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ODFW clam dive permit to be awarded next week

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will award one South Coast bay clam dive permit April 15, at ODFW headquarters in Salem.

"The commercial bay clam dive fishery in Oregon is limited to 15 permits - 10 coastwide permits and five south coast permits," said DeAnna Erickson, license services manager for ODFW. "If the number of permits falls below 15, we hold a lottery to bring the number back up to 15.

"Currently there is one South Coast permit available."

South Coast permits are only valid in Oregon estuaries south

Bay clams are harvested by licensed inter-tidal commercial harvesters and also by permit-

of Heceta Head.

ted sub-tidal divers.

Harvest focuses on cockles, gapers and butter clams.

"Historical landings patterns and species targeted vary depending on market demand,

environmental conditions and population abundances," Mitch Vance, shellfish project leader for ODFW's Marine Resources Program. "Some restrictions also exist for conservation purposes.

"For instance, the season for gapers is closed from January to June when they are spawn-

To renew a permit for next year, the holder must meet minimum landing requirements of five landings of at least 100 pounds each or an annual total of 2,500 pounds with dive gear.

If there are no landings, the permit reverts to the state.

Fishing

from 1B

and bank access. SIUSLAW RIVER: Steelhead

The winter steelhead fishery is fair for both the Siuslaw and Lake Creek systems. River conditions will vary through the week as more rain is predicted. Casting lures, bobber fishing or pulling plugs are good options.

ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead Winter steelhead fishing is slow to fair. Forecasted rain this week should move in some new fish and improve the bite. During lower clear flows, it's better to focus efforts in the mid to lower river sections. Casting spinners / spoons, or floating bait or a jig are good options.

SALMON RIVER: Steelhead Winter steelhead fishing is

9am-2pm

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Christmas decorations plus misc.

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9am-4pm

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Idylewood

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fair and fish can be found throughout the mainstem as river conditions allow. Casting lures, bouncing the bottom or drifting jigs or bait under a bobber are good techniques to consider.

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing fair for both bank and boat anglers. Forecasted rains this week should help to move in some new fish and spread out the run. Side drifting, bouncing bottom or bobber fishing can be productive.

WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, Steelhead angling should be good when conditions are favorable. Fish are spread out through the system. The river should be fishable by midweek. Fish larger, brighter offerings slowly in areas where flows are softer while the water is high.

YAQUINA RIVER:

CCB 183908

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tric wheelchairs, vehicles,

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Steelhead

The winter steelhead fishery is slow in the Big Elk. Casting lures or bobbers fishing are the best techniques for this river.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: Trout

Empire Lakes is scheduled for stocking this week with legal size rainbow trout. Empire Lakes has already been stocked with legal size trout this month along with Johnson Mill Pond, Powers Pond, Bradley Lake, and Saunders Lakes.

The daily trout bag limit in these lakes is five trout per day with only one trout over 20 inches. Anglers are catching trout on spinners or by fishing Powerbait.

COOS RIVER BASIN: Dungeness crab, steelhead, bay clams

Steelhead angling is open in the Coos Basin until April 30. Currently the water levels in the Coos Basin steelhead rivers are up and muddy. There are still a few steelhead around but most anglers have put away their gear for the season. Anglers are catching steelhead drift fishing corkies or eggs. Jigs fished under a bobber area also catching several steelhead. Anglers fishing the South Fork Coos River above Dellwood will need a permit from Weyerhaeuser, which they can pick up at the Dellwood office.

TENMILE BASIN: Trout, steelhead

Streams in the Tenmile Basin are now closed for trout fishing until May 22. Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout but trout fishing has been

Steelhead angling is open in the Tenmile Basin until April 30. Steelhead fishing has been slow in Tenmile Creek and Eel Creek.

The best fishing has been near the mouth of Saunders Creek and Eel Creek. In the Tenmile Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily.

