

Fishing

from 1B

(3,000) and Progress Lake (2,000).

BE ALERT TO FISHING REGULATION CHANGES

Fishing regulations can change during the season, especially during popular salmon seasons. To stay on top of the changes, click the yellow “alert” button at the top of the home and Fishing landing pages. You also can check for any regulation updates at the top of each zone of the Recreation Report. (Columbia River spring Chinook seasons at www.myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone

SPRING CHINOOK

Some anglers wait all year for spring Chinook season, and reports of early fish being caught are coming in from the lower Columbia, North Umpqua and lower Rogue rivers. To follow any in-season regulation changes on the Columbia River, check out the regulation update section at the top of the Columbia Zone of the Recreation Report.

SIUSLAW RIVER: *Steelhead*

Winter steelhead fishing has

improved. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

ALSEA RIVER: *Steelhead*

Winter steelhead has picked up throughout the river. A mix of wild and hatchery fish are being caught. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

NESTUCCA RIVER and THREE RIVERS: *Steelhead*

Fishing has been fair to good on the Nestucca. There should be good numbers of broodstock hatchery fish and wild steelhead throughout the system.

Float fishing jigs, beads, or bait, drift fishing, nymphing, and swinging flies or spinners are all good techniques.

Three Rivers is getting on the low side but there are fish throughout the system.

SALMON RIVER: *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. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

Winter steelhead has picked up throughout the river.

SALMONBERRY RIVER:

Steelhead

The Salmonberry is getting low and clear but there should be some big wild steelhead showing up this time of year, but be prepared to catch and release.

Check with the Port of Tillamook Bay for access restrictions.

SILETZ RIVER: *Steelhead*

Winter steelhead is continuing to pick up throughout the river. A mix of wild and hatchery fish are being caught. Rain over the weekend has raised the river level and got fish moving again.

Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

•Note: The 3.5 mile bridge (aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is *now open* to motorized vehicles. The road is open as far as we go, MP 13 but is only open to public vehicles on the weekend.

Anglers can walk/bike in the road during the weekdays. If anglers do walk in they can park at the one mile gate and start from there.

TRASK RIVER: *Steelhead*

This is mostly a wild fish river, although some hatchery strays are caught. Float fishing jigs, beads, or bait, drift fishing, nymphing, and swinging flies or spinners are all good techniques.

WILSON RIVER: *Steelhead*

Fishing is fair to good on the Wilson with some nice fish being caught, including some broodstock hatchery fish.

Float fishing jigs, beads, or bait, drift fishing, nymphing, and swinging flies or spinners are all good techniques.

Y A Q U I N A R I V E R : *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. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

Winter steelhead fishing continues to improve as more fish have moved in to the river.

COOS RIVER BASIN: *Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish, steelhead*

Streams and rivers are now closed to trout fishing until May 22.

The steelhead rivers in the Coos Basin are running a little high after the rain over the weekend but are clearing quickly. Steelhead anglers are having success fishing eggs or yarn balls along the bottom or by fishing a jig suspended below a bobber.

In the Coos Basin, 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult hatchery fish harvested daily.

Anglers fishing the South Fork Coos River above Dellwood will need a permit from Weyerhaeuser, which allows the angler access up to the Seven Mile Bridge.

Permits can be obtained at Weyerhaeuser’s Coos Bay office.

•Recreational fishing for bottomfish is open in the ocean

along with bays and estuaries. The daily bag limit will be 5 marine fish plus 2 lingcod.

•There will be no retention of cabezon until July 1.

•Anglers have reported catching rockfish and lingcod inside Coos Bay near the north jetty.

•Crabbing and clamming updates can now be found in the Crabbing and Clamming section of the Recreation Report.

TENMILE LAKES: *Trout, warmwater species, largemouth bass* (Located 10 miles north of North Bend alongside Highway 101, at the town of Lakeside. County park with camping, boat ramp and a fishing dock.)

Trout anglers trolling spinners and wedding rings have been catching holdover hatchery rainbow trout in Tenmile Lakes. In the spring anglers on Tenmile Lakes will occasionally catch large wild coho smolts (sometimes up to 14-inches).

These coho smolts need to be released alive immediately.

Trout fishing is open all year in Tenmile Lakes.

Fishing for largemouth bass has been slow. Water temperatures are cold so anglers will need to slow down there presentations. Most bass will be found in deeper water near structure or weed edges.

Anglers have reported the fishing for yellow perch has slowed down. There are lots of small yellow perch so anglers will have to sort to find larger perch.

WINCHESTER BAY: *Bottomfish, perch*

Fishing in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful.

PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: *Bottomfish, crab, surfperch*

Starting April 1, bottomfish anglers will need to fish inside the 30 fathom curve. The daily bag limit will be 5 marine fish plus 2 lingcod.

There will be no retention of cabezon until July 1. Anglers have been catching big lingcod fishing in deep water outside of Coos Bay, Bandon, and Winchester Bay.

•Anglers also are catching lots of rockfish. Anglers may also choose to fish the offshore longleader fishery outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line January-March and October-December.

•The longleader fishery has a daily bag limit of 10 fish made of yellowtail, widow, canary, redstripe, greenstripe, silvergray, and bocaccio rockfish.

