

Fishing from 1B

NORTH COAST LAKES:
Trout stocking is complete for the year. Cape Meares, Town, Coffenbury, 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. 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 mid-way 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.

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.

Spinnerbaits, buzzbaits and other surface lures are also effective. Anglers should target areas around willows, docks, logs or vegetation that provide a combination of cover and patches of open water. Good

locations include the Black’s Creek arm and railroad trestle crossing on North Lake, and the Coleman and Templeton arms of South Lake.

• **Crappie**
Anglers catch crappie in both lakes with good fishing in the spring and throughout the summer. Best fishing is in the calm water along the shoreline, in the many small coves and inlets. Crappie anglers should target shaded areas with wood structure including submerged brush and trees, downed logs and docks.

The fish are often found in schools at depths of 10-15 feet. A good set-up is light spinning tackle with 4-pound test line and a light-colored 1/32 ounce jig. Have an assortment of garland-style and curly tail jigs in a variety of bright, neutral and dark colors and sizes.

Use a tapered panfish bobber and change the depth of the jig until you find fish. Allow the jig to sink then retrieve slowly.

Fishing is best early and late in the day, but a mid-day breeze can also trigger a bite. Crappie abundance can go through cycles every few years so check with ODFW for the latest information.

• **Yellow perch**
For yellow perch, you can fish the same areas of the lakes and use a similar set-up as for crappie, but try baiting the jig with a piece of worm. A size-8 hook baited with worm and rigged 1-2 feet above a sinker fished on the bottom will also

work. Perch will most often be found in deeper water than crappie.

Like crappie, perch fishing is best from spring through fall, but they can be caught year-round, even during winter.

• **Bluegill**
Bluegill fishing is best as the water warms during the summer. Bluegill will be found in shallow areas with less woody structure, but more vegetation.

During the late summer and early fall they can be caught in the canal between North and South Tenmile. As with crappie, light spinning gear works well, but smaller jigs and hooks are needed.

A small hook baited with a piece of worm or other panfish bait and suspended 10-18 inches below a bobber can be extremely effective.

Bluegill are aggressive biters, but if you give them too much time they will steal the bait off your hook — pay close attention to your bobber.

They will feed throughout the day and are a great target for young and beginning anglers.

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Rankings from 1B

North Bend and Brookings-Harbor, ranked No. 19.

Last night after press deadlines, North Bend hosted Cascade and Brookings-Harbor travelled to Sutherlin for play-in games.

Marshfield, which went undefeated in the Far West League and finished with the league title, was among eight teams that qualified automatically with a bye in the first

round as one of seven league champions.

Siuslaw finished the season two spots higher than last year’s No. 29 ranking.

Automatic qualifiers for this year’s postseason include:

Cowapa League champion Banks; Cowapa League sec-

ond-place team Seaside; Far West League champion Marshfield; Greater Oregon champion La Grande; Oregon West champion Newport; Skyline Conference champion Mazama; Sky-Em League champion Sisters; and Tri-Valley champion Gladstone.

Little from 1B

So I ask you once again to throw your hat in the ring and submit some questions.

Spring is just around the corner and I will ace it with baseball and softball being in my wheelhouse.

Until next week, why not beat someone to the punch and land a solid question or suggestion before the round is over?

Please send your questions or suggestions to editor @thesiuslawnews.com.



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the spotlight

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