

Oregon Fishing News

Oregon ocean salmon fishing looking up for 2018 with opportunities coastwide

Ocean salmon anglers can look forward to more opportunity this year based on recommendations made recently for federal waters (outside three miles) during a Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting in Portland.

Sport salmon fishing in the ocean off the Columbia River will open June 23 and is expected to run through Labor Day, September 3, unless salmon quotas are reached earlier.

The area from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mt. opened for Chinook on March 15 and will remain open until October 31. The forecast for Coho is down this year for both the Oregon coast and Columbia River, largely due to poor ocean conditions. Sport fishing for hatchery Coho will be open from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mt. from June 30 - September 3 or until the quota of 35,000 fish is met. A small season for wild and hatchery Coho in this area is also scheduled for September 7-8, and each Friday and Saturday after until September 29 or the quota of 3,500 Coho is met, which may happen quickly.

Unlike the full closure to salmon fishing last year, the area south of Humbug Mt. to the OR/CA border will be open to sport fishing for Chinook from May 19 - August 29. The strong forecast for Rogue River fall Chinook is a bright spot for the coast this year.

Commercial troll fishing for Chinook will be open intermittently along the whole Oregon coast from May through the summer. In 2017, all com-

mercial salmon trolling was closed south of Florence.

"While this won't be a banner year for ocean salmon fishing, overall it's an improvement from 2017. This is particularly true for communities on the Southern Oregon coast, which were hit hard by 2017's salmon closures," said Chris Kern, ODFW Deputy Fish Division Administrator.

"I want to thank the many advisors, tribal members, agency staff, and members of the general public, who all worked hard to ensure that conservation goals for salmon stocks are met while providing fishing opportunities for communities up and down the West Coast," added Kern.

The PFMC recommendations will be forwarded to NOAA Fisheries for approval and implementation. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will be asked to adopt matching rules for State waters (inside 3 mi.) at their April 20 meeting in Astoria.

ODFW to host family fishing event at Hebo Lake

The ODFW invites new anglers to take part in its Family Fishing Event Saturday, April 21 at Hebo Lake from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event is free, and ODFW staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist youngsters who want to learn how to fish.

The lake will be stocked with over 2,000 rainbow trout just prior to the event.

ODFW will provide equipment including rods, reels, and bait for use during the event if needed. Angling Education Instructors and volunteers will be present to answer questions and offer assistance to less experienced anglers.

"This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to discover fishing, or get reacquainted if they have been away from the sport for a while," said Ron Rehn, STEP biologist for ODFW's North Coast Watershed.

Under Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, anglers ages 11 and under can fish for free while those 12-17 will need to have a juvenile angling license. All fishing regulations continue to apply during this event.

Hebo Lake is a 2-acre lake located 3 1/2 miles east of the Hebo Ranger Station on the Hebo Mountain Road. From Hebo, take Hwy. 22 1/4 mile east, then turn left onto Forest Road 14. The U.S. Forest Service, which manages the lake and campground, will waive the \$5 day use fee during this event. Overnight camping fees will continue to apply.

States OK Columbia River Chinook, sturgeon seasons

Fishery managers from Oregon and Washington have approved several recreational white sturgeon fisheries, including a 10-day season from the Wauna power lines to Buoy 10 at the river mouth.

The approved lower Columbia River recreational white sturgeon season will take place Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from May 14 through June 4 from the Wauna power lines downstream to the river mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay and all adjacent Washington tributaries. On days open to white sturgeon retention, angling for sturgeon is prohibited after 2:00 pm. The legal size slot for retained fish is 44-50 inches fork length. The bag limit is one

legal-sized fish per day and the annual sturgeon limit is two per year. The retention of green sturgeon is prohibited.

Due to the decline of legal-size fish and other indicators during 2008-2012, retention fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam were closed during 2014-2016. However, based on the increasing trend for legal-size white sturgeon in the lower Columbia River during that time frame, both state fish and wildlife commissions approved limited sturgeon seasons in 2017, and again in 2018.

"This season represents a very conservative and cautious approach to restoring this fishery," said Tucker Jones, manager of ODFW's Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program.

ODFW fishery managers said they were not prepared to recommend a white sturgeon fishery for the main stem Columbia River from Wauna power lines upstream to Bonneville Dam and the lower Willamette River at this time, but will consider limited seasons later in the year.

The states also approved recreational white sturgeon fisheries in Bonneville and The Dalles pools for Friday, June 15. The legal size slot in Bonneville Pool is 38-54 inches fork length and 43-54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool. The daily bag limit is one fish and the annual limit is two white sturgeon per angler. Angling is prohibited in designated sturgeon sanctuaries in both pools from May through July.

For more information, including regulation updates, visit ODFW's online fishing reports at www.myodfw.com.

