

## Buoy 10 Salmon Challenge drawing near

### New format adds individual element to annual contest

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**Mike Perusse of Shimano/G. Loomis, checks out a fish that he caught during the 2010 Buoy 10 Salmon Challenge. The event that is a fundraiser for the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association marks its 12th anniversary in 2011. / Dave Eng / Special to the Statesman Journal**

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### Buoy 10 derby

What: The 12th annual Buoy 10 Salmon Challenge, a fundraiser for the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.

When: Sign-in and cocktail party is 6-8 p.m. Aug. 25; fishing, weigh-in and awards banquet are all day Aug. 26.

Where: Warrior Hall, Camp Rilea, 91372 Rilea Pacific Road, Warrenton.

Cost: \$100 per angler, includes cocktail party, T-shirt, prizes and awards and banquet. Guest cocktail party and/or dinner tickets are \$15 for each. T-shirts, if available, are \$10.

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Online registration: [nsiafishing.org](http://nsiafishing.org)

With about a month to go before the event, the 12th annual Buoy 10 Salmon Challenge is on pace to have a record field.

"We've got more entries now than we ever had before," said Liz Hamilton, the executive director of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, the sponsoring group for the Aug. 25-26 derby.

There are a couple of reasons for the surge in signups, Hamilton said.

"I think the fact that there's a million fish coming back might have something to do with it," she said about the run forecast for coho and fall Chinook expected to head up the river. "Foremost is the number of fish coming back."

Action is centered around Warrior Hall at Camp Rilea, an armed forces training base off Highway 101 between Astoria and Seaside.

Sign-in and welcoming cocktail party are 6-8 p.m. Aug. 25 with fishing all day Aug. 26 and weigh-in between 1 and 4 p.m.

Anglers and teams are allowed to launch from Hammond, Warrenton, the East or West Mooring basins, Chinook or Ilwaco with the weigh-in at Rilea.

Another reason for the surge in entries is the switch in formats from a team emphasis to a big-fish shootout with \$1,000 for the angler with the largest fish, \$500 for the second-largest fish and the first- through sixth-place heaviest individual catches also earning prizes.

"That's generating excitement ... it's changed to more of an individual derby than a team derby," Hamilton said.

There still is a team category. The three boats with the heftiest catches also will win prizes.

"So that allows one person to be in the derby, or up to six people in a boat together," Hamilton said. "So it's not such a rigid format, it's a more open and what people are saying is a more fair format.

"So people are really liking the change."

One other factor is that the sports angling community seems to be coalescing into a united group.

"I think the third thing, and this is hard to measure, but I think we're coming out of a legislative session where the sportfishing community was more united than they've ever been," Hamilton said. "I have two decades of work with the sportfishing and conservation communities. "And I think that the increased visibility that the community feels of being more together than ever is generating interest in this event as well."

Money raised from the event goes to the nonprofit association for its advocacy and education efforts on behalf of the sportfishing industry.