

Sheriffs offer safety tips as boating season approaches

Summer will be here before we know it, and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state. Below are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure.

- Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.
- Wear your life jackets!! 85

percent of the boating fatalities could be avoided by wearing a personal floatation device. Remember it won't save your life if you don't wear it.

- Have children and non-swimmers wear a personal floatation device. Each device should be of suitable size for the intended wearer and fit securely. 90 percent of those who die in boating accidents drown.

- Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first aid kit,

visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight and extra batteries, and a cell phone.

- Don't over load your boat. Follow the recommendations on the capacity plate of your boat.

- Capsizing, sinking and falling overboard account for 70 percent of boating fatalities.

- If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve body warmth.

- Hypothermia can be a killer, keep your body dry and warm as possible

- It is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Use the designated driver concept, a sober skipper is a must.

- Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibration, noise and alcohol all affect your ability to react.

- Don't run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return and 1/3 for spare.

- Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge. Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.

- When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than the depth of the water and never anchor by the stern.

- File a float plan. Let someone know where you're boating and when you'll be back.

- You're responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution around other boaters and docks.

- As of January 2009, all per-

sons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card. The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For more information on boating in Oregon, pick up the Oregon Boaters Handbook or visit www.boatoregon.com.

— Submitted by Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Sign up to hop aboard annual Boys and Girls Club wine tour

Seats are available for the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County's ninth annual Wine Tour fundraiser, which will be held Saturday, April 30.

This annual event has successfully provided funds each year for after-school enrichment programs, the club's summer activities and youth athletics.

This year's tour will return to

the Umpqua Valley region to visit four wineries there.

"This tour is such a successful event for us," said Mike Smith, current board secretary. "I am constantly humbled and amazed by the generosity and support from our community for our kids. And while this is a fundraiser for the Club, it's also a 'thank you' to anyone who can come — because it's just a

lot of fun."

This year's tour will meet at Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence for continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m.

Buses will depart promptly at 8:30 a.m. Lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided.

Buses will return to Florence at approximately 6 p.m. There will also be a live raffle on each bus for prizes, including wine

gifts, gift certificates for local services and entertainment and more.

To help ensure healthy grapes for future wine tours, transportation is again being provided by EcoShuttle, a company based in Sherwood, Ore.

Employing a carbon-neutral fleet of vehicles, EcoShuttle is leading the way in providing green transportation services in

Oregon.

Again this year, the wine tour motor coaches will be powered by 100 percent renewable bio-diesel, refined from recycled cooking oils.

Seats for the Wine Tour are \$75 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, beverages, transportation and tasting fees.

Raffle tickets will be available for an additional donation.

Seats are limited, so sign up today by calling the Boys and Girls Club at 541-902-0304 and reserve a seat, or stop by the BGC Teen Center or Coast Insurance to purchase tour tickets.

Only adults 21 years or older are allowed on the tour. Anyone who would like make a donation of time or money can the Boys and Girls Club.

Oregon Marine Reserves launches website, live underwater webcam

NEWPORT — Ever wondered what lies beneath the surface of Oregon's ocean? Curious about marine scientific research?

The new Oregon Marine Reserves website, www.oregonmarinereserves.com, provides a rare glimpse below the surface of Oregon's ocean waters and a

behind-the-scenes peek at scientists in action.

The website revamp was headed up by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which oversees the management and scientific monitoring of Oregon's system of five marine reserve sites located off the Oregon coast.

The website launched at the end of March with rave reviews

The new website offers quick and easy access to research news, underwater videos and information about each marine reserve site, along

with a comprehensive look at the science and management efforts underway by ODFW and partners.

Additionally, the website offers user friendly features such as interactive maps, e-notifications and downloadable GPS coordinates.

"We are excited that we can now showcase life below the surface of Oregon's nearshore waters" said Cristen Don, ODFW Marine Reserves Program Leader. "We hope people dive in and check out the new website and learn

about the important marine research efforts that are underway."

In 2012, Oregon completed designation of five marine reserve sites. These are areas in Oregon's coastal waters dedicated to conservation and scientific research. Fishing and ocean development are prohibited in these areas.

For a state famous for exploration, Oregon has only skimmed the surface of its coastal waters. The marine reserves are living laboratories where scientists are learning

about Oregon's nearshore ocean environment and the effects that protections (no fishing and conservation) have over time on species and habitats.

This long-term research and monitoring program conducts research to support the management of marine reserves and sustainable nearshore ocean resources in Oregon, now and into the future.

For more information about Oregon's marine reserves, call ODFW's Newport Office at 541-867-4741.

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Fishing from 2B

SALMON RIVER:

The river basin is closed to all fishing above the head of tide and will reopen for cut-throat trout fishing on May 22.

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing is slow. This time of year is typically dominated by mostly wild fish. Side drifting, bouncing bottom or bobber fishing can be productive.

WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

Steelhead angling has slowed in the low clear water. Scale your gear down and choose techniques that fit low water. Bobber and jigs should be an effective technique. Spring Chinook opened April 1, but fishing is generally very slow until later in the season.

YAQUINA RIVER:

Steelhead
The river basin is closed to all fishing above the head of tide and will reopen for cut-throat trout fishing on May 22.

COOS COUNTY LAKES and PONDS: Trout

Trophy trout were stocked last week into Empire Lakes, Bradley Lake, and Johnson Mill Pond. Legal size trout are

also stocked into Empire Lakes, Bradley Lake, Butterfield Lake, Eel Lake, Powers Pond, and Johnson Mill Pond. Fishing in the area lakes for trout has been ok with anglers having the best success using small spinners, spoons, or Powerbait. The daily trout bag limit in these lakes is five trout per day with only one trout over 20 inches.

TENMILE BASIN: Trout, steelhead, bass

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 slow.

Steelhead angling is open in the Tenmile Basin until April 30. In the Tenmile Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily.

Largemouth bass fishing has been a little slow in Tenmile Lakes but should pick up as the weather and water temperatures warm up. Bass will be biting on slower retrieved baits like jigs, jerkbaits, and spinnerbaits.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead

The South Umpqua is cur-

rently open to adipose fin-clipped 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 bait.

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.

A salmon season from May

1, 2016 through April 30, 2017 is currently being developed.

Fishing for bottom fish is closed outside of a line approximating the 30-fathom curve.

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). 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.

Retention of cabezon is prohibited through June 30.

• OCEAN SALMON

The recreational fishing season scheduled to be open for Chinook salmon from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. will be open as scheduled through April 30, 2016. This season is open for all salmon except coho salmon, with a bag limit of two salmon per day, and minimum sizes for Chinook 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.

• BOTTOM FISHING

During safe weather windows, spring is a great time for bottom fishing. This past week was moderately successful for many central coast bottom fishers, particularly charter vessels.

Siuslaw News

Garage Sale GUIDE

Sat 4/16 - Sun 4/17

2225 18th St
2 twin beds, lots of good stuff, entertainment cabinet.

Fri 4/15 - Sat 4/16

9am-5pm
2825 Hwy 101
at Terrace Homes furniture, clothing, antiques, kitchen items.

Fri/Sat 4/15-4/16,

9am-3pm
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