

WILDLIFE

By Jim Perry
Emerald Sports Writer

Lines

February is a month of varied activities in the field and on the stream, but probably the most significant in the Northwest is winter steelhead fishing. The purpose of this column is to elaborate on the sport and to offer suggestions for making it a little harder on the fish.

Winter steelhead are probably the most aggravating of any species of the trout or salmon family. To catch them with any success, the water must be the right color and the right temperature. To make it worse, the angler must be at the right place at the right time and with the right lure. To elaborate, the water should be fairly clear, as muddy water, obviously, hampers the steelhead's vision and smell.

Scientists are still not certain that steelhead are able to locate food solely with their eyes, but they are reasonably sure they can smell them. They also say that fish are able to smell or "sense" the presence of food with their "lateral" line. This line is a sensitive organ that extends horizontally along the steelhead's body from gill to tail. Whatever the case may be, too much foreign matter in the water limits the fish's food finding powers to chance.

Water Warmth, Color Important

As to temperature, it is a known fact that extremely cold water will make steelhead sluggish. Likewise, excessively warm water will do the same. Therefore, it is imperative that an ideal combination of water temperature and color be present for good winter steelhead angling. This "ideal combination" can usually be found during a sudden cold snap following a period of extensive precipitation.

Since winter steelhead travel in schools, being at the right place at the right time is necessary. This is fairly easy to do if there is a consistent run up the rivers, but if it is, as it usually is, spotty, the angler must rely solely upon luck and a good tip. Sometimes it is possible to out-guess the fish by studying past and present weather conditions. If there has been a lot of rain, the rivers are probably high, and full of fish moving in from the ocean. When the next cold snap appears, the run will be slowed down and they will probably congregate in certain areas. If you're good enough at navigation principles, you may be able to track down some good fishing for yourself.

As to lures, it is a shadowy fact that steelhead migrating upstream to spawn are not looking for food. Their stomachs are shrunken and they eat very little during their entire trip. Therefore the angler must present them with something special if they are to have any success at all. The old standby bait is cluster eggs. Commercial, oil-pack salmon eggs work well, but home-cured roe, particularly steelhead, works better. It might be well to mention that roe may be cured by cutting it into "bite-sized" chunks and canning them in layers with an even amount of salt and sugar in between. Cover the can or jar and file it at the back of the refrigerator for future reference.

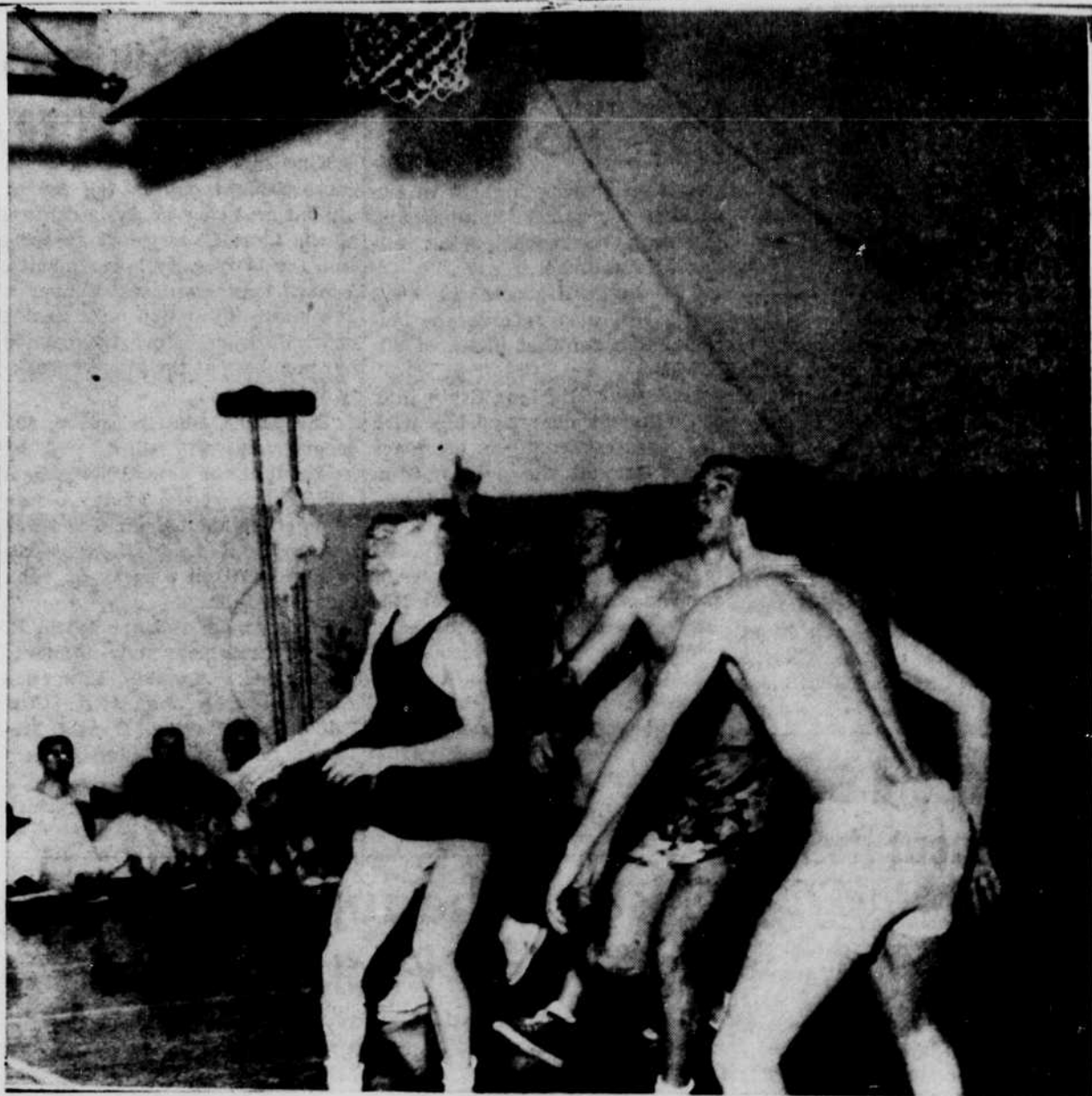
Another good bait is frozen shrimp or mullet. If water conditions are right, any of a number of spinners, wobblers, or what-have-you will work successfully.

