

# Marine Board: When boating, plan, pay attention and share

Motorboats, kayaks, canoes, rafts, pontoon, drift, stand up paddleboards, sailboats, personal watercraft — there's a boat out there that can connect you to the water and a rental facility ready to help you get your feet wet if you're new to boating.

The Oregon State Marine Board invites boaters to explore the interactive Boating Oregon Map, where you can find a boat ramp near you, or plan for a weekend escape to places less-frequented.

"This season is going to be a fantastic year for water recreation with abundant water," says Ashley Massey, Public Information Officer for the Marine Board.

"Just be sure to plan ahead by checking the weather, water

levels, reported obstructions, and having all of the right gear, says Massey. "Boaters can check the Marine Board's website for everything a boater needs to know to start planning a trip."

Massey emphasizes paying attention to your surroundings, continually scanning port to starboard and keeping a close eye on what's dead-ahead.

"2016 saw an increase in accidents, largely from collisions," says Massey. "Familiarize yourself with the rules-of-the-road, and start out slow because of debris in the water from this past winter."

"With the extraordinary high water levels, many wing dams (also known as pile dikes) on rivers and bays are just below the surface, so boaters need to

keep their distance from the shoreline up to several hundred feet out from shore."

Boaters are encouraged to learn where the wing dams are located based on the waterbody where they're boating from [www.charts.noaa.gov](http://www.charts.noaa.gov), for free, downloadable navigation charts.

Think about taking a "dispersion excursion" to lesser-known waterbodies, especially for people new to paddlesports or seeking more solitude.

There are 96 waterways where motors are prohibited and 50 designated as electric motor only waterways. Visit the Marine Board's "Experience Oregon" boating handbook for more information about these areas.

The Marine Board also rec-

ommends boaters play it safe by:

- Abstaining from marijuana, drugs or alcohol. Instead, take along a variety of non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of water. Impairment can lead to a BUII arrest.

- Drugs and alcohol impair a boater's judgement and coordination. Swift currents, changing weather and debris require boat operators to be focused and skilled to avoid an accident.

- If you are feeling fatigued, take a break on land and return to the water when you are re-energized and alert. Wind, glare, dehydration and wave motion contribute to fatigue.

Continually monitor the weather because it changes quickly.

- Operators and passengers should wear properly fitting life jackets. Learn more about life jacket types, styles and legal requirements. Anyone rafting on Class III Whitewater Rivers is required to wear a life jacket, and all children 12 and under when a boat is underway.

The water temperature for most waterways is below 50 degrees and wearing a life jacket is the most important piece of equipment for surviving the first few seconds of cold water immersion.

- Never boat alone — especially when paddling. Always let others know where you are going and when you'll return.

- Be courteous to other boaters and share the waterway. Congestion is a given in many popular locations, especially

with nice weather.

Paddlers need to stay in calmer water near the shore and allow motorized boats to operate in deeper water.

Motorized boaters should be given priority when launching, as many boat ramps are designed for heavier trailered boats to access the water.

- In Oregon, all boaters must take a boating safety course and carry a boater education card when operating a powerboat greater than 10 horsepower. The Marine Board also offers a free, online Paddling Course for boaters new to the activity.

For more information about safe boating in Oregon, visit [www.boatorgon.com](http://www.boatorgon.com).

## Fishing from 1B

at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and fishing is excellent for young children.

Millicoma Pond is intended for children under the age of 12. Please call before traveling to Millicoma Pond to make sure the gates are open. The

phone number is (541)267-2557.

ODFW is implementing a tag reward trout study on **Empire Lakes** for 2017 in which anglers will be asked to report tagged trout that are caught. Anglers can report tags on the ODFW website. Some of the tags will be worth a \$50 gift card. This study is an effort by ODFW to compare stocking of "larger" trout to last year's stocking of "legal" size trout.

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

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

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 (2). 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 rock-

fish, add China/quillback/ copper rockfishes to the sub-bag limit with blue/Deacon rockfish and change the limit from 3 to 4.

