

OARS

OREGON ANGLERS RESEARCH SOCIETY

**Funding
Fishery
Research
and
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When reading the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2012 Winter Quarterly report, I was staggered by the facts reported there. The Cormorant population on East Sand Island in the Columbia estuary ate an estimated 22.6 million salmon and steelhead smolt. That is both wild and hatchery fish.

A good return on outgoing smolts is 3-5%, while a poor return may bring only 1% back. In terms of returning adults that can range from about a quarter of a million to over a million fish lost- just in the estuary.

But cormorants don't go down to Astoria and wait for dinner. They start in the tributaries and follow the feast all the way down. It is reported that thousands of breeding pairs take a heavy toll at the confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Plus our coastal bays are overrun by an exploding population.

The predation by these birds is taking a real toll on the Oregon economy, from Gold Beach to Astoria, and on sport and commercial fishing and all those thousands that depend on the salmon in Oregon. This bill can help us turn around the losses.


Dennis Richey, OARS