

Free fishing, clamming, crabbing throughout Oregon FEB. 17-18

SALEM — It will be free to fish, crab or clam throughout Oregon on the Saturday and Sunday of President’s Day Weekend, Feb. 17-18.

During these two days, no fishing licenses or tags (including a Combined Angling Tag and a Columbia River Basin Endorsement) are required to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon.

Although no licenses or tags are required, all other regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

“Free Fishing Weekends are a great opportunity for friends and families to get out and enjoy a day or two of fishing,” said Mike Gauvin, ODFW

recreational fisheries manager. “Winter steelhead, trout, crabbing and clamming are just some of the great opportunities available.”

Look for the best opportunities in ODFW’s weekly Recreation Report at myodfw.com/recreation-repor, which is updated online every Wednesday.

Under statute set by the Oregon State Legislature, ODFW can offer eight days of

free fishing each year.

The six other days of free fishing in Oregon this year are: June 2-3, Sept. 1-2 and Nov. 23-24.

Youth Soccer registration continues through March 12

The Siuslaw Youth Soccer program is gearing up for its spring 2018 season.

Regular registration is open now through March 12. The registration fee is \$55 and scholarships are available.

Late registration will be March 13-19, with an additional \$20 late fee; no scholarships will be available during the late registration period.

No registrations will be accepted after March 19.

The Youth Soccer Program’s annual general meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Siuslaw Middle School Commons.

All voting members of the soccer association are encouraged to attend. Voting members are all adults who have registered with the club as parents/guardians or coaches.

The annual general meeting will include a club update and voting for three board positions and two bylaws amendments.

The board positions up for election are Vice-President, Secretary, and Registrar.

Any club member interested in running for a position must notify the board and provide their information by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 13.

Siuslaw from 1B

Special District 3 meet, which includes Far West League rivals Marshfield, North Bend, South Umpqua, Douglas/Cammas Valley and Brookings-Harbor, along with Skyline teams Henley, Hidden Valley, Klamath Union, Phoenix and Mazama.

With three-returning state

champions and two state placers, Marshfield is favored to take home the team title, with Mazama, Henley, Douglas and Phoenix all vying for a shot after successful seasons.

Winners from this weekend’s district meet will move on to the state championships next Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at Veterans memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Fishing from 1B

manage these fisheries. Anglers can use this data to see where fish have been caught over the years.

Tags can be turned in to any POS agent or at any ODFW office located throughout the state. The tags also can be mailed to any ODFW office.

WINTER STEELHEAD: WATER DEPENDENT

This time of year, water conditions for winter steelhead fishing can vacillate between too low and clear, and too high and muddy. Successful anglers will:

- 1) adjust their gear and tackle for current conditions, and/or
- 2) be ready to hit the water when water conditions improve — usually once water levels start to drop after a good rain. Check out the zone reports for the best weekend possibilities.

SIUSLAW RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention.

NORTH COAST LAKES:

Trout stocking is complete for the year. Cape Meares, Town, Coffenburg, Lost and Sunset lakes were stocked with “trophy” rainbow trout in late September.

Cedar Creek Hatchery has stocked over 160 surplus summer steelhead in Town Lake near Pacific City so far this fall.

These fish get fairly active in the lake and offer a unique fishing experience. Once in the lake they are considered “trout” and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20-inches may be retained, and these fish will all be in that size range.

MID COAST LAKES:

Olalla Reservoir has been stocked with about 100 surplus summer steelhead this season. These fish get fairly active in

the lake and offer a unique fishing experience.

Once in the lake they are considered “trout” and do not require a Combined Angling Tag.

Anglers are reminded, however, that only one trout per day over 20 inches may be retained, and these fish will all be in that size range.

Mid coast lakes been stocked with trout throughout the spring.

Trout stocking has ended for the year but there still should be fish around to catch.

ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention.

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

SALMON RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

The Salmon River IS open for wild and hatchery steelhead. Wild winter steelhead can be retained on the Salmon River. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

SILETZ RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

A few winter steelhead are starting to be caught in the lower river.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available. Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention.

WILSON RIVER: Chinook, steelhead

Fall Chinook fishing is slow to fair. There should be fish available throughout the system. Bobber fishing bait, back-bouncing, back-trolling plugs or divers and bait, or casting spinners can all be effective methods.

