

CATCH

HERMAN MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT CATCH AND release. Herman was caught, and never released. Free Herman!

Sturgeon Paper aims to analyze the gesture of catch and release. What is catch and release? Catch and release as a conservation model puts emphasis on lived experience. By allowing fishing to happen, but not the harvest of fish, catch and release epitomizes a late capitalist treatment of the country's fisheries. Value is placed not on the material benefits of fish, but rather on the entertainment value of the act of sport fishing.

And who is catching and releasing? Sport fisherfolk would claim that catch and release practices ease the pressure put on fisheries by over-fishing. This has allowed for a more consistent and reliable management of fish populations. Moreover, the dues collected from fishing licenses fund the ODFW's hatchery programs, which help to offset commercial fishing. The ODFW has education programs that further distribute knowledge about our streams and forests and the animals that live there, all in the name of 'use and enjoyment.' Herman is imprisoned at the Bonneville hatchery for this same purpose: as an educational emissary ODFW moved Herman to a temporary viewing tank at the Oregon State Fair for years in the 80's and 90's. This act of public display functioned as an implicit parole hearing for Herman, with the citizens of Oregon endorsing the continued captivity of the ancient fish for another year. The practice has been abandoned given the extreme logistics involved in moving a fish of that size, but Herman's public captivity continues.

The ODFW mission states that: "Our mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." That is great, but we need to have more expansive relationship with our environment. A subject-object binary relationship to nature makes us agents

What weird ideas are on the internet?

If there were a "catch and release" theory of economics, what would the model look like?

Austin Middleton
(used without permission)

Strictly read, the catch and release rule seems to translate into one where you must render all wealth produced through production, transportation or exchange - except the value you yourself gain by enjoying your task - either to the other party in the exchange or to some third party. In other words,

you're prohibiting economic agents from benefiting from any task they care to engage in: want to weave baskets? You can't demand payment from others for them, the enjoyment must be enough; want to design houses? You can't accept payment from your artistic and engineering endeavor - drafting the blueprints must be their own reward; want to save a little for the future? Sorry - you must release the benefits of exchanging with a banker cash now for the promise of cash in the future.

over it, and in control of it. Yet aren't we also at the mercy of our environment? We are learning this everyday to a greater and greater extent as our global climate shifts. We would like to expand our idea of what nature is: scene, context, human habitat, social engineer, aesthetic innovator, non-existent, mythical imaginary, lived reality, unavoidable truth, essentialist notion, and home. Here is to all of the notions of nature outside the dominant one (that of exploitation). We acknowledge this dominant notion as a product of white colonialism. It is important to mention that Sturgeon Paper recognizes the first inhabitants of the land we investigate through this publication, particularly the Umatilla, Yakima, and Warm Springs tribes that inhabit the areas around Bonneville Dam.

Back to the gesture of catch and release. What is at stake in this equation? Is the violent experience of being 'caught,' potentially over and over again, worth a moments excitement? What do fish feel? Why are there no catch and release models for big game or water fowl? Too fucked up? It's easy to think less of fish (every pescatarian is making that judgment call), and I wonder why it is so easy for us to write off the pain and suffering of animals that live in the water. The hunter is seeking the pleasure of capture, the excitement of hooking and reeling in a large fish, the challenge that it brings. I've known this excitement as a longtime fisherman, but I begin to question it when I learn that fish feel pain, and countries in Europe have banned catch and release practices for being inhumane. The argument in those cases is that if you are going to put a fish through the suffering of being reeled in, you better be eating it as well.

Herman was caught in the Columbia River years ago, and has been given the burden of educating the masses about the ODFW's hatchery-industrial project. This organization forms one half of the cycle that is our 'management' of the environment, with exploitation forming the other half. When will we free Herman and educate ourselves?

RELEASE

In United States Immigration Policy, we are presented with another definition of catch and release (taken from Wikipedia):

Catch and release is the unofficial name for a protocol historically followed by immigration enforcement agencies in the United States (specifically, by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection) where people caught for being in unlawful immigration status are released while they wait for a hearing with an immigration judge. The policy officially ended in 2006 under President George W. Bush and United States Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, where it was replaced by a catch and return or catch and detain policy. However, some critics of immigration enforcement in subsequent years, particularly under the presidency of Barack Obama, have dubbed various policies and practices under the administration as catch-and-release policies.



FREE HERMAN

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ERIE HERRMAN

A shout out to another legend of the captive fish industry. Granddad spent almost his entire life in peaceful captivity in Chicago. He died recently, put down through humane euthanization.

The news coverage of his death suggests he might live on forever, or at least until the news cycle breaks the death of the next oldest living fish in captivity.

Rest in peace.

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Today we're saddened to share that the Shedd family has bid farewell to one of our best-loved members. Australian lungfish Granddad, who made Shedd his home since 1933, was humanely euthanized Sunday due to a rapid decline in quality of life associated with old age. In his long life at Shedd, Granddad offered fond memories and a shared connection with the living world to generations of visitors. We ask you to keep the Shedd family in your thoughts during this difficult time, especially the caregivers most deeply affected by his passing.



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