

# Kid Scoop

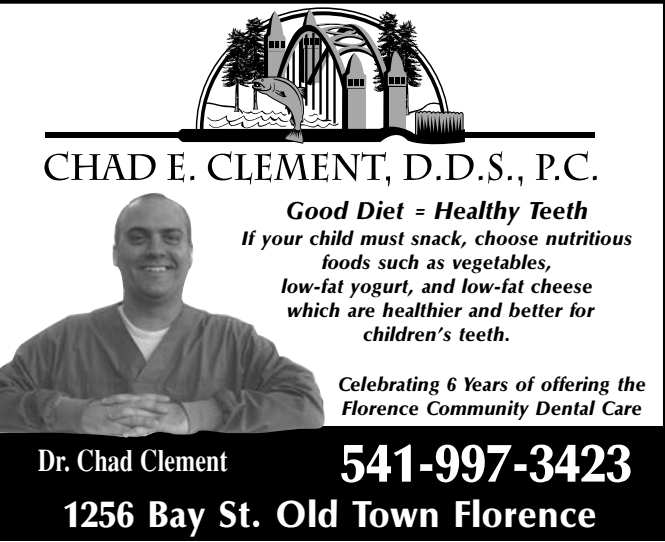
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# New publication aimed at helping Oregon turtles

CLACKAMAS — A comprehensive guide focused on conserving Oregon's native turtles and their habitats recently was released by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The guide includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect and conserve Oregon's two native turtle species, the western painted turtle and the western pond turtle. Both turtles are classified as "critical" on Oregon's Sensitive Species list and identified as priority at-risk species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

The Strategy is Oregon's blueprint for conserving the

state's fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Guidance for Conserving Oregon's Native Turtles Including Best Management Practices is intended primarily for natural resource and land managers, land use planners and project managers, but landowners and the general public can also benefit from this resource.

The guide was peer-reviewed and the BMPs are practical and cost-effective so they can be readily used.

The guide can help with planning projects in or near permanent or seasonal wetlands, ponds and other water bodies that are within the

known range of native turtles.

Actions that involve ground disturbance, changes in water levels, riparian habitat restoration, or use of heavy equipment are just a few examples known to affect native turtles.

"Our native turtles are in trouble — habitat loss, poor water quality, roads that separate aquatic habitats from upland habitats and competition with invasive species like red-eared slider turtles are just a few threats," said Susan Barnes, an ODFW wildlife biologist noted for her work with native turtles. "We encourage project planners and land managers to use the guide or call ODFW for help when

planning projects in native turtle habitat."

There is something each person can do to help native turtles, Barnes said.

Whether it's creating suitable turtle nesting habitat, knowing how to keep turtles out of an active construction zone or knowing what to do if you find a turtle crossing a road.

"We all have a role in turtle conservation," Barnes said.

The guide was produced by ODFW with significant financial and design contributions from the Port of Portland, technical review by the Oregon Native Turtle Working Group.

## ODFW from 1C

The program will continue through July 31 in Astoria, where the Clatsop County Fisheries Project manages a salmon rearing program.

Hazing is designed to disrupt the birds' feeding patterns long enough to give wild-spawned and hatchery fish a chance to pass through the estuaries unharmed.

Some of these spring migrants are listed by the state or federal government as

species under some degree of conservation risk, including coho salmon, which are federally Threatened in Oregon under the Endangered Species Act.

Cormorant hazing is expected to benefit both wild-spawned and hatchery fish.

In a separate but related project, ODFW staff will collect up to 50 double-crested cormorants at the mouth of the Umpqua River.

This is part of an ongoing study that will assess the diet of double-crested cormorants

in Oregon estuaries.

Oregon has a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that allows for limited collection of double-crested cormorants, a protected species under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

ODFW is also actively researching the potential use of low-power handheld lasers to disperse cormorants from feeding and roosting sites.

