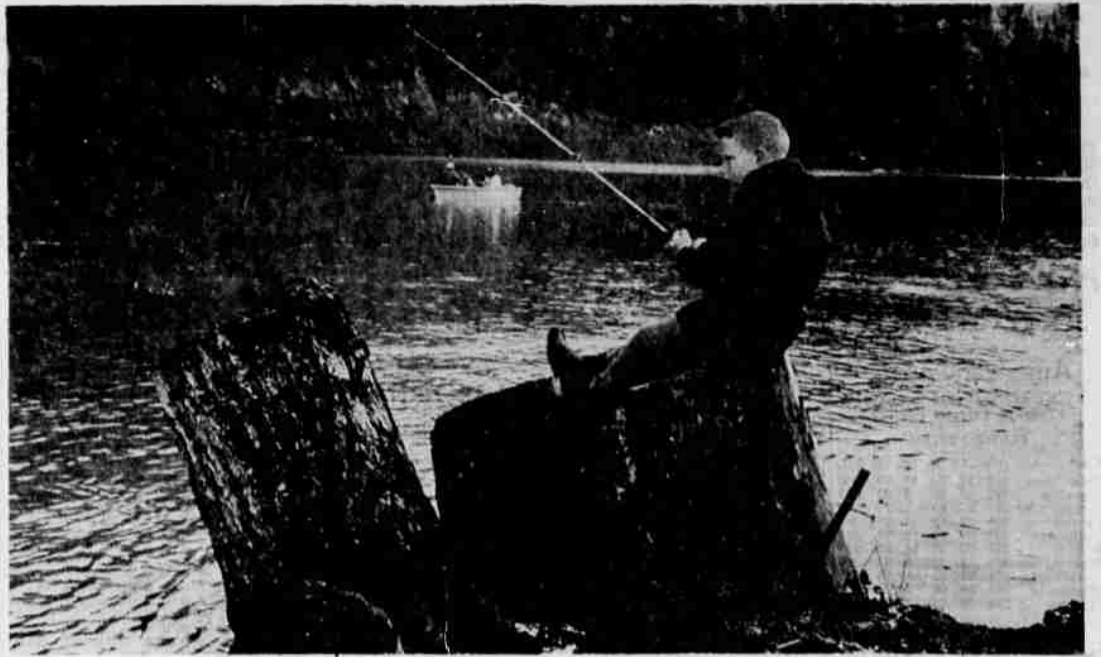




Snow on South Fork of McKenzie Didn't Discourage Him



Jim Zellick Waits Patiently at Upper End of Hills Creek Reservoir

## Weather Bad, Angling Good

Despite winter's lingering grip on the upper portions of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers and their tributaries, a heavy turnout of anglers found plenty of hungry fish Saturday on the opening day of trout season.

Fat rainbows released early this week by the State Game Commission accounted for most of the good action on the McKenzie and its feeder streams. Two of the river's larger tributaries, Blue River and the South Fork, yielded numerous limit catches to fishermen who found the pockets where hatchery trout were gathered.

"It's amazing how many fishermen are out despite the terrible weather," remarked state police officer Bob Steele, who has seen many seasons come and go on the McKenzie. "I don't think the turnout would've been much bigger on a sunny day. And they seem to be catching fish nearly everywhere."

Though most stream were fairly clear but somewhat higher and much colder than desirable and most fishermen relied on salmon eggs and worms to get their trout, bugs were hatching. Several hatches of blue uprights and March browns were reported along the McKenzie and on Blue River.

On the lower McKenzie, Bob Paddock, Al Rodakowski and Len Housworth used wet flies for a limit of rainbows up to 13 inches on a boat run from Oak Point to Hayden bridge. They also snapped several leaders on larger fish in this stretch, which will not be stocked with hatchery fish until later in the season.

On the middle fork of the Willamette, bank anglers at the upper end of Hills Creek reservoir piled up good catches with many of the rainbows ranging from 12 to 18 inches. Fishermen there fared better than those who trolled spinners and worms. Action also was slower in the river above the reservoir.



Blue River Yielded Several Limit Catches



Officer Bob Steele Checks Successful Anglers on Bridge Across McKenzie Above Blue River



Paula Tinney, left, and Bob Stout Were Happy at Hill Creek Reservoir

(Register-Guard photos by Phil Wolcott and Pat Cornachia)

White-wall tires are optional.



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