

## Fishing from 1B

is slow to fair. River conditions are low and clear. Anglers should focus on the deeper holding water. The river is open to harvest of wild winter steelhead through March 31.

Anglers are advised to read the new regulations as there are harvest restrictions and new deadlines in effect.

The deadline for steelhead fishing is at the confluence with Prairie Creek which enters the Salmon River west of the Van Duzer rest area at the same point as where Sulpher Creek enters the Salmon River.

**SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead**  
Steelhead fishing is slow. River conditions are low and clear. Bank fishing in the upper gorge area or floating the lower reaches will produce the best results until the next good rain event. Typical steelhead tactics apply such as side drifting, bobber and jig/bait, or casting spoons or spinners.

**WILSON RIVER: Steelhead**  
Winter steelhead fishing should be slow as the river is low and very clear. Adjust your gear to these conditions by using lighter lines and smaller presentations. Fish will hold where there is cover; look for depth, choppy water, or large wood or boulders.

**YAQUINA RIVER: Steelhead**  
The winter steelhead fishery is slow in the Big Elk. River conditions are low and clear. The fishery is typically very slow for the rest of the season. Anglers are advised to watch for private property.

Typical steelhead fishing tactics apply but the Big Elk is bed rock dominated and does have a lot of snags.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS: Trout**  
Trout will be stocked this week in **Bradley Lake, Saunders Lake, Powers**

**Pond, and Johnson Mill Pond.** This is the first trout stocking of the year. There are several lakes like **Tenmile, Eel, and Butterfield** with holdover rainbow trout from last year's stocking.

**COOS RIVER BASIN: Dungeness crab, bay clams, steelhead, rockfish**

Steelhead rivers in the Coos Basin are very low and clear. Anglers should concentrate fishing deeper water using light lines and smaller lures/baits. There is bank access on the West Fork Millicoma at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and on the East Fork Millicoma at Nesika Park. Access to the South Fork Coos River is through Weyerhaeuser property and anglers must have a permit from Weyerhaeuser.

In the Coos Basin, one additional fin-clipped steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of three adult fish harvested daily.

Fishing for lingcod and rockfish inside lower Coos Bay around the jetties has been good. Lingcod have been biting on larger jigs or on herring drifted under a bobber. The marine fish daily bag limit (which includes fishing in estuaries) is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two).

Anglers can keep only three blue rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback or copper rockfish.

**UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead**

The peak numbers of fish normally show up until late March. Fish have been caught in the Canyonville area and hatchery fish have been reported. The hatchery program for winter steelhead is centered in the South Umpqua, which offers the best chance for catching an adipose-fin clipped steelhead for harvest.

Most hatchery fish are caught from Canyonville

downstream. All wild fish must be released unharmed. Plunking should be good at places such as Lawson Bar, Myrtle Creek and behind Seven Feathers.

**TENMILE BASIN: Steelhead, largemouth bass, yellow perch**

Steelhead fishing in Tenmile and Eel creeks over the past week has been slow. Anglers are picking up a few fish plunking or back-bouncing crankbaits from a boat.

In the Tenmile Basin, one additional fin-clipped steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of three adult fish harvested daily.

Bass anglers have been catching a few largemouth bass in Tenmile Lakes. Water temperatures in the shallow water is warmer than usual for this time of the year because of several unseasonably warm days.

Anglers fishing off the County fish dock have been catching yellow perch fishing a worm near the bottom. Some of these yellow perch have measured 12-inches or bigger.

**WINCHESTER BAY: Bottomfish**

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful. Crabbing has been slow recently.

**PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: Bottomfish, Dungeness crab, surf perch**  
The ocean is open for harvest of Dungeness crab.

Anglers continue to catch surf perch from the beaches near Bandon and Coos Bay. The best fishing is usually on the incoming tide. Sand shrimp is one of the best baits to use when fishing for surf perch.

Fishing for bottom fish, including rockfish and lingcod is open to all depths. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit of two lingcod.

Anglers can keep three blue rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no har-

vest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish.

Sometime in March, once a parallel federal rule is adopted, ODFW will announce that anglers can retain one canary rockfish as part of the marine fish daily bag limit.

Retention of cabezon is not allowed through June 30.

**• PACIFIC HALIBUT**  
The 2015 Pacific halibut quota is approximately one percent greater than 2014.

Therefore, sport halibut seasons are projected to be similar to 2014. The staff recommended season dates are on the ODFW sport halibut webpage, and will be finalized by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission in April.

**• BOTTOM FISHING**  
Anglers should be aware of new regulations for blue,

China, copper, and quillback rockfish, and the seasonal closure for cabezon. The ocean is open to bottom fishing at all depths.

Fishing for rockfish is good, while lingcod is only moderate.

Herring were in Yaquina Bay.

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish.

**Reminder:** China, copper, quillback, and canary rockfish may not be retained; and only three blue rockfish can be retained per day as part of the seven-fish bag rule.

Sometime in March, retention of one canary rockfish will be allowed as part of the marine fish daily bag limit.

**Reminder:** Cabezon is closed through June 30.

**• RAZOR CLAMS**

The average size of clams at the time of the survey was a little over 2-1/2 inches, and only a few larger than 4 inches were found. Currently, this very abundant age class has grown to about 4 inches. Razor clams were distributed fairly evenly along the entire stretch of beach.

Due to the large number of small razor clams on the beach, diggers should be highly selective about which shows they pursue. Harvesters are reminded they must retain the first 15 clams regardless of size or condition.

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