



ENVIRONMENT

# 'Devastating' salmon ban looms for much of Oregon

Experts fear that native California salmon, which make up a significant portion of the Northwest's fishing industry, are in a spiral toward extinction

Julie Watson and Lisa Baumann  
Associated Press

As drought dried up rivers that carry California's newly hatched Chinook salmon to the ocean, state officials in recent years resorted to loading up the fish by the millions onto trucks and barges to take them to the Pacific.

The surreal and desperate scramble boosted the survival rate of the hatchery-raised fish, but still it was not enough to reverse the declining stocks in the face of added challenges. River water temperatures rose with warm weather, and a Trump-era rollback of federal protections for waterways allowed more water to be diverted to farms. Climate change, meanwhile, threatens food sources for the young Chinook maturing in the Pacific.

Now, ocean salmon fishing season is set to be prohibited this year off California and much of Oregon for the second time in 15 years after adult fall-run Chinook, often known as king salmon, returned to California's rivers in near record-low numbers in 2022.

"There will be no wild-caught California salmon to eat unless someone has still got some vacuum sealed last year in their freezer," said John McManus of the Golden State Salmon Association.

Experts fear native California salmon, which make up a significant portion of the Pacific Northwest's fishing industry, are in a spiral toward extinction. Much of the salmon caught off Oregon originate in California's Klamath and Sacramento rivers. After hatching in freshwater, they spend three years on average maturing in the Pacific, where many are snagged by commercial fishermen, before migrat-



ing back to their spawning grounds, where conditions are more ideal to give birth. After laying eggs, they die.

Already California's spring-run Chinook are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, while winter-run Chinook are endangered along with the Central California Coast coho salmon, which has been off-limits to California commercial fishers since the 1990s.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council, the authority responsible for setting ocean salmon seasons off the Pacific coast, is expected in early April to formally approve its proposed closure of Chinook fishing along the coast from Cape Falcon

**A farm-raised salmon dish at Scoma's can be seen before being served to a customer in San Francisco. California and much of Oregon face a salmon fishing ban this year.**

**Top: Bob Maharry sits inside his fishing boat docked at Pier 45 in San Francisco. This would usually be a busy time of year for his crew as salmon fishing season approaches.**

Photos by Godofredo A. Vásquez, Associated Press

GRESHAM

## Accounts vary after police fire Tasers at homeless man

Ronny Amato's friends say he never assaulted a city outreach worker

Catalina Gaitán The Oregonian/OregonLive.com

For five years, a group of Gresham business owners has chipped in to take care of Ronald "Ronny" Amato, a friend and fixture of the neighborhood.

The 59-year-old is homeless and sometimes yells at the sky or talks to himself, but is polite and non-confrontational, said Don Nguyen, the owner of Cheap Charlie's Beer and Wine Superstore in historic downtown Gresham.

Nguyen hasn't seen Amato since March 9, when Gresham police officers repeatedly fired their Tasers at him inside Cheap Charlie's after a city homeless outreach worker accused Amato of assaulting him.

Police said they are now reviewing the use of force by officers and will "make a determination into (its) ...justification" after analyzing police body camera footage, reports and other information.

Police have referred several misdemeanor allegations against Amato to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. Prosecutors are reviewing the case, said office spokesperson Elizabeth Merah.

SEE GRESHAM, A6

OREGON DATA POINTS

## North Plains is area's fastest-growing city

Kristine de Leon The Oregonian/OregonLive

Many cities in the Portland area saw more modest growth in recent years as soaring home prices pushed residents away. But not North Plains.

From 2016 to 2021, this northwest Washington County community grew its population from 2,070 to 3,280 — a 58% increase, according to American Community Survey five-year estimates.

North Plains wasn't just the fastest-growing town in the Portland area over that time period; it was also the fastest-growing city of 3,000 or more in all of Oregon.

City officials expect North Plains' population to more than double over the next 20 years.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

As North Plains' population grew in recent years, it also grew more diverse. In 2021, nearly 35% of residents identified as either Black, Asian or Latino, compared to just 20% in 2011. About a third of North Plains identified as a person of color, according to 2021 American Community Survey five-year estimates, compared to about a quarter of residents across Oregon.

HOME VALUES

In 2021, the median house value in North Plains was \$419,800, which is slightly lower than the median value statewide, which stands at about \$422,700.

SEE OREGON DATA POINTS, A5

NATION

## Daunting storm recovery

Help began pouring into Mississippi after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction. **A7**

SPORTS

## Thorns make a winning start

The reigning NWSL champions are back, and they dominated the Orlando Pride 4-0 at home Sunday. **B1**