For tackle, I prefer a heavy (6-oz.) glass fly rod with a combination spin-fly reel and an 8-lb. test monofilament line. This subject is purely arbitrary as most anglers have their own particular combinations. However, for the beginner, I would recommend a fairly heavy outfit, for the fish you will be catching may range up to and beyond 20 lbs. You will probably need lead and quite a bit of it. Personally, I like pencil or stick sinkers because of their anti-snag qualities. Since most winter steelhead anglers use bait, I will offer a suggestion for hooking up a typical bait outfit.

Bait Hook-up Described

First, attach a swivel to the end of your line. To the free end of the swivel attach a piece of leader material of a poundage less than that of your line. (This is important if you are interested in conserving your line in case of a snag-up.) The length of the leader is not too important, but a piece about three feet long seems to be about right for most cases. Next, fasten a regular bait hook to the leader. Hook size is also debatable, but I prefer a double hook, size 2 or 4. Next, tie your lead to the upper end of your leader, so that it hangs about three inches from it. This will allow your bait to drift more naturally. Finally, thread your bait onto the hook and tie it with a piece of thread. This will preserve the bait and make it possible for you to cast longer distances more often.

Now that we're on the right river at the right time and at the right place, look for eddies in the current along the side of rocks and next to "white water." Cast just a hair upstream and let your bait drift naturally with the current. Make certain that you can feel bottom at all times. If your line drags, take off some lead; if it doesn't touch, add more. You'll soon hit the right combination. When the fish strikes, you will feel a slight tap, followed by an unnatural drag in the line. Let him get his mouth around it and then strike. Wham! He's hooked solidly, you take it from here.



Bob Snyder, fourth from left, is shown waiting for a rebound from his shot in this action in Monday's Intramural finals. Phi Delta Theta won by downing Snyder's Morton team, 41-21. Others pictured are Tom Neel, Morton, Cal Callaway, Phi Delt, John Peterson, Morton, and Craig McCarty, Morton.

Both Hoop Crowns Won by Phi Delts

Phi Delta Theta made the final day of winter term intramurals an overwhelming success by capturing both the A and B league basketball championships. They won the A championships by downing the Morton hall team, by the score of 41-21. The B entry from Phi Delt downed a rugged football team lineup from Sigma Nu, 38-28.

The A game was Phi Delt all the way as they quickly built up a 10-2 lead by making five of their first six shots to demoralize the young Mortonmen, who are all freshman. They piled up a commanding lead by half time, and then coasted to the victory.

The winners scoring was fairly evenly divided among all members of the team, with reserve guard Cal Callaway getting high point honors with 12 points. He was followed by Richie Costi and Dick Schlossstein

with 8 apiece and Harry Johnson added 6 points. Craig McCarty paced Morton with 5 points.

Morton (21) (41) Phi Delt Snyder (4) ... F. (8) Schloss'n McCarty (5) ... F. (4) Lininger Neel (4) ... C. (6) Johnson Reid (2) ... G. (8) Costi Tourville (2) ... G. (3) Ryan Subs: Morton—Gould 2; Anderson; Peterson 2; Berg. Phi Delt—Callaway 12, Hastings.

The B entry also had a quite easy game as they piled up a quick lead, and were never headed after that. Bill Searce and Larry Hibbard were high for the Phi Delts with 10 apiece, while Hank Loumena led the Sigma Nu scoring with nine points.

Sigma Nu (28) (38) Phi Delt Loumena (9) ... F. (2) Pifer Markullis (5) ... F. (7) Earl Nelson (7) ... C. (10) Searce Jones (7) ... G. (7) Laing Pavlat ... G. (10) Hibbard Subs: Sigma Nu—none. Phi Delt—White 2.

College Basketball

Purdue 72, Michigan 63.
Iowa 86, Northwestern 63.
Toledo 77, Ohio U. 67.
Indiana St. 84, West. Mich. 79.
Boston College 90, St. Anselm's 82.
LaSalle 90, W. Chester (Pa.) St. Tch. 78.
Holy Cross 103, Connecticut 81.
Michigan St. 89, Wisconsin 82.
Florida 66, Georgia Tech 48.
Illinois 97, Minnesota 81.
Presbyterian College 117, Furman 115.
Auburn 74, Vanderbilt 65.
Oklahoma City 76, Houston 67.
Tulsa 59, Bradley 56.
Roanoke 79, Virginia Mil. 76.
Iowa St. 79, Colorado 62.
Colorado Mines 72, Colorado College 66.
Tulane 83, Mississippi St. 78.
Kentucky 143, Georgia 66.
Mississippi 81, Louisiana State 70.
Alabama 95, Tennessee 81.

I'm out of the
DOG HOUSE!

I took my friends
to the
Rush Inn
for dinner!

854 East 13th—On the Campus