

STEP program works with students to raise 'smarter fish'

Each year, the Florence Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) places aquariums with chillers into several Florence and Mapleton area schools.

The aquariums are put into Siuslaw Elementary School, Mapleton Schools and Triangle Lake Schools. Each aquarium is stocked with steelhead eggs from the STEP Whittaker creek trap. These eyed-up eggs continue to develop and soon hatch into steelhead fry.

These fry depend on the classroom students to keep track of their development. Students must check water temperatures, temperature units and keep the tanks clean.

"Since these fries are raised in schools they must be smarter than fry raised in the wild," jokes STEP president Ron Caputo.

After 30 days in school, the young fry are released one at a time by first-grades classes into nearby lakes and streams.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Triangle Lake Elementary School study an aquarium of steelhead fry.

Fishing from 1B

Remember the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: Trout, warmwater fish

Largemouth bass fishing has been good in many of the area smaller lakes. Bluegills can be found in area lakes right along the weed lines.

Trout were stocked in the Millicoma Pond at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and fishing should be excellent. 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.

Trout have been stocked into Empire Lakes and Tenmile Lakes this week. Trophy trout were only stocked into Upper Empire Lake This was the last trout stocking in the area until October.

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.

TENMILE BASIN: Trout, bass

Streams and rivers are now open to trout fishing until Oct. 31. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater. Anglers may harvest 2 trout per day that are a minimum of 8 inches long.

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.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Trout, bass

The South opened on May 22 to trout and warmwater fishing.

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, salmon, halibut

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 Chinook salmon fishing is open from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain. Anglers may have two salmon per day but is closed to retention of coho except during the selective and non-selective coho seasons.

The selective coho season opens June 24 and continues through July 31 or until the 18,000 marked coho quota has been met.

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 Berkley Gulp sand worms. Fishing is typically best on the incoming tide.

• OCEAN SALMON:

The Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. Chinook salmon recreational fishing season is scheduled to be 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; however, some ocean Chinook were landed in Garibaldi and Winchester Bay last week.

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.

• PACIFIC HALIBUT:

Vessels fishing for or retaining halibut are required (1) to have onboard a functioning rockfish descending device, and (2) use it to descend any rockfish released when fishing outside of the 30-fathom regulatory line.

The 2017 halibut quota is up 16.7 percent from 2016, which should allow for some additional fishing days, depending on weather and catch rates.

Central Oregon Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.): The all-depth halibut fishery will be open June 8-10 and June 15-17. If quota remains after those dates, additional days may be

available every other week.

The nearshore fishery opened June 1, seven days per week, until the quota is caught or Oct. 31. Note that when both the nearshore and all-depth halibut fisheries are open on the same day, e.g., regulations for the all-depth fishery — namely, groundfish retention rules — apply to all halibut anglers, regardless of where fishing occurs.

The summer all-depth fishery opens Friday, Aug. 4, and every other Friday-Saturday until the quota is caught or Oct. 31.

• 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.

— Mussels: The recreational harvest of mussels is open coastwide.

— Razor Clams: Remains closed along the entire Oregon coast due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and bays.

— Bay Clams: Open along the entire Oregon Coast from the Columbia River to the California border. Check the ODFW Shellfish website for where and when to harvest your favorite bivalves.

— Crabbing: Ocean and bay crabbing is open coastwide. Bay crabbing is still slow. Typically this time of year we start seeing some soft male crabs that have recently molted.

Recent reports are that crabbing has been getting better in the ocean, and the best results are seen in water deeper than 100 feet.

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- Soap, salt, baking soda
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- Triangular bandages
- Elastic bandages, pressure dressings
- Cotton balls, disposable diapers
- Scissors, needles, tweezers
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