•No other groundfish are allowed and offshore longleader fishing trips cannot be combined with traditional bottomfish, flatfish or halibut trips.

•Surfperch fishing has been decent when the ocean swells have been small. Anglers are having the best luck fishing the beaches with sand shrimp or Berkley Gulp sand worms. Anglers need to be careful of rough ocean conditions and sneaker waves.

SALMON:

In May/June start thinking spring Chinook in rivers and basins from Tillamook south to the Siletz. By August attention turns to fall Chinook and coho. There is a rare opportunity to fish for chum salmon (catch-

and-release only) on the Kilchis and Miami rivers beginning in mid-September.

STEELHEAD:

These ocean-going rainbow trout are divided into two runs: winter and summer. For those that prefer frost bite to sunburn, winter steelhead begin entering area rivers and streams from November and December (depending on the timing of the fall rains) and runs can continue through April.

Summer steelhead returns begin in early April to early June in the Nestucca, Siletz, Trask and Wilson rivers. Summer fish will continue to arrive through late summer and early fall, sometimes overlapping with winter returning fish.

TROUT:

Cutthroat trout live in these coastal rivers and streams. Although resident fish may be small, they are feisty and fun to catch. Fishing these cool, shaded waters also can provide a welcome respite from the summer heat. In late summer, look for sea-run cutthroat to migrate from the estuaries back to freshwater to spawn. These can be large, hard-fighting fish.

Dozens of lakes and ponds throughout the zone are stocked with rainbow trout from February through May and, for some, again in October.

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.

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 deadly.

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.

BROWN BULLHEAD:

Spinning tackle also works well for the brown bullhead catfish, which are abundant and can reach up to 13-inches long.

Worms or baits with a strong odor are effective, particularly when fished near the shore in the evening or at night. Use 6-8 pound test line and a sliding egg sinker placed above a barrel swivel.

Below the swivel, tie your hook to the end of an 18-inch leader. The sliding sinker allows the fish to take the bait without feeling the weight of the sinker.

If you’re fishing in an area with weeds, a float can be used instead of a sinker to suspend the bait above the weeds.

MARINE ZONE

PACIFIC HALIBUT:

Halibut can get big — upwards of 100 pounds and almost 70-inches long — making them one of the most popular marine fish. Hauling in these sometimes huge, very flat fish can be back breaking work, but the reward is a delicious fish large enough to feed more than a few family members and friends.

Halibut seasons are announced in May and fishing generally occurs in June and again in August. These are quota fisheries that can close early, so it’s important to double-check the open dates before fishing. If you’re up for a halibut fishing adventure, but you don’t have a boat or halibut gear, there are charter boats in most Oregon ports that can take you out for a day of fishing.

OCEAN SALMON:

Before they enter fresh water to spawn, ocean coho and Chinook stage in coastal waters near the mouths of bays and rivers. Ocean salmon seasons are announced in May, and fishing is usually best in July and August as migrating coho and feeder Chinook salmon are readily available.

Many of the ocean salmon seasons are based on quotas and may close early, so it’s important to double-check the status of the fishery before fishing.

Charter fleets in several Oregon ports offer salmon fishing trips.

SURF PERCH:

Surf perch are the perfect ocean fish for anglers who like to keep their feet firmly on the ground. These disc-shaped fish can reach up to 15-inches and come in a variety of colors.

Fish for retdail and silver surf perch in the surf off sandy beaches. Striped and pile perch congregate near rocks, jetties, docks and pilings in the bays.

There is a liberal bag limit for surf perch (up to 15 fish per day including all species). But since we don’t know a lot about surf perch populations, we recommend you keep enough for a good meal (they are excellent eating) and release the rest.

ROCKFISH:

Ranging in color from black to orange or red, more than two dozen species of rockfish are found along the Oregon coast. Many rockfish species are full-size at about 16-inches (41 cm).

Some species, such as black rockfish, hang out in schools while others are solitary. Individuals of some species can live more than 100 years.

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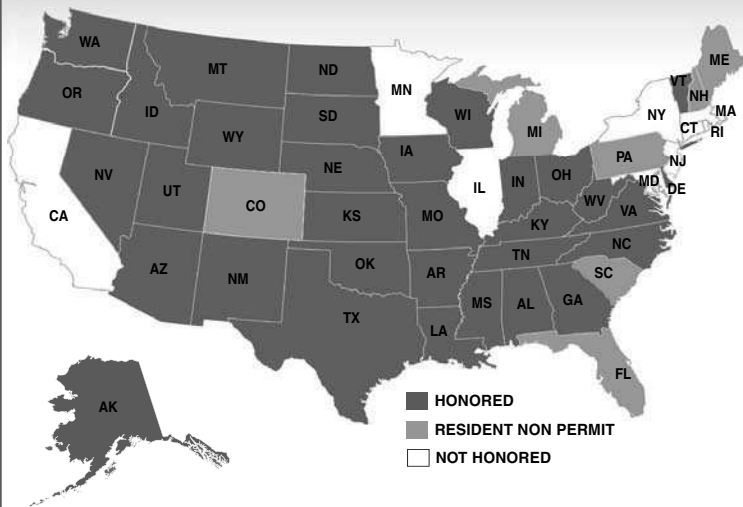
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