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the 2018-2019 Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Budget Committee will be held Tuesday evening, May 15, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Station located at 12525 Highway 202. This is a meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may attend this meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

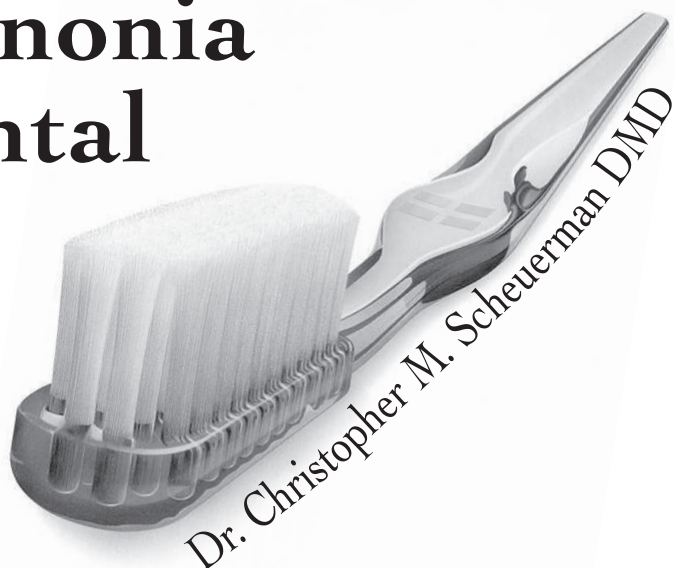
BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT THIS MEETING WILL BE:

- Election of Officers- Presentation of Budget Message
- Presentation of Budget Document
- Discussion of the Budget Document
- Public Testimony
- Scheduling of possible future meetings

The proposed budget document will be available for inspection on April 24, 2018 at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Station at 12525 Hwy 202, Mist, Oregon, during the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

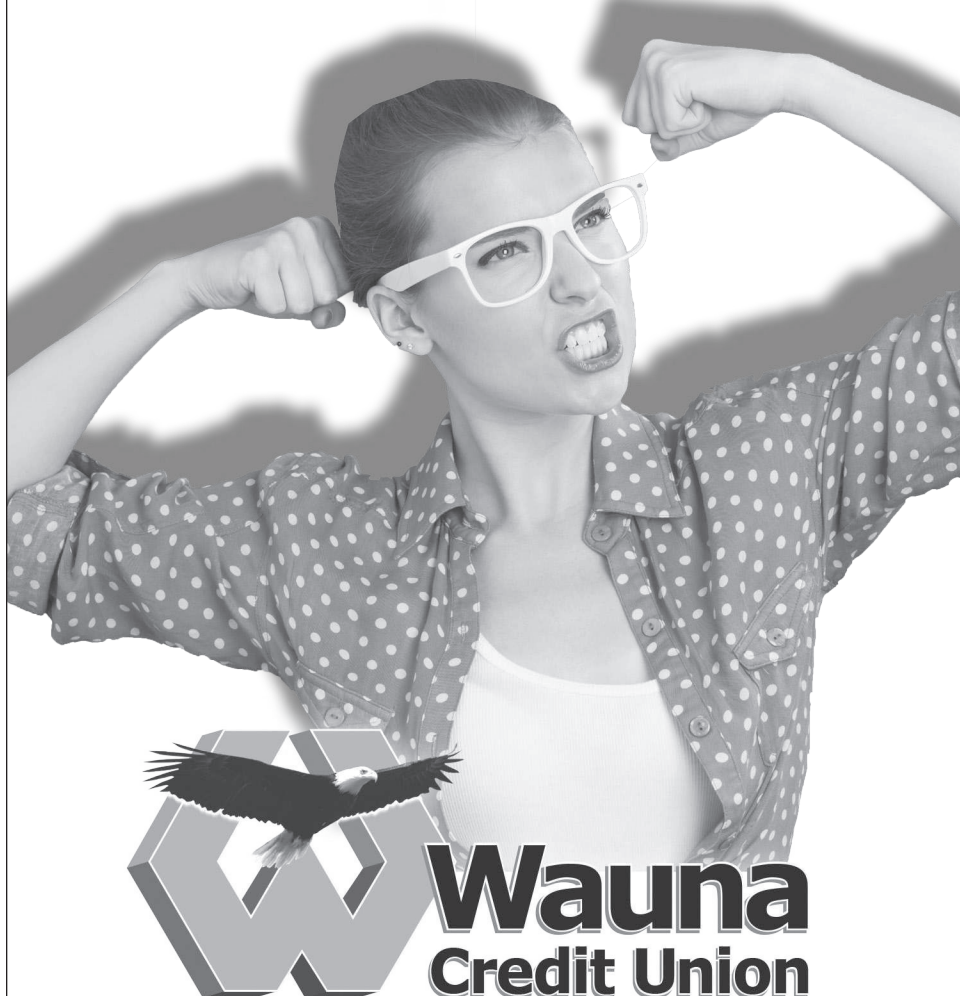
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