

# AS DRY WEATHER CONTINUES, MARINE BOARD WARNS PADDLERS, FLOATERS OF LOW-WATER DANGER

Lower water levels create safety challenges for paddlers and floaters, especially inexperienced recreators who are unfamiliar with how to safely maneuver their craft around obstructions near the banks or just below the surface of the water.

The Oregon State Marine Board offers the following tips on how to have fun and stay safe:

- Always float with a friend, especially in paddlecraft or float tubes. Have at least two boats or float devices and a plan if you become separated.

Always fill out a float plan or give detailed information to a friend or family member about where you're going, when you expect to return, what clothing you're wearing, and who's with you.

- Keep your wits about you. Boating in rivers can be extremely relaxing; so much so, that it's easy to be hypnotized and less aware of your surroundings.

- Always keep a sharp lookout and routinely scan from left to right and right to left for logs, submerged objects, and watch the direction the current is carrying you.

- Stay well clear of log jams and strainers (root wads, trees, branches, logs). They allow water through them but can catch and entrap paddlers underwater, entangle lines, and easily puncture float tubes or pool toys not designed for river use.

- Read the water. Where is there white-water? Where does the water eddy? These indicate what's below the surface and give key information to boaters on how to safely navigate the run and what line to take.

- Scouting your float ahead of time is worth the time. Determine the safest course when boulders, gravel bars, or fallen trees/root wads are present.

- Go with your "gut feeling." If something doesn't feel right, listen to it. "When in doubt, portage out" and take the boat over and around an obstruction.

- Know your limits. Know your ability at the moment, not from what you know you're capable of doing. Stick to rivers that are classified as I or II if you have a medical condition or are new to river

running/floaters.

- Use the right gear for the type of boating. When running Class III or higher rapids, a helmet, properly fitting life jacket, a throw bag, and secured gear is incredibly important. Two inner tubes tied together or in an inflatable craft with more than one air chamber are defined as a "boat" and are required to carry a properly fitting life jacket and a sound-producing device like a whistle. The Marine Board advocates even people floating in single inner tubes or pool toys wear a life jacket. Inner

tubes and pool toys aren't designed for rivers and can easily puncture, in addition to quickly floating away from a person in fast current.

- On reservoirs and lakes, sharp drop-offs are a given. Tree stumps, boulders, and fallen trees may not be visible. Take special care when operating near the banks, where many of these obstructions lie just below the surface. Wear a life jacket, especially children, when on the banks. Expect banks to be unstable.

## Camp from 1B

Johnson, who will be running the camp with assistant coach and long-time defensive coordinator Jerry Fleming.

"It meant a lot to me when I was a little kid when the high school boys would come down. Instead of just making it an upperclassman sort of thing, we're making it everybody's responsibility. It's pretty cool when our high school boys get to go out and help with the elementary school. I know coach Fleming will have a teacher's aide as one of our guys — so, it's getting the little kids to know them."

The camp will focus mostly on the fundamentals that will create a foundation to build from — basic football movements, how to run a route, how to

do the proper footwork, an obstacle course, and more.

"We're not going to teach them to run the veer," Johnson chuckled. "It's just being able to go out with their friends and have fun before school starts."

The camp will also act as a training ground for this year's ball boys and girls, who will help assist the high school teams throughout the season. "It's about getting those kids

out and getting used to the players and being comfortable around them," Johnson said. "There will be five or six little kids every Friday night."

The camp begins this Monday, Aug. 12, with the following schedule:

- 1st and 2nd grade with coach Fleming will be held Aug. 12-15 from 3:15 to 4 p.m. each day
- 3rd through 8th grade with coach Johnson will be

August 12-15, from 4:15 to 6 p.m. each day

High schoolers with be with coach Johnson from Aug. 12-16, from 7 to 9 a.m.

The cost for the four-day camp is \$10, which will include a camp T-shirt. A registration booth will be set up at the camp, which is held on the practice field behind the high school auxiliary gym.

"You can register last

minute, we love that," Johnson said. "We love seeing all the kids before they go back to school. It's like having a summer check-in. It's a really good group of people helping out this year, so it's really nice having kids see familiar faces and a couple of new faces. It'll be a really good time."

## Salmon from 1B

fish during their freshwater life stages. In the late 1800s, as many as 450,000 coho salmon returned to the Siuslaw every year. That number decreased to as low as 500 coho salmon returning in the 1990s. The watershed and

its partners are working to ensure a sustainable and resilient population of salmon in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes so that future generations can have salmon in their streams.

