

# OREGON, WASHINGTON SET 2019 SUMMER, FALL SALMON SEASONS

Oregon and Washington fishery managers recently announced seasons and regulations for 2019 summer and fall Columbia River fisheries. Although coho returns are projected to be much better than recent runs, below-average projections for summer Chinook, fall Chinook, sockeye and upriver summer steelhead will require another year of reduced seasons and bag

limits, and in some cases closures for these runs. The summer season will be limited to steelhead retention. The weak summer Chinook forecast of 35,900 fish returning to the Columbia River would be the lowest return since 2000 and too small to provide for directed harvest in non-treaty fisheries. Similar to 2018, sockeye retention will also be prohibited due to projected

low escapement. The fall seasons will start Aug. 1 based on a projected return of 349,700 fall Chinook, which is almost 20 percent higher than the actual return of 293,400 last year. This year's forecast includes 159,250 upriver bright Chinook, compared to a return of 149,000 in 2018. The allowed harvest rate of 8.25 percent on this stock is down from 15 per-

cent available during many recent years, resulting in shorter fall Chinook retention seasons. "The reduced harvest rate for upriver bright fall Chinook has made it challenging to design fall recreational fisheries the last two years," said John North, fisheries manager for ODFW's Columbia River Program. "Working with the public in the recent season-setting pro-

cess, we tried to balance opportunity with management constraints for fall Chinook and steelhead." Due to the low projected returns for upriver summer steelhead, additional protective regulations are needed this fall including a one steelhead daily bag limit and area-specific steelhead retention closures. The rolling 1- to 2-month closures start in

August and progress upriver following the steelhead return to reduce take of both hatchery and wild fish. These closures affect the main-stem Columbia and the lower reaches of specific tributaries. For more information about upcoming Columbia River seasons, including regulation updates, visit ODFW's online fishing reports at [www.myodfw.com](http://www.myodfw.com).

## BOATING OREGON'S WATERWAYS? PLAN AHEAD, PAY ATTENTION

There are dozens of boat types on the market and so many opportunities to explore Oregon's waterways. Regardless of what's calling you to the water and the type of boat you're in, be sure to plan ahead, know your limits, pay attention to your surroundings and share the water so everyone can have a fun time.

The Oregon State Marine Board invites boaters to explore the interactive Boating Oregon Map, where you can find a boat ramp near you, plan for a weekend escape to places less-frequented or find a waterway in the center of all the action.

"There's plenty of water around the state to play in this year," says Ashley Massey, Public Information Officer for the Marine Board. "Why not consider exploring a new waterbody and new adventures? There are dozens of waterbodies perfectly suited for non-motorized boating and just as many 'electric motor only' lakes, for folks looking for a serene, relaxing, and peaceful excursion. Take a few minutes to plan ahead and check out the Marine Board's interactive Boat Oregon Map with all of the public boat ramps and a data layer with local rules."

Massey also advises to "check the weather forecast, water levels or tides, see if there are any reported obstructions, and have the right gear for the activities you're doing," Massey adds, "Boaters can also check the Marine Board's

website to find out what equipment is required based on the size of the boat and rules for operation which vary by waterbody."

Massey also emphasizes paying attention to your surroundings, continually scanning port to starboard and keeping a close eye on what's ahead.

"Brush up on the rules-of-the-road, start out slow because of debris in the water from this past winter, and whatever you do: Don't text and drive. Taking video and pictures, along with social media and texting can be fun, but the operator needs to maintain focus and awareness to what's going on around them," says Massey. "The captain is responsible for the safety of everyone on board, but everyone needs to pitch in and be an active, alert crew, working together."

High water levels in the spring cover many wing dams (also known as pile dikes) on rivers and bays and are just below the surface. Massey adds, "Boaters need to keep their distance from the shoreline, up to several hundred feet in some locations, so they don't inadvertently hit one of the piles."

Boaters are encouraged to learn where the wing dams are located based on the waterbody where they're boating from NOAA Charts. The navigation charts can be downloaded for free.

The Marine Board also recommends boaters play it safe by:

- Not using marijuana, drugs or alcohol. Instead, take along a variety of non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of water. Impairment can lead to a BUII arrest. Drugs and alcohol impair a boater's judgment and coordination which every boat operator needs. Swift currents, changing weather and debris require boat operators to be focused and skilled to avoid an accident.
- If you are feeling tired, take a break on land and return to the water when you are re-energized and alert. Wind, glare, dehydration and wave motion contribute to fatigue. Continually monitor the weather because it changes quickly.
- Operators and passengers should wear properly fitting life jackets. Learn more about life jacket types, styles, and legal requirements. Anyone rafting on Class III Whitewater Rivers is required to wear a life jacket, and all children 12 and under when a boat is underway. The water temperature for most waterways is below 50 degrees this time of year and wearing a life jacket is the most important piece of equipment for surviving the first few seconds of cold water immersion. What's the downside to wearing one?

- Never boat alone — especially when paddling. Always let others know where you are going and when you'll return. Print out a downloadable float plan to leave with friends

and family.

- Be courteous to other boaters and share the waterway. Congestion is a given in many popular locations, especially with nice weather. By staying in calmer water near the shore, paddlers can help ease conflict with motorized boats and sailboats that need deeper water to operate. Non-motorized boats are encouraged to use the shoreline adjacent to the ramp to help ease congestion. Regardless of your boat type, stage your gear in the parking lot or staging area prior to launching your boat. This makes launching faster and everyone around you, happier.

In Oregon, all boaters must take a boating safety course and carry a boater education card when operating a powerboat greater than 10 horsepower. The Marine Board also offers a free, online Paddling Course for boaters new to the activity.

For more information about safe boating in Oregon, visit [www.boat-oregon.com](http://www.boat-oregon.com).

### Little from 1B

facing a challenge to even make the league play-offs in most sports.

When I was a student athlete at Warrenton High School, we were also a small fish. Beating our rival and a possible upset victory were our only claims to success. Siuslaw, since re-classification cost us our forever rival with Reedsport, we have not yet established a true rival — yet there is hope in our future.

Most of our teams were young. The competitiveness and learning throughout the season has shown Viking spirit. The football team traveled over five hours on the bus to try and secure its only victory... and did. The softball and baseball teams also struggled but never gave up, defeating Marshfield and Elmira, respectively, in their final week.

It will take all athletes to be ready for the coming year. There are great challenges ahead for each and every team in the 2019-20 school year. Only with dedication, hard work and versatile athletes willing to compete in multiple sports will the Vikings be contenders. The best ath-

letes need to be leaders in more than just one sport. The league is a strong one and we can't be caught up in the fact we are small in numbers.

Woodburn High School petitioned the OSAA to move down in classification from 5A to 4A this year. They currently have 1,066 students and yet were granted the petition. Why? Because they had not been competitive in any sports at the 5A level. How did they do this year? One state title in soccer and few play-off teams in all other sports. Even if you think

you can win with larger teams it may not happen if you lack competitiveness.

I am reminded of the old saying: "It is not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog." The Vikings have been competitive for over my four decades here. We need to continue playing the Siuslaw way, competing until the end of every game and contest next year.

And just as importantly, it's also time for the fans to fill the bleachers and support our teams regardless of their win-loss record.



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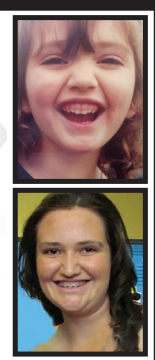
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