The first winter steelhead was reported on the Wilson, but it's still early and fishing is slow. Drift fishing baits or bobber fishing with jigs, beads, or bait are all good techniques.

YAQUINA RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook

The Big Elk IS open for wild and hatchery steelhead. Wild winter steelhead can

be retained on the Big Elk. Daily and annual bag limit on wild winter steelhead are 1 per day and 3 per year.

Fall Chinook fishing has been slowing down, but a few fish are still available.

Anglers are reminded that there is no wild coho salmon retention.

PACIFIC HALIBUT

All 2017 sport halibut fisheries have concluded. Allocations for 2018 will be announced soon.

For more information, see the sport halibut webpage.

SHORE AND ESTUARY FISHING

Shore and estuary anglers may fish for surfperch, flatfish species like starry flounder and sanddabs, and baitfish (herring, for example).

Due to inseason regulation changes, anglers may NOT catch or retain lingcod, any species of rockfish, cabezon, greenling, or other bottomfish species except for flatfish species like sanddab and starry flounder.

Surfperch fishing is not impacted by this closure, and remains open.

Public piers provide opportunities to catch surfperch and baitfish and to drop crab pots (but check first for crab health safety closures).

Learn about surfperch fishing.

When fishing from shore or inside estuaries and bays, it is important to check the tide.

Many fish that swim into estuaries and bays, including salmon, surfperch, and Pacific herring, tend to come in with the tide.

Catch of these species is more likely to occur closer to slack tide.

Additionally, the accessibility of some areas can be completely dependent on the tide. Do not allow the incoming tide to become a safety hazard.

WARMWATER FISHING — South Coast

The south coast area extends along the Oregon coast from Yachats south to the Oregon-California border.

The area offers some of the most productive and scenic warmwater fishing in the state with excellent fishing for bass and panfish available in large waters such as **Mercer Lake, Siltcoos Lake, and Tahkenitch Lake.**

Tenmile Lakes located north of Coos Bay is renowned for its crappie and trophy bass fisheries, and the site of bass tournaments.

Fish generally range from 1 to 4-pounds, but a 6-pound bass is not uncommon. Bass fishing is best during periods of warmer water from spring through early fall.

When spring water temperatures reach about 60 degrees F, the bass move into shallower water to spawn. During the spawn, lures and jigs that imitate prey such as small fish and crayfish, and soft plastic worms work well.

Anglers should also try one of the many smaller lakes scattered along Highway 101 and throughout the coastal dunes area, or **Triangle Lake** closer to the Willamette Valley.

The warmwater fish available in the south coast area include: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bullheads, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, green sunfish, warmouth and channel catfish.

North and South Tenmile Lake provide some of the finest warmwater fishing on the Oregon coast. Located on the east side of Hwy 101 midway between Reedsport and Coos Bay, the combined lakes offer nearly 2,000 acres of water and miles of shoreline to fish for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and brown bullhead catfish.

Much of the property around Tenmile is privately-owned and the lakes are best fished by boat, but a fishing dock at Tenmile Lake County Park in the small community of Lakeside is wheelchair accessible and a great spot for kids. There also is a campground and boat launch at the County Park. Spinreel Campground (US Forest Service) on the west side of Hwy 101 offers camping for those wanting an extended stay.

Several area resorts and marinas also provide camping spaces, lodging and boat rentals.

The shoreline of North and South Tenmile is varied as a number of streams flow from the coastal foothills and into the lakes creating several large arms and many smaller bays and inlets dotted with pilings, docks and boat houses.

Both lakes are shallow with an average depth of about 15 feet and abundant aquatic weeds, willows and bank vegetation that provide excellent cover and productive habitat for warmwater fish.

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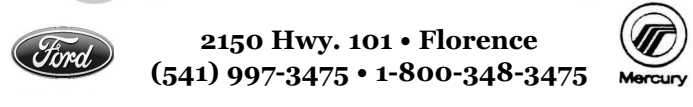
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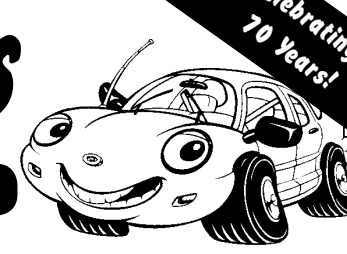
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