

Pups from 1B

may yank at our heartstrings, but we often jeopardize matters further by intervening in their affairs.

Rice also pointed out that, being wild animals, harbor seals face myriad challenges to reaching maturity, and pup mortality is a natural check on robust seal populations in our region. Studies estimate that as much as 50 percent of harbor seal pups born in a given year do not reach their first birthday.

Another reason to give seals a wide berth is the possible threat of disease, said Laura Todd, Field Supervisor for the

Concerned observers wanting to help can call the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network Hotline at 541-270-6830 if a pup is spotted

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Newport.

“Seals and sea lions can har-

bor the bacteria responsible for leptospirosis, a disease that affects humans and dogs and

causes damage to the liver, kidneys and other organs.”

The bacteria are present in the infected animal’s fluids, including urine, and can easily pass into surrounding water or wet sand.

In general, the Oregon Coast Aquarium is committed to the rescue and rehabilitation of indigenous wildlife when they are deemed injured by human interference.

But in the case of harbor seal pups, humans should not be approaching these animals in the first place, and the aquarium advises the public to obey marine mammal protection laws and let nature take its course.

“Concerned observers itching to help can call the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network Hotline at 541-270-6830 if a pup is spotted,” said Jim Burke, Director of Animal Husbandry at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. “Its staff can post courtesy signs near the seal to inform other beachgoers of the situation.”

Stern warnings aside, finding a harbor seal pup on the beach can be an enchanting and poignant experience. To keep these creatures safe, watch with binoculars or take pictures from afar — let the seals take care of themselves.

Fishing from 1B

closed for wild and hatchery steelhead on March 31 to protect spawning wild steelhead

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

The Siletz River is open for wild Chinook (1 per day and 2 per season). A few summer steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river. Steelhead fishing is fair. Drift boaters are having 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

The Wilson is in decent shape. Steelhead should be winding down but there was still some good fishing last week, although mostly for wild steelhead.

YAQUINA RIVER: Steelhead

The Yaquina River and Big Elk Cr. are closed for steelhead fishing to protect spawning wild steelhead.

COOS RIVER BASIN:

Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish, steelhead

Trout fishing in streams is closed until May 22.

Most anglers have stopped fishing for steelhead in the Coos Basin. Rivers in the Coos basin are open to steelhead fishing until April 30.

Anglers fishing the South Fork

Coos River above Dellwood will need a permit from Weyerhaeuser.

In the Coos basin, one additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of three adult fish harvested daily.

Anglers are still catching a few rockfish and surfperch along the jetties and submerged rock piles. Fishing for rockfish in the bay has been spotty. The marine fish daily bag limit for bottom fish (rockfish) is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two).

The 7 fish marine bag limit will remain in place, with these adjustments for 2017: Create a sub-bag limit of 6 black rockfish, remove the sub-bag limit for canary rockfish, Add China/quillback/copper rockfishes to the sub-bag limit with blue/Deacon rockfish and change the limit from 3 to 4.

Finally remove the 10-inch minimum size for kelp greenling. Retention of cabezon is not allowed until July 1.

Recreational crabbing is open inside the Coos Bay estuary. Crabbing has been slow in Coos Bay but crabbers will need to sort through several short crab to find keepers.

Recreational harvest of bay clams remains open along the entire Oregon coast.

Clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and

Clam Island. There are also good places to dig clams even on positive low tides in Coos Bay.

Recreational harvest of razor clams and mussels is closed from the entire Oregon coast due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

This includes all beaches and all bays. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any updates.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead

Anglers are still hooking into a few hatchery fish. Pay attention to river gages for the South as it has been high and unfishable a large portion of the time this season. The South Umpqua will likely be a little high for most anglers this weekend.

TENMILE BASIN: Trout, bass, steelhead

Trout fishing in the streams of the Tenmile Basin are closed until May 22. Trout fishing in Tenmile Lakes, Eel Lake, Saunders Lake are open all year. Anglers have been catching trout in Eel and Tenmile lakes trolling wedding ring spinners tipped with a worm.

Steelhead season is open in Tenmile Creek and Eel Creek until April 30. Steelhead fishing has been very slow in the Tenmile Basin. In the Tenmile Basin, one additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per

day for a total aggregate of three adult fish harvested daily.

WINCHESTER BAY:

Bottomfish, perch

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

PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: Bottomfish, surf perch, crab

Recreational crabbing is open along the entire Oregon coast.

Bottom fishing has been good when the ocean conditions allow. Fishing for bottom fish is now restricted to inside the 30-fathom curve. A few black rockfish have been seen feeding on/near the surface recently.

Recreational harvest of razor clams is CLOSED on the entire Oregon coast due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

The recreational harvesting of mussels is OPEN along the entire Oregon Coast from the Columbia River to the California border. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any updates.

Surf perch fishing has been good when ocean swells are small. Surf perch anglers will do the best fishing with sand shrimp or Berkely Gulp sand worms.

OCEAN SALMON:

The ocean recreational Chinook salmon fishery off Oregon is currently open from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. Fishing effort and catch have been slow so far.

BOTTOM FISHING:

When the weather allows, fishing during the winter and spring months for lingcod and rockfish can be fun and successful. Last week there were several reports of blue-colored lingcod being caught along the central coast.

These blue-colored lingcod, sometimes called “Smurf lingcod” are safe to eat, the flesh turns white when cooked, and tastes the same as normal colored lingcod. The blue coloration comes from a bile pigment called biliverdin (also responsible for some of the coloration when people get a bruise), but how or why this pigment gets into the tissue of lingcod is unknown, though may have something to do with what the lingcod is eating.

SURFPERCH:

Surfperch are a diverse group of fish that provide a variety of angling opportunities.

Striped seaperch are found year-round in rocky areas like jetties; and ocean surf is the place to find retail surfperch and silver perch.

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.

Sailors from 1B

of 23-9.5 for second place in the shot put and mark of 61-4 for second place in the javelin.

The Sailors’ next meet will be Friday, May 5, at the Toledo Twilight Invitational.



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