

Chinook from 1B

highest biomass in the last 18 years. Thus even in the absence of preferred cold-water species, there was food in the California Current system – at least for a while.

However, by the time the juvenile Chinook salmon migrated to the ocean later that spring, these larval anchovies and rockfish had all but disappeared – making even backup food sources for the salmon scarce.

The researchers theorize that these larval fish died off

because they themselves had little to eat. Long-time NOAA biologist Bill Peterson told Daly and her colleagues that the Pacific Ocean off the Northwest coast in early 2015 was devoid of cold-water, lipid-rich copepods, a key element in the food chain. In 2015, it was so warm offshore that virtually no lipid-rich copepods were to be found.

“We think the larval anchovies and rockfish had nothing to eat, so they died off,” Daly said. “So when the salmon entered the ocean later that spring of 2015, the cupboard was bare.”

“During warm years, there is typically less upwelling that brings cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface,” said Richard Brodeur, a biologist with the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center and co-author on the study. “Salmon populations may be able to handle one year of warm temperatures and sparse food. But two or three years in a row could be disastrous.”

“The young salmon may have to travel farther north to find food, and they become highly susceptible to becoming prey themselves because of their weakened condition.”

Preliminary results from 2016 by study co-author Toby Auth suggest that ichthyoplankton biomass was again high in late winter, but it was dominated once more by anchovies and sardines, which normally spawn off Oregon in summer. Juvenile salmon sampled in the spring were small and somewhat thinner than normal, Daly said.

“For the first time, we found that the salmon were eating juvenile sardines in 2016 – a new prey for them,” she noted. “Sardines were spawning off the central Oregon coast for one of the first times because of

the warm water. We don’t know the long-term impact this will have on salmon. Hopefully, it can become a new food source for them if waters remain warm.”

As this year’s run of spring Chinook salmon unfolds on the Columbia River, Daly and her colleagues will be watching to see if the numbers of adult fish returning align with predictions of a poor return based on 2015 ocean conditions, prey availability, and juvenile fish size. It could provide valuable information to resource managers in the future.

Eclipse from 1B

to provide a range of camping opportunities and enhanced visitor services on the peak.

Marys Peak is currently a day-use only area – overnight use of the peak outside of what is available under this permit event will not be allowed.

More information on this shuttle service, camping, and other local opportunities will be available soon at www.visitcorvallis.com/oregon-state-university/8-21-2017-total-solar-eclipse-corvallis-oregon.

For Mt. Hebo, private vehicle access the day of the eclipse

will also be by reservation only. Parking permits will be available for two parking areas on Mt. Hebo.

Access will also be open to those arriving by foot and bicycle, though trailhead access may be unavailable or extremely limited.

More information on Mt. Hebo vehicle reservations will be available at www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=151941 on March 27, with permits reservations available from that site at 7 a.m. on March 30.

The current order prohibiting camping on Mt. Hebo to protect fragile meadows will con-

tinue to be in place during the eclipse.

For other forest areas, many Siuslaw National Forest campgrounds are available by reservation and are already booked for the nights leading up to the eclipse.

Some areas of the forest are available for dispersed camping, yet the steep slopes and dense forests of the Coast Range limit the availability of suitable camping locations.

While access to other forest recreation sites will be available as usual, standard recreation fees may apply and crowding and congestion should be anticipated.

“We love how excited people are to witness this natural phenomenon and it is our intent to welcome them to the national forest to do so,” said Jerry Ingersoll, forest supervisor. “We also know that viewing opportunities on the Siuslaw will be limited by the terrain, the tall trees, and our need to protect safety and resources in a few special places. We’re encouraging folks to plan ahead so they’ll have a memorable eclipse experience.”

With the amount of visitors expected in western Oregon for the eclipse numbering in the hundreds of thousands, it is likely roadways will be con-

gested the weekend prior and the day of the eclipse.

Emergency personnel will be stretched thin and response times may be slow.

Visitors to the national forest should plan their visit well ahead of time, expect limited or no cellphone service, and have eye protection that is certified as safe for viewing a solar eclipse.

