

ODFW from 1B

and social needs,” said Ken Loffink, ODFW fish screening coordinator.

“This is a great opportunity to get directly involved helping make recommendations regarding Fish Screening Program implementation and to learn more about fish screening and passage issues.”

The Task Force meets three times a year at various locations, and meetings may include a field trip to project sites in the area.

The seven members of the Task Force are appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. Three members represent agricultural interests, three members represent fishing or fish

conservation interests, and one member represents the public at large.

‘Members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed.

Applications are due by Jan. 11, 2019. Individuals interested in serving on the task force can apply by completing the application form found on the fish screening program website and submitting the completed application via email to ken.j.loffink@state.or.us or by mail to Ken Loffink, ODFW Fish Screening Program, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302.

For more information regarding the Task Force, call Ken Loffink at (503) 947-6256.

Fishing from 1B

fishing with bait/jigs, drift fishing, and casting lures are good techniques to catch a Siuslaw winter steelhead.

Steelhead fishing remains open in the closed Chinook areas of the Siuslaw and Lake Creek.

Due to lower than expected returns and conservation concerns, fall Chinook fishing on the Siuslaw remains closed upstream of the Tiernan boat ramp (downstream of Mapleton).

Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 through the remainder of the season.

Chinook fishing continues to be slow in the open area.

All wild coho must be released for the 2018 fall salmon season.

Lake Creek, a tributary of the Siuslaw River, is closed for the 2018 fall salmon season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

ALSEA RIVER: *Fall Chinook, winter steelhead*

Winter steelhead fishing has begun on the Alsea River. The popular North Fork Alsea fishery opened on Dec. 1. Fishing has been slow so far, the river is low and clear and water temperatures have dropped with the cold nights and east winds.

During these conditions, the lower Alsea can be good as fish slow their migration and spend more time lower in the system.

Expect things to pick up this week with the change in weather and more rain in the forecast. The Alsea still gets a good amount of the early returning stock that peaks in December and January, as well as a later stock that peaks in February and March. Expect more fish to show up with each rise in the river level from now through April. Bobber fishing with jigs/bait, drift fishing, and casting lures are all effective ways to catch these hard fighting fish.

Reminder: Winter steelhead fishing remains open in the areas closed to Chinook. When fishing for winter

steelhead remember to practice good ethics and leave spawning Chinook and coho salmon alone so they can provide fish for the future.

Due to lower than expected returns and conservation concerns, fall Chinook fishing is closed on the Alsea upstream of the Five Rivers bridge. Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 through the remainder of the season. Very few fish are being caught below the deadline and fishing continues to be very slow. Steelhead fishing is still open in the closed chinook areas.

All wild coho must be released during the 2018 fall salmon season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

SALMON RIVER: Fall Chinook, winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing opened on Dec. 1. The Salmon River has no hatchery releases and is entirely a wild run. These fish will start to enter the system in December but the peak is January through March. Bobber fishing with jigs/bait and casting lures are great techniques to catch a Salmon River winter steelhead.

Fall Chinook fishing is winding down on the Salmon River. Due to lower than expected returns and conservation concerns, Chinook fishing above the Salmon River hatchery is closed for the remainder of the 2018 season.

Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 through the remainder of the season.

All wild coho must be released during the 2018 fall salmon season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

SILETZ RIVER: *Winter steelhead*

Winter steelhead are starting to show up in the Siletz River. It is still a little early for the Siletz but the winter steelhead fishing will continue to improve as we get later into December. January is typically when things heat up and continue through March/

April.

The low clear water and cold conditions will be changing this week with warmer weather and rain in the forecast. Side drifting, bobber dogging, bobber fishing with jigs, and casting lures are all great techniques to catch winter steelhead.

When fishing for winter steelhead remember to practice good ethics and leave spawning Chinook and coho salmon alone so they can provide fish for the future.

Fall Chinook fishing continues to be slow on the Siletz River. Due to lower than expected returns and conservation concerns, the Siletz River is now closed to Chinook fishing above the marker located approximately 1200 ft. upstream of the Ojalla boat ramp. Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 through the remainder of the season.

All wild coho must be released during the 2018 fall salmon season.

Steelhead fishing is open in the gorge area year-round but salmon fishing/retention is closed upstream of the marker approximately 1200 ft. above the Ojalla boat ramp for the remainder of the 2018 fall salmon season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

The 3.5 mile bridge (aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is open to motorized vehicles, 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.

WILSON RIVER: *Steelhead*

The Wilson River went up over 2 feet with Tuesday’s rain, and blew out. However, it’s on the drop and should be in prime fishing condition by Thursday or Friday and through the weekend.

There should be steelhead coming in as the river drops, the early returning hatchery fish are usually best in the lower river (below Mills Bridge), but we wouldn’t be surprised to see a few broodstock fish sneaking in as well.

Due to a poor return of

Chinook salmon, and conservation concerns about meeting spawning escapement goals, emergency regulation changes took effect for coastal rivers in the NW Zone on Nov. 1, 2018. As a result the Wilson River is closed to fall Chinook fishing upstream of the yellow ODFW sign posted near Makinster Road at River Mile 1.1 (in tidewater). Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 from Nov. 1 through the remainder of the season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Winter steelhead*

Winter steelhead fishing opened on the Yaquina and Big Elk on Dec. 1. No hatchery fish are released into the Yaquina/Big Elk so most fish caught are wild. January through March is the peak for the wild winter steelhead in the Yaquina/Big Elk. Bobber fishing with bait/jigs, drift fishing and casting lures are effective ways to catch these fish.

Due to lower than expected returns and conservation concerns, Fall Chinook fishing on the Yaquina remains closed upstream of the Elk City boat ramp. In addition, the Big Elk is closed for the remainder of the 2018 Chinook season. Below the deadline the bag limit for fall Chinook is reduced to one adult Chinook per day and a limit of 3 through the remainder of the season. Fall Chinook fishing is very slow in the area still open.

All wild coho must be released during the 2018 fall salmon season.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

Angling for Chinook is prohibited upstream of the following boundaries:

- Wilson River — Yellow ODFW sign posted near Makinster Road at River Mile 1.1 (in tidewater).
- Salmon River - Marker 200 ft. below hatchery weir.
- Siletz River — Closed to angling for Chinook upstream of the ODFW marker located 1,200 feet above the Ojalla Boat Ramp.

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