

Lighthouses from 1B

Gradually, the 65-foot high silhouette of Heceta Lighthouse came into view at the peak of the hill, which crests 205 feet above the crashing waves. Because of a growing mist, the light refracting through tiny droplets in the air created a halo effect around the revolving turret of light emanating through eight panels of glass lens.

Four volunteers had already

arrived and taken their places at various points throughout the tour, all of whom came on short notice to help educate the group of curious folks drawn to the light.

Inside, volunteers explained the history of the structure, which was named after a Portuguese sea captain named Don Bruno De Heceta, who happened upon the shallows near Devil's Elbow in 1775. They talk of the intricacies of the beam itself. How its rotation sequence and number of

Fresnel panels is unique — because each lighthouse has its own signature.

The Umpqua River lighthouse near Winchester Bay, for example, has 32 light panels, with every third plate colored red, creating a consistent red flash every few seconds. Up the coast in Newport, the Yaquina Head Lighthouse flashes its warning to sea-goers every 20 seconds — not in a beam, but a burst of light that can be seen from 20 miles away.

In the end, however, it's the silent sweep of brilliant light across the horizon that speaks to visitors the most.

Standing at the base of the lighthouse, the group stares up at the slowly revolving beacon, momentarily joining its vigil. With their eyes, they follow the enormous shafts of light slicing through the darkness, entranced by the motion.

The repetition.

And the thought that, 100 years from now, it could still be

here, lighting the way — unchanged and offering safe passage through troubled waters.

(Tours of the Heceta Head Lighthouse are given daily throughout the summer from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The lighthouse observation area is open year round during park hours, offering a spectacular view of the coastline. To arrange a tour outside of the regular tour season, call Oregon State Parks at 1-800-551-6949.)

Fishing from 1B

year. The 2017 trout stocking schedule is available online.

SIUSLAW RIVER: Trout

Trout season continues with some nice catches of cutthroat. Remember the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches.

ALSEA RIVER: Trout

Reports of nice cutthroat trout are being reported.

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

SALMON RIVER: Trout

Trout season remains open and there should be some nice cutthroat still around.

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

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook, trout

The Siletz River opened for wild Chinook on April 1 (1 per day and 2 per season). Spring Chinook and summer steelhead are being caught, and fishing should continue to improve.

ODFW is recycling hatchery summer steelhead from the Siletz Falls trap, giving anglers another shot at catching these fish in the gorge.

Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig

can be effective.

Anglers are still hooking cutthroat trout.

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

WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, Spring Chinook, trout

Spring Chinook fishing has been slow on the Wilson.

There are summer steelhead in the system, and fishing pressure is very light.

Trout season opened May 22, and there should be some nice cutthroat around.

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

YAQUINA RIVER: Trout

Trout season opened in May but plenty of cutthroat are still around.

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 fishing continues to be good at Empire Lakes and Eel Lake but trout fishing will slow down as through the month as water temperatures continue to warm. Anglers are

having good success using PowerBait at Empire Lakes, while trolling a wedding ring spinner has worked very well at Eel Lake.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Trout, bass

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

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 Lake trolling wedding ring spinners tipped with a worm.

Largemouth bass fishing has been very good with anglers catching lots of bass on Senkos and other plastics.

Now that the bass spawn is almost over, fish will be spreading out and moving to deeper water.

Fishing for bass will be best early mornings and evenings.

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.

Fishing for rockfish and ling cod was good this past weekend.

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 opened this past weekend and will remain open until July 31 or until the 18,000 marked coho quota has been met.

Anglers have reported catching (and releasing) hatchery coho in the Charleston area before the season opened.

As of June 17, there was still 24 percent of the All Depth Halibut quota remaining. The nearshore halibut season (inside 40 fathoms) is now open seven days a week except when there are All Depth Halibut days.

As of June 18, there was 86 percent of the Nearshore quota remaining.

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.

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. Openings and closures listed below were accurate on June 16.

• **MUSSELS**

The recreational harvest of mussels is open coastwide. Rock jetty structures at nearly every port in Oregon support harvestable populations of mussels.

• **RAZOR CLAMS**

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

• **BAY CLAMS**

Bay clamming is 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.

Updated maps on where to clam.

• **CRABBING**

Ocean and bay crabbing is open coastwide. Reports are that crabbing has in good in Yaquina Bay. 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.

NEW BAG AND SUB-BAG LIMITS FOR 2017: To stay within Federal allocations, and try to provide for year-round fishing opportunities, there are some changes to daily bag limits. Canary rockfish has been declared rebuilt and is now part of the 7 fish marine bag limit (no sub-bag limit). Black rockfish will have a sub-bag limit of 6 fish (out of the 7 fish daily bag, no more than 6 may be black rockfish). There is a 4 fish sub-bag limit for blue/deacon, China, copper, and quill-back rockfish combined (out of the 7 fish marine bag, no more than 4 may be these species combined). The daily bag limit for lingcod remains at 2 fish and flatfish species, other than Pacific halibut, remains at 25 fish.

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

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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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