

OPRD SEEKS COMMENTS ON CAMPING RATES

SALEM — The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is proposing amendments to agency rules related to overnight camping rates for state parks.

A \$2 per site increase in the base rate for overnight rental fees on select types of campsites was approved by the Oregon Legislature as part of the 2017-19 OPRD budget.

The deadline for public comment on the amendments has been extended to Saturday, Sept. 15.

The proposed rule will increase the base rate for yurts, cabins, full hook up, partial hook up, hiker-biker, equestrian and group sites.

Tent site rates will not increase, which maintains a lower cost option for park visitors.

The proposed rule is aligned with the views expressed in park surveys that show visitors prefer smaller rate increases on a more frequent basis than a large fee increase in the future.

Day-use parking pass prices will not increase.

The full text of the amendment to Oregon Administrative Rule 736-015-0020 and 736-015-0040 is available online at bit.ly/OregonStateParkRule making.

Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Sept. 15, and can be made online

at bit.ly/OregonStateParkRulemaking.

Send written comments to: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, attn.: Katie Gauthier, 725 Summer St NE, Suite C, Salem OR 97301; or email comments to publiccomment@oregon.gov.

After reviewing public comments, agency staff plan to present a final recommended rule for consideration by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission at its Wednesday, Sept. 20, business meeting.

If approved by the Commission, new rates would be effective on new reservations made after Oct. 1, 2018.

Watershed to discuss importance of Lamprey

The Siuslaw Watershed Council will hold a general public meeting, Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss the history, ecological impact and status of the Pacific Lamprey.

The meeting will be held at Archie Knowles County Park.

Parking is limited, so carpooling from the SWC office at Mapleton High School or from Pop's Restaurant parking lot is suggested.

Fishing from 1B

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

WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, trout

Summer steelhead fishing on the Wilson has been moderate to slow, but there are fish throughout the system. Late August and September can be a great time to target these fish as cooler nights lower water temps, and fish that have been holding get more active.

Target riffles and the top of pools during first and last light, and concentrate on deeper holding pools once the sun is on the water.

Fishing stealthy, with light gear, and targeting first and last light is often the key to success with these fish.

The Wilson doesn't open for fall Chinook above tide water (Hwy 101 bridge) until Sept. 16.

Trout is also season open and there should be some nice cutthroat around. Remember, the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8 inches.

YAQUINA RIVER: Chinook, trout

Trout is season open and there should be some nice cutthroat around. Remember, the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: Warmwater fish, trout

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.

Anglers have still catching rainbow trout at Empire Lakes. Fishing is best in the deepest part of the lakes.

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

Streams and rivers are now open to trout fishing until Oct. 31. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater until Sept. 1, when bait will be allowed. Anglers may harvest 2 trout per day that are a minimum of 8 inches long.

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Fishing for rockfish inside the Coos Bay estuary has been good one day and slow the next. Anglers are having the most success fishing along the jetties and submerged rock piles. 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.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Trout, bass

The South remains open to trout and warmwater fishing.

Bass fishing has been good around the Roseburg area.

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.

Largemouth bass fishing has been very good with anglers catching lots of bass on Senkos and other plastics. Bass will be spreading out and found in deeper water during the day.

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 and has been good both in the ocean and in the bays.

The nearshore halibut season (inside 40 fathoms) is now closed. The next All Depth Halibut days will likely be Sept. 1-2, with 48.1 percent of the quota remaining.

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.

Anglers have reported catching Chinook outside of Winchester Bay and Charleston last week. The selective coho season closed at the end of July. The non-selective ocean coho season from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. runs from Sept. 2-30 with a quota of 6,000 fish.

The recreational harvest of razor clams is open from Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) to Cascade Head (north of Lincoln City).

The recreational harvest of razor clams is closed from Cascade Head to the California Border for elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and all bays.

Clatsop Beaches are closed for the annual razor clam conservation closure. This area

includes beaches from the Columbia River south to Tillamook Head. The conservation closure will be lifted on Oct. 1 if domoic acid levels are below the closure limit at that time.

The recreational harvesting of mussels is open along the entire Oregon Coast from the Columbia River to the California border, except from Tillamook Head south to Cascade Head, which currently closed.

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

Local fall Chinook should be starting to stage near most estuary mouths from the Nehalem south as far as the Coquille throughout August and early September.

The Selective Coho (fin-clipped) season between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain closed July 31. Coho retention is scheduled to reopen on Sept. 2 and continue through the earlier of the quota of 6,000 coho (no fin clip required) or Sept. 30.

Fishing for all salmon except coho remains open through Oct. 31. Note that during the month of October salmon angling will be limited to only inside of the 40 fathom regulatory line.

• BOTTOM FISHING

Bottomfish fishing continues to be good out of most ports along the Oregon coast, when the winds have cooperated. Angler success for rockfish remained about the same as the last few weeks.

Lingcod fishing is a little sporadic: excellent some days,

but very slow other days.

Anglers from the south coast have had better success with lingcod this past week.

Remember to know and understand the new bag limits.

SHELFISH: • MUSSELS

Mussels remain closed from Tillamook Head (just north of Cannon Beach) to Cascade Head (just north of Lincoln City) due to high levels of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins.

Rock jetty structures at nearly every port in Oregon support harvestable populations of mussels.

• RAZOR CLAMS

Razor clams remain closed from the Columbia River South Jetty to Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) and from Cascade Head to the OR/CA border coast due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and bays.

Razor clam harvest is open from Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) to Cascade Head (north of Lincoln City).

• 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.

• CRABBING

Ocean and bay crabbing is open coastwide. Newly molted, larger crab are being caught in the ocean and many bays.

Some of these crab have hardened up a bit while others are fairly soft and have less meat in them. These crab will fill in and harden up through the summer and should be very high quality crab by September.

Catches are increasing everywhere up and down the coast.

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