- 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 good one day and slow the next day in Coos Bay. Even when crabbing is good, crabbers will need to sort through lots of crab to get a limit.

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:** *Closed*

The South Umpqua is closed from May 1 through May 22 to protect migrating fish..

**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.

Largemouth bass fishing has been good and will continue to pick up as the water temperatures warm up.

Anglers are catching bass in shallow water near structure or on the deep end of the weed lines using jigs or rubber worms.

**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.

**NOTICE:** Razor clams remain closed along the entire Oregon coast due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and bays.

**OCEAN SALMON:**

The Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. Chinook salmon recreational fishing season is open until Oct. 31. 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.

Ocean Chinook fishing effort and catch have been slow so far this season. Most anglers are

concentrating on bottomfish for now, particularly on the central coast.

Just a reminder: 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:**

When the weather allows, fishing during the spring months for lingcod and rockfish can be fun and successful.

In recent weeks anglers have had decent luck limiting on lingcod and close to limits on rockfish.

Recent reports from Charleston and Brookings say the bottomfishing has been really good.

**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 redtail surfperch and silver perch.

**SHELLFISH:**

Call the ODA shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 before harvesting for the most current information about shellfish safety closures.

Additional information is available from ODA's Food Safety Program at 503-986-4720 or the ODA shellfish closures website.

Ocean Dunes on tournament day. The prize for the ball closest to the hole is \$1,500.

A prize for the ball furthest from the hole will be \$777, sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort. Only 750 golf balls will be sold.

The numbered golf balls are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 7 for \$50 or 15 for \$100.

Call the B&G Club for details at 541-902-0304.

More than 500 youth are served by the Boys and Girls Club of Florence each year.

"One young man from a single-parent home, whose mother was at work until early evening, is a member of the club," said board president Michael Pearson. "He was not eating well and failing school. We enrolled him in the homework assistance program and gave him a nutritious meal each afternoon.

"He is now passing all of his classes and even getting As in math and science. This was all made possible by proceeds that came from the Fore! Kids Golf Classic and helicopter golf ball drop fundraiser events."

All proceeds of these two events support after-school programs, athletic programs, SMART Girls, Passport To Manhood, Money Matters and more for youth in grades K-12.

For registration information, call 541-902-0304 or visit [www.bgcwlc.org](http://www.bgcwlc.org).



**Carissa Oliver**



The senior thrower finished her prep track and field career by winning 1st place at the OSAA 4A state championships in the shot put with a personal best throw of 41' 7 3/4". Oliver also finished second in the discuss with a mark of 132' 11".

### Honorable Mention

#### Trent Reavis

Honorable mention is given to junior athlete Trent Reavis who captured 2nd place at the 4A meet in the javelin, setting a new Siuslaw High School record of 181' 11" despite an injury to his hand. Reavis was second in the shot put at 10' 7 3/4" and 12th in the discus.

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## Golf from 1B

Commerce Visitors Center, 290 Highway 101; the Boys and Girls Club, 1501 Airport Rd.; or by emailing [nancy@nancypear.com](mailto:nancy@nancypear.com).

The annual helicopter golf ball drop fundraiser for the club happens at 10 a.m. at

**...need a friend?**

**Meet Chloe**  
\*\*\*\*Chloe will be available for adoption after her spay surgery\*\*\*\*  
Call the shelter for more details.

Chloe is another dog that has been rescued from an over crowded public shelter in California. She appears to be a purebred Chihuahua and is approximately 6 years old. She is crate trained, walks well on a leash and loves to spend time in laps. Chloe is a bit choosy when it comes to dog friends so she will have to meet any dogs that she may be sharing a home with.

If you would like to meet Chloe or any of her friends, please visit us at:  
**OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY**  
2840 Rhododendron Drive • Florence • 541-997-4277  
[www.oregoncoasthumane.org](http://www.oregoncoasthumane.org)  
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