of our local Coastal Cutthroat trout. Interested members contact Hugh or Tom.

### Why I Search for Sea Run Cutthroat Trout on Puget Sound Beaches, by Hugh James

Early in the rebirth of my interest in fly fishing I visited a local shop to purchase flies for a trip to a Washington river. In the course of waiting on me the owner asked, "Where do you live?" When I answered, "Richmond Beach", he suggested I fish there for Sea Run Cutthroat Trout. He recommended no special gear, no books, no lecture, no trips to faraway places; just a few "beach flies" to be cast as far as possible and retrieved rapidly.

What this veteran fisherman and shop owner did not say was that he was pulling my coattails to a pursuit that can make me a more complete fly fisherman. Here is how: I can fish almost every day, "trips" are just a short walk or drive from my house - Carkeek Park, Golden Gardens, Meadowdale, Picnic Point on a whim or day trips to Tacoma Narrows, Key Peninsula, or Marrowstone Island with little planning.

These frequent visits to familiar water have made me a better observer of the conditions that influence my fishing success, plus I can extend

the use of and familiarity with my equipment. The many thoughts and actions that accompany fishing success gradually become internalized. Gear assembly, knots, wading, casting, retrieving, setting the hook, and countless other tasks and actions become second nature. I can become a more confident and competent caster in optimum as well as difficult conditions.

I can fish the beach with the rod, reel, line, leaders, waders, and that I initially had on hand for fresh water trout fishing, however, as I acquire more skill, I am acquiring equipment more suited to beach fishing for SRCs: Stripping basket to hold the retrieved line ready for another cast; reel with sealed bearings to minimize the corrosive effect of saltwater; integrated shooting head lines - floating and intermediate - to aid in longer casts; fast action 11 foot 5 weight rod to enable long casts in any condition; release tool to allow quick and harm-free release of fish; fly tying tools and materials to minimize the cost of flies; boot foot waders ease access to protective clothing and avoid issues of wading boot corrosion.

And best of all, I can now look forward to the possibility of bringing to hand a wild, native salmonid any day I choose to go to the beach.

## The Story of Oregon's Drift Creek (cont'd)

Club member Mike Truax was at that time working for Simpson Timber Company of Seattle and was responsible for identifying candidate properties suitable for inclusion in very large tax-deferred timberland exchange. Mike came across the Times Mirror properties and presented it as an acquisition candidate to Simpson's officials. Simpson accepted it as a candidate and Mike was instructed to negotiate a purchase price. A price was found that was acceptable to both parties but it excluded the Drift Creek portion, which was to be marketed separately. Simpson's officials were made aware of the importance of land adjacent to lower Drift Creek as prime fish habitat and were encouraged to demand inclusion of that 1,400 acre potential ranch site as a condition of the purchase of the general timberlands. Times Mirror agreed with that condition and Simpson purchased the 120,000 acre ownership that included land along lower Drift Creek.

Simpson managed the forest plantation along Drift Creek for about 15 years before being approached by Western Rivers Conservancy about the sale for conservation purposes. The Conservancy indicated to Mike that these Drift Creek properties were some of the most valuable coho habitat in Oregon and that its goal was to acquire and then transfer them to the Forest Service to be managed as part of the Siuslaw National Forest. An agreement on price was reached. Mike used the value obtained to purchase replacement timberland in Washington. In 2002, this transaction was completed and funds administered by the Forest Service are being used to enhance the fish-producing capabilities of lower Drift Creek.



However, the Drift Creek story doesn't end there. Eventually, Boise Cascade, the other industrial forestland owner with forest plantations along lower Drift Creek and the north shore of the Alsea River sold its Oregon timberlands to Forest Capital Partners. Western Rivers Conservancy reports in its fall 2010 Riverlands newsletter that on November 1, 2010 the Conservancy completed purchase of the 287 acres that Forest Capital Partners owed along lower Drift Creek and the Alsea. The newsletter reports, "Combining these properties will expand a large coho recovery effort that is already underway along the lower five miles of Drift Creek. Land acquisition enabled the Siuslaw National Forest and partners to remove dikes and plugs, reconnect side channels and restore native vegetation."

In 2009 and 2010, Western Rivers Conservancy was the largest beneficiary of conservation donations provided by Olympic Fly

### FISHING REPORT February 2011

#### From Keith Stamm:

Sunday January Lone Lake - Started out with chironomids (bloodworm) and had a couple grabs with a lot of waiting in between. Missed both fish. I blame it on the sinking floating fly line. I've had a new one on order for a month now -- still on back order. Hmmm.

So I changed to a small leech fished slow and close to the bottom and got a nice 18-inch rainbow. I think there is an important cold water principle involved here which is: in winter cold water conditions the trout are not very active, so fishing and bloodworm, leech, or scud under an indicator tends to be more effective than trolling. If you must troll, then troll slowly, allowing your fly to settle to the bottom, moving it slowly off the bottom, repeat..... A high density sinking line works great for this when fishing depths of 15 feet or more. Need to tie some more small leeches and go back next week. I got wiggled!



#### Welcome New Member Tom Ryan of Snohomish, WA.

Tom retired in June 2011 from teaching middle school for 37 years. He has been a fly fisherman for about six years, including summers in Montana. He also enjoys camping with his 5th wheel rig and volunteers at the Seattle boat show. He chose OFF for its fly fishing classes and for the company and safety advantages of fly fishing with club members.



#### General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 p.m. The Business meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's, 4820 196th SW, Lynnwood, WA. at 6:00 p.m.

#### Officers:

Rolf Mogster, President, 206-546-2677  
Bruce Johnson, V.P., 425-742-2252  
Bill MacDonald, Treasurer, 425-774-4769  
Thomas Sawtell, Communications. & TIGHTLINES, 425-744-0401  
Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596  
Phil Sacks, Gillie, 425-741-7311  
Mike Bunney, Trustee, 425-672-3345

#### Chairs:

Mike Truax, Conservation, 425-672-6963  
Open Seat, Outings  
Open seat, Education  
Beverage Meister, Jeff Bandy

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### TIGHTLINES March 2011 Editorial Schedule

**Feature Article:** Available

**Armchair Angler Book Review:** Suggested - Trout & Their Food, Dave Whitlock

**OFF Fly Tying Bench:** Suggested - New Cherry Point Herring Patterns

Contact Editor Thomas Sawtell for research, photo rights, and photo services.