

NEWS RELEASE

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Scientists Join Forces with Industry Association to Protect Fishery Resources

Oregon City, OR – Retired scientists, Dr. Douglas DeHart and Dan Diggs have been appointed to the Science and Policy Board for the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA), bringing the number of science professionals to six. The newly expanded advisory board lends accumulative career experience of over 230 years in natural resource and fishery management expertise to NSIA. The Science and Policy Board advises the Board, staff and Government Affairs directors on the scientific and regulatory management implications prior to the development of industry policy positions. NSIA science advisors are unpaid volunteers.

Dan Diggs joins NSIA after a 35-year career at US Fish and Wildlife Service, retiring as the Fisheries Program Assistant Regional Director responsible for all aspects of Fisheries Program in Pacific Region. Of great value to NSIA is his most recent focus on hatchery reform efforts throughout the northwest, Columbia River Basin endangered species adjudication issues, development of National Fish Habitat initiatives in the northwest, U.S. vs. Oregon policy issues, and as the FWS representative to the Columbia Basin Federal Caucus. Mr. Digg's latest honor was the February 2010 Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society's Award of Merit for career long advancement of the principles of science in managing fisheries programs. Dan is married, an avid angler and conservationist, with two sons and three grandchildren.

Dr. Douglas DeHart is a familiar face in Oregon natural resource management with 35 years of state and federal fishery agency experience, much of that in the Columbia Basin. Dr. DeHart received his B.S. in Biology from Harvard University, M.S. in Fisheries from Oregon State University, and Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Washington. His expertise spans fishery research, hatchery operations and reforms, and habitat restoration programs. Career positions have included fishery research coordinator for the Corps of Engineers Portland, Bioengineering Chief for National Marine Fisheries Service, Chief of Fisheries for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and senior fishery biologist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He has special expertise in the design, operation, and evaluation of fish passage and screening facilities and was recently appointed by the Director to the Fish Screening Task Force for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Doug is an avid boater, has two grown sons, and maintains a small consulting firm in Oregon City.

Chair and coordinator of NSIA's Science and Policy Board, Rod Sando welcomed the two new partners. "It is a pleasure to apply our collective experience and knowledge to an organization at the forefront of fishery management issues in the northwest. We welcome these extremely competent people to the science board. This greatly strengthens the qualifications on the NSIA bench, enabling us to be even more effective in the future." said Sando.

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About NSIA-The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association was founded in 1993 by sport fishing industry business leaders who understood the need for a strong voice in local, state, regional and federal governments. NSIA represents the business interests of the many members that depend on healthy fishery resources for their livelihoods. For more information, including the entire list of scientists, visit www.nsiafishing.org.