Learn more about the Siuslaw Watershed online at [siuslaw.org](http://siuslaw.org) or attend the Aug. 28 event, which is open to the public.

## Fishing from 1B

The Siletz River is open year-round for steelhead. Summer steelhead fishing continues to be slow this season but did pick up last week with some better fishing. Although it has been a slow year so far, anglers are catching summer steelhead everyday primarily in the gorge area and pressure continues to be light.

The 4.0 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.

Trout fishing is open. Check the regulations for open areas and gear restrictions.

### SILTCOOS & TAHKENITCH LAKES: Warmwater species

Warmwater fishing has been good on Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes as well as many other lakes in the Florence area. Water temperatures are warm and fish can be found throughout the lake in a variety of habitats. Warmwater fishing will continue to be good through the summer and into the fall.

Siltcoos also gets stocked rainbow trout, check the stocking schedule for numbers and dates of

### SIUSLAW RIVER: Cutthroat trout

Open to trout fishing. Check the regulations for open areas and gear restrictions.

### WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, cutthroat trout

Summer steelhead are available throughout the system, but reports are that fishing has been slow and it appears to be a below average run. These fish can be challenging to catch, but are great fighters and good table fair for those who are successful.

The Wilson offers plenty of bank access, especially on the upper river. The river is low and clear, so fishing light tackle and early starts are keys to success in this fishery. Bobber fishing with jigs/bait/beads, casting lures, and drift fishing are great techniques to catch a summer steelhead.

Trout fishing should be fair to good throughout the river. This time of year there can be some good opportunity for sea-run cutthroat in the upper tidewater and lower River. These are aggressive fish and fun fighters on light gear.

Spring Chinook season closed on July 31. Fall Chinook salmon season legally opened on Aug. 1, but it will be quite some time before we would expect to see any in the river.

Anglers are reminded that this year's bag limit for

wild Chinook is 1 per day and 5 per year from the North coast aggregate (Necanicum River to Salmon River).

### COOS RIVER BASIN: Trout, marine perch species, salmon

Fishing for rockfish inside the bay has been good near the submerged rock piles. Fishing is typically best near slacktide. A jig with a twister tail can be a great bait for catching rock-fish.

Temporary fall Chinook salmon regulations started Aug. 1. Salmon anglers in Coos Bay will only be able to harvest 1 wild Chinook per day and 5 wild Chinook for the season in aggregate from all waters from Coos Basin,

### TENMILE LAKES: Trout, warmwater species, largemouth bass

Bass fishing has been good on Tenmile Lakes. Anglers are catching most of the bass along the deeper weedlines and submerged trees, but are also catching a few on topwater lures in the mornings and evenings.

Yellow perch fishing is picking up with anglers catching yellow perch along the edges of weedlines. Most of the fish are under 10 inches long but there are a few 12-inch plus fish being caught.

Trout fishing has slowed down on Tenmile Lakes but a few anglers are still trolling deep with wedding ring spinners. The Oregon Health Authority issued a recreation use health advisory on July 19 for the South Lake at Tenmile Lakes due to the presence of a cyanobacterial (harmful algae) bloom and cyan

toxins (harmful algae toxins) above recreational guideline values for human exposure.

### UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Trout, bass, warmwater

Some stretches of the South are closed to fishing still. Trout fishing in the entire basin is catch-and-release only. Bass fishing has been good throughout

### WINCHESTER BAY: Bottomfish, perch

Fishing in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful.

### PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: Bottomfish, salmon, halibut, surfperch

Bottomfishing is restricted to inside the 40-fathom regulatory line through September. Fishing for lingcod and rockfish has been good when the ocean is calm enough to fish.

The daily bag limit for marine fish is 5 plus 2 lingcod. Anglers may also choose to fish the offshore longleader fishery outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line, which is open year-round. Ocean salmon fishing for Chinook salmon from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt is open. Chinook must be a minimum of 24-inches long and coho must be at least 16 inches.

Fishing for salmon has been okay with Winchester Bay being the most productive ports on the coast. Anglers have been averaging one fish per person. As of July 21, ocean salmon anglers have caught 30.3 percent of the fin-clipped coho quota.

The Nearshore Halibut season is open seven days a week in the Central Coast.

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