Many events are being planned throughout western Oregon.

For information on events and viewing opportunities near you, visit www.2017eclipse.blogspot.com/, or call your local chambers of commerce.

Fishing from 1B

and 60 into Lake Lytle. These fish get fairly active in the lake and offer a unique fishing experience, especially when the rivers are blown out. Once in the lake they are considered “trout” and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20 inches may be retained, and these fish will almost all be in that size range.

Trout stocking is complete in the other North Coast lakes, but there are still hold over trout available and winter can be a great time to fish for them as these trout will be larger

now, and getting hungry. The trout stocking schedule for 2017 is available online, and printed versions will be out soon.

SIUSLAW RIVER: *Chinook, steelhead*

The Siuslaw River and Lake Cr. are open for hatchery winter steelhead. Fishing is slow. Casting spinners, drifting bait

or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

MID COAST LAKES:
The trout stocking schedule for 2017 is available online and trout have been stocked in some lakes. Fishing for the various warm water fish species will slow as water temperatures cool. There are numerous lakes in the Florence area that can provide good opportunity.

ALSEA RIVER AND BAY: *Steelhead*

Steelhead fishing is open on the Alsea River and listed tributaries. The river is shaping up after last week’s rain. Fishing is slow. Alsea Hatchery is having a below average return to the hatchery.

Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

SALMON RIVER: *Steelhead*
The Salmon River is open for wild and hatchery steelhead. Fishing is slow.

Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Salmon River. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1/day and 3/year.

Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

SILETZ RIVER: *Steelhead*

The river is shaping up after last week’s rain. Steelhead fishing is fair. Drift boaters are having fair success from Moonshine Park to Siletz and bank anglers are catching hatchery fish in the Siletz gorge.

Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

WILSON RIVER: *Steelhead*

Fishing was slow on the Wilson last weekend due to high water and marginal conditions. It should be dropping into prime shape by the end of the week and through the weekend. There should be plenty of broodstock hatchery and wild steelhead around, and

there have been some big fish coming off the Wilson this year.

All the usual techniques such as side drifting, float fishing, drift fishing, or pulling plugs or divers and bait should be effective.

During high water use brighter colors and larger presentations.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Steelhead*

The Yaquina River and Big Elk Cr. are open for steelhead. Fishing is fair. Wild winter steelhead can be retained on Big Elk Cr. with a daily and annual bag limit of 1/day and 3/year.

The Yaquina River is open for hatchery winter steelhead. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: *Trout*

A few hatchery male steelhead were stocked into Middle Empire Lake this week to allow anglers for more opportunity.

Fishing regulations for these stocked steelhead in Empire Lakes are just like the trout regulations. Anglers can keep 1 fish over 20 inches per day and only need their fishing license.

Fishing for trout in other area lakes has been slow. Trout stocking in area lakes will start at the end of February/early March.

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

Trout fishing in streams is now closed until May 22, 2017.

Currently all steelhead rivers in the Coos Basin are high and muddy.

The West Fork Millicoma River will be the first river to clear. When water conditions are good, anglers are still catching fish throughout the Coos Basin.

Do your part and volunteer today to help support these local non-profit organizations in our community!

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FLORENCE FOOD SHARE

Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Gina Yates, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday – Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. info@florence-foodshare.org 2190 Spruce Street.

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Siuslaw News garage sale GUIDE

Sat./Sun., 3/18-3/19
7am-2pm
10915 E. Mapleton Rd.,
Huge Estate/Collectibles/Moving Sale. China, antiques, collectibles, too much to mention. Madame Alexander Dolls, Disney Collection – lots of Goofys Lowell Davis, misc. collectibles, No. prints, old picture frames, garden/shop tools, 2 upright freezers, household appliances, furniture, many antiques, silver decanters, Griswald cast iron, home brewing system, complete hydroponic system, wooden shoemaker molds, signed Clark Gable picture, trunks foot/locker, beaded purses, collector’s plate, Pewter Civil War figurines, antique German Mantle clock, lots of copper & silver pieces, Milk glass.

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