Laser-based hazing activities will occur this spring on a trial basis at several coastal locations.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Abby Watkins

Siuslaw H.S. Track & Field

The Viking sophomore won the long jump at last week's Junction City Invitational with a personal-best mark of 16'4". Watkins also finished third in the 100 meters and ran one leg in Siuslaw's third place 4x100 relay.

**Honorable Mention Carissa Oliver**

Teammate and fellow tenth grader, Carissa Oliver who won the discus in Junction City with a throw of 112'10", eclipsing her former best throw by more than 13-feet.

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## Fishing from 1C

week as the river levels being to drop. Lake Creek typically clears up more quickly.

**ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead**

The winter steelhead fishery is slowing down for the season down but fair numbers of fish can still be found in the upper river, especially after a rain event. Native fish tend to be prevalent this time of year. Casting lures, bobber and jig/bait or drifting beads along the bottom can be effective techniques.

**SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead**  
Steelhead fishing is slow to fair. Fish are being caught in most sections depending on river conditions. This time of year tends to produce a good percent of native fish and/or post spawn fish. Typical steelhead tactics apply such as side drifting, bobber and jig / bait, or casting spoons or spinners.

**WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook**  
Winter steelhead fishing should be slow to fair. Last weekend's rain brought good numbers of fish into the system. Fish will be holding ups as flows are low. Bank anglers can find success throughout the river. Boaters should fish the lower drifts until more rains come. Use lighter gear in the clear water. Spring Chinook fishing opens April 1, but few fish will be present for several weeks.

**YAQUINA RIVER: Steelhead**

The winter steelhead fishery is slow in the Big Elk. 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.

**UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead**

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. The water has been low making it harder for long boat drifts, but still suitable for bank anglers.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: Trout**

Trophy trout were stocked last week in Bradley Lake and Johnson Mill Pond. Legal-size and trophy trout were also stocked last week in Empire Lakes. Legal size trout were stocked in the past month in **BRADLEY LAKE, SAUNDERS LAKE, POWERS POND, MINGUS PARK POND, and JOHNSON MILL POND.**

Trout are biting on bait fished near the bottom or lures like spinners or spoons. 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 fishing is open until April 30 in the Coos Basin although many anglers have put away their steelhead gear for the season. River levels have been low but there are still a few steelhead around. 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 the appropriate permit from Weyerhaeuser.

**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.

Recreational ocean salmon season from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. is now open. The

season is open for all salmon except coho salmon, with a bag limit of two salmon per day, and a minimum size for Chinook salmon at 24 inches or larger.

Fishing for lingcod has been very good in the Coos Bay and Bandon areas.

Anglers are catching lingcod in shallow and deep water. Fishing for black rockfish has been decent.

The all depth rockfish season has ended. Retention of cabezon is not allowed until June 30.

**• Salmon**  
Ocean recreational fishing is open for Chinook salmon from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. through April 30. This season is open for all salmon except coho salmon, with a bag limit of two salmon per day, and minimum sizes for Chinook salmon at 24 inches or larger, and steelhead at 20 inches or larger.

Anglers are restricted to no more than two single-point barbless hooks when fishing for salmon and when fishing for any other species if a salmon is on board the vessel.

Anglers fishing in ocean waters adjacent to Tillamook Bay between Twin Rocks and Pyramid Rock and within the 15-fathom depth contour are reminded that only adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon may be retained or on board while fishing prior to Aug. 1.

**• Pacific halibut**  
The 2015 Pacific halibut quota is approximately 1 percent greater than 2014.

Therefore, sport halibut seasons are projected to be similar to 2014. The staff-recommended season dates are on the OFDW sport halibut webpage and will be finalized by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 24.

**• Crab**  
Ocean crabbing is slow on the central and south coasts. Bay and ocean crabbers might run into red rock crab as well as Dungeness crab. Red rock crab is a native species but is not present in all of Oregon's bays.

Good places to try are from the docks in Tillamook Bay, Yaquina Bay, and Coos Bay. Red rock crab are caught just like Dungeness and have a daily limit of 24.

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