

Navigability Study Request Group
Oregon Dept. of State Lands
775 summer St. NE Suite 100
Salem OR 97301

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The Nestucca Anglers is a group with 300 members that was established in 1999. As a group we raise 100,000 brood stock Fall Chinook on Three Rivers through ODFW's S.T.E.P. program, finance and help raise an additional 40,000 Summer Steelhead at Cedar Creek Hatchery and support the hatchery with an average annual volunteer labor force of 2500 hrs. The Nestucca Anglers mission is to enhance fishing opportunities in the Nestucca basin for the public.

The Nestucca Anglers would like to give you information and history concerning the Three Rivers Navigability Study.

Three Rivers has been protected by ODFW to ensure the adult brood stock needed for the hatchery. As a result very limited days in angling opportunities, Spring Chinook season was opened for three days, Fall Chinook was opened 2 months and Winter Steelhead opened for 4 months.

In 2004 the Nestucca Anglers worked very closely with ODFW to extend these seasons on Three Rivers for more angling opportunity to the 1.5 miles of public access.

These season extensions were approved by the commissioners. Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead opens for 6 weeks. Fall Chinook for 3 months and Winter Steelhead for 9 months. At the same time the Nestucca Anglers submitted a rule to the commissioners for Three Rivers; "No fishing from a floated device". This rule was endorsed by the Northwest Steel headers and approved by the commissioners. The rule assured ODFW some protection on the hatchery brood stock and less conflict with boaters and bank anglers.

The private land owners do work very closely with ODFW on Three Rivers and is an area the fish can rest and be protected. If the public is allowed into these areas for angling it would be devastating to the brood stock populations and ODFW will cut back on the seasons that the public has worked so hard for. Therefore, the Nestucca Anglers is against the navigability study for the following reasons:

1. This small river is not a safe navigable river for boaters.
2. Three Rivers is a bank angling river with 1.5 miles public access of the 2 mile Stretch between the hatchery and the mouth
3. If this river is classified as navigable the fishing season will be cut down to a Minimum which will effect all the Oregonians that are enjoying the fishing Opportunities that we have now.
4. We feel that this river does not warrant a study because the river is so small. The individual that has requested this study is using the navigability rule for his own personal gain and not for what the rule is intended for. Once again Our tax dollars being wasted.

Sincerely,
Ron Byrd
President, Nestucca Anglers
503-484-5174