Heidi Jones struck out five bat-

ters while, offensively, going 3-

for-2 with 3 runs scored and 2

RBIs in the 15-8 win.

from 1B

Viks

*Photos online are reduced quality -

Actual photos purchased are high resolution, high quality.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead

The South Umpqua is currently open to adipose finclipped steelhead harvest, and winter steelhead fishing will improve as water levels recede. There are still excellent hatchery steelhead harvest opportunities on the South Umpqua especially around Stanton Park in Canyonville.

WINCHESTER BAY:

Bottomfish, perch

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

PACIFIC OCEAN AND **BEACHES:** Bottomfish, Dungeness crab, surf perch

Recreational harvest of crab is open along the entire Oregon Coast. It is still recommended you discard the crab viscera (guts/butter) before cooking.

A few anglers fishing the beaches near Coos Bay have been catching redtail surf perch. The ocean has been very rough lately so picking days with lower swells is key to catching fish. Sand shrimp or Berkley Gulp sand worms have been working the best for

Recreational ocean salmon fishing from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. runs through April 30.

The season is open for all salmon except coho salmon. Anglers are allowed two salmon per day with a minimum size for Chinook at 24 inches or larger.

Fishing for bottom fish is open to fishing at all-depths. Fishing for black rockfish and lingcod continues to be very good from Charleston to Bandon when the ocean is calm enough for anglers to get out on the water.

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod

Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish.

Today, the Vikings are home

again, hosting Junction City

beginning at 2 p.m. This game

was originally scheduled as a

doubleheader beginning at noon.

Instead, the JV girls will open the

day in the noon slot, followed by

Tuesday, the Vikings will

the varsity matchup at 2 p.m.

hibited through June 30.

Recommended dates for the sport halibut fishery are available on the ODFW sport halibut webpage. Dates will be finalized by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission dates at its meeting on April 22.

• SURFPERCH

fish that provides a variety of angling opportunities. Spring is traditionally the time when marine perch species like Pile Perch and Walleye Perch are found in numbers in Oregon estuaries; Striped Seaperch are found year-round in rocky areas like jetties; and ocean surf is the place to find Redtail Surfperch and Silver Perch. For details on how to catch these guys, see Surfperch Fishing (pdf).

The bag limit for surfperch is generous at 15 per day.

However, a lot remains unknown about the status of surfperch populations off the Oregon Coast, so, as usual, take only what you will use.

• SHELLFISH

were inadvertently left out of Regulation booklet.

1) The daily bag limit for shrimp (edible) is 20 lb. in the shell; may be taken by traps, pots or rings.

2) Each digger of razor clams (as with all clams) must have his or her own container, digging area (except under an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit).

- Razor clams: Closed south
- of Tillamook Head • Bay clams: Open coast-
- Crabs: Open coastwide Mussels: Open coastwide

wrap up preseason play on the

road at Tillamook, then kick off

league competition Friday, April

9, in a doubleheader at

First pitch for both games is at

Marshfield.

Retention of cabezon is pro-

• PACIFIC HALIBUT

This is a diverse group of

A couple of regulations

the 2016 Oregon Sport Fishing

must dig his or her own clams, and may not possess more than one limit of clams while in the

Current shellfish harvest closures in the ocean and bays due to elevated levels of domoic acid as of Mar. 7:

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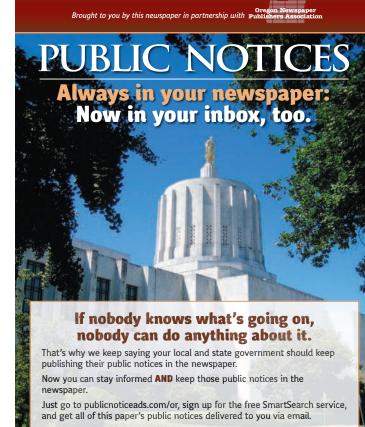
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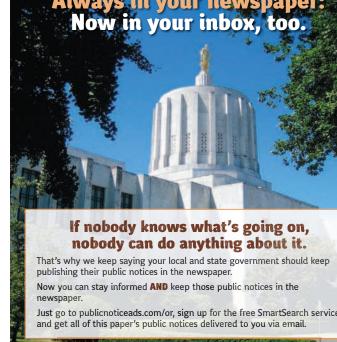
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