

'Pounder' trout stocked in Coos Bay area lakes

ROSEBURG — This week, ODFW is stocking "pounders," rainbow trout averaging just over a pound each, into Coos Bay area lakes for a great fall trout fishing opportunity. The weather is cooling, but the trout are still biting. Within the city limits of Coos Bay, Upper Empire Lake

is getting 3,500 trout. Lower Empire is choked with weeds and has a low water level with water temperatures too high to safely stock rainbows. Those fish instead will be split between Saunders and Butterfield lakes which will each receive 1,200 trout. Saunders Lake is about five

miles north of North Bend and is an easily accessed place for family fishing. Next to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Butterfield Lake is accessed through Riley Ranch County Park. Anglers at Butterfield Lake might also hook into a warmouth, an unusual fish that

looks like a crappie with a bass head. Bradley Lake, just three miles south of Bandon and Powers Pond are also being stocked this week with these pounders. The lake rainbow trout harvest limit is five fish per day, two daily limits in possession.

Fishing from 1B

around. Remember the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches. Anglers are reminded the two-rod validation is only valid while angling in standing water bodies excluding coastal lakes with wild coho seasons. Two rods are prohibited on all coastal rivers, tidewater, estuaries and bays. **SALMON RIVER:** *Chinook, trout* Fall Chinook fishing is starting to pick up in the estuary and upriver to the hatchery. Trout season continues and there should be some nice cutthroat around. Remember the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches. Anglers are reminded the two-rod validation is only valid while angling in standing water bodies excluding coastal lakes with wild coho seasons. Two rods are prohibited on all coastal rivers, tidewater, estuaries and bays. **SILETZ RIVER:** *Steelhead, Chinook, trout* The Siletz River remains open for fall Chinook and fishing is starting to pick up in tidewater. Anglers are reminded the two-rod validation is only valid while angling in standing water bodies excluding coastal lakes with wild coho seasons. Two rods are prohibited on all coastal rivers, tidewater, estuaries and bays. Trout remains open and

there should be some nice cutthroat around. Remember the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8-inches. **WILSON RIVER:** *Chinook, steelhead, trout* Fall Chinook fishing opened on the Wilson River Sept. 16. With the recent rains, there are probably a few fish sneaking in. Bobber fishing bait, back-bouncing, back-trolling plugs or divers and bait, or casting spinners can all be effective methods. Anglers are reminded the Wilson River is closed to salmon angling until Dec. 31, upstream of Jordan Creek (River Mile 21.9). Summer steelhead fishing on the Wilson has been moderate to slow, but there are good numbers of fish throughout the system. Late 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. Trout season continues with some cutthroat around, but fishing for them in the Wilson's clear summer flows can be tough. Remember, the limit on streams and rivers is two per day over 8 inches. **YAQUINA RIVER:** *Chinook,*

trout Chinook is open and with the rain early this week fishing is starting to pick up in tide-water. 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. Anglers are reminded the two-rod validation is only valid while angling in standing water bodies excluding coastal lakes with wild coho seasons. Two rods are prohibited on all coastal rivers, tidewater, estuaries and bays. **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. Rainbow trout are scheduled to be stocked in **POWERS POND, BRADLEY LAKE, BUTTERFIELD LAKE, EMPIRE LAKES, and SAUNDERS LAKE** during the month of October. **COOS RIVER BASIN:** *Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish, salmon* Streams and rivers are open to trout fishing until Oct. 31. Anglers are allowed to use bait in streams above tidewater. Anglers may harvest two trout per day that are a minimum of 8 inches long. Anglers were catching Chinook salmon from the BLM boat ramp in the lower estuary up through the Coos River and South Fork Coos

River. The bite was best a couple hours before the slack tides. A few wild coho have been caught lately. There is not a wild coho season inside Coos Bay this year so all wild coho must be released but anglers may keep an adipose fin-clipped hatchery coho. Salmon anglers are having the best luck trolling cut plug herring behind a flasher. As of Sept. 18, fishing for lingcod, rockfish, cabezon, greenling or other bottomfish are closed because the quotas for several species have been reached. This includes the ocean along with bays and estuaries. Crabbing continues to be good for those crabbing from a boat and from the docks in Charleston. Crabbing has been best near Charleston but legal crab can be caught all the way up the bay to the BLM boat ramp off of the North Spit. There was a mixture of hard and soft shelled legal Dungeness crab. 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. The recreational harvest of razor clams is CLOSED from Cascade Head to the California Border for elevated levels of domoic acid.

Coho recovery topic of next Siuslaw Watershed meeting

The Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting will be a free presentation to the public at the Oregon Lakes Association Conference at Driftwood Shores Inn, 88416 First Ave., in Florence. Executive Director Dan Carpenter will explain efforts local partners are taking, to restore salmon habitat in the Siuslaw River and coastal lakes watersheds. He will also provide an overview of the work of the Oregon Lakes Association to promote the health of lakes in the region and across the state. The Siuslaw River and nearby coastal lakes once supported one of the largest wild coho runs along the Oregon Coast. Returns of hundreds of thou-

sands of adult salmon each year in the late 1800's precipitously reduced, to less than 1,000 during the 1990's, triggering a threatened Endangered Species Act listing. Over the past century, habitat conditions have been severely modified and degraded attributed to: clearing of riparian areas, splash dam logging, building of streamside roads, disconnection of floodplains, and ditching, diking and other stream modification for agricultural purposes. The Siuslaw Coho Partnership are local partners with the goal of improving watershed health for fishes and promote livable, and economically resilient communities.

Vikings from 1B

10 p.m. that night Should Siuslaw remain ranked among the top 24 (currently they are ranked 21st), it could still reach post-season play with a road game late next week. Today, Siuslaw will play at

the Marshfield Invitational in Coos Bay. Final rankings will be posted online at www.osaa.org/activities/vbl/rankings after 10 p.m. on Tuesday. Should the Lady Vikings be ranked 25th or higher, Siuslaw's volleyball season will officially end.

Sailors from 1B

Mapleton held at least a 6-point lead through the first half of the set, until the Eagles went on a pair of scoring runs that tied the match at 18-18, then again at 20-20. A pair of errors from the Lady Sailors provided the Eagles with their first lead,

which they carried to a 25-21 win for the set and match. Thursday, Mapleton fell at McKenzie in three sets, 25-15, 25-5, 25-13. Today, Mapleton will take on Siletz Valley at 2 p.m., followed by a rematch with McKenzie at 6 p.m., with the Lady Sailors' opponents playing each other between those matches.

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