

ODFW from 1B

have closed access to boat ramps or other locations.

Check the access restrictions where you are

headed before going.

Salmon and steelhead fishing in the Columbia River is also closed, as this fishery is managed concurrently with the state of Washington where all hunting and

fishing is closed. Walleye and other fisheries remain open on the Columbia River.

"We thank anglers, hunters, clammers and all people recreating outdoors for following the

guidelines," said Melcher. "The outdoors provides an important outlet during this difficult time. We want to keep these seasons open provided they don't contribute to the spread of COVID-19."

Boating from 1B

out of their vehicle at the inspection station and ODFW encourages all people riding in the vehicle to stay within the vehicle and to communicate through their window if they have questions about the inspection.

Watercraft found with aquatic invasive species attached are decontaminated on the spot. Both boat inspections and decontaminations, if needed, are free.

Inspecting boats coming into the state is the first line of defense in keeping aquatic invasive species such as zebra or quagga mussels, snails and aquatic plants out of Oregon.

These invaders can cost millions in damage to water delivery systems and serious environmental damage to our rivers, lakes and native aquatic species.

"It's important for boaters to stop at these stations,

get a free boat inspection, and help keep aquatic invaders out of Oregon and Pacific Northwest waters," said Rick Boatner, ODFW Invasive Species Supervisor.

"People who stop at these stations are directly contributing to our success in keeping aquatic invasive zebra and quagga mussels, snails and aquatic plants out of Oregon," added Boatner.

All vehicles towing or carrying motorized or non-motorized boats, including canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and sailboats must stop. Anyone hauling a boat who doesn't stop at an open station could receive a \$110 fine.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permits are also required for most boaters in Oregon. Both resident and non-resident non-motorized boats (paddlecraft) 10 feet and longer require a permit and all non-resident motorized boats. Resident

motorized boat permits are included in their Oregon boater registration fee.

Permits can be purchased online at either the Oregon State Marine Board website or with ODFW Electronic License system.

Permits may not be obtained in-person at ODFW offices which are closed to the public due to COVID-19 social distancing measures.

Permit sales provide funding for the six boat inspection stations throughout Oregon.

"Everyone who boats needs to make sure they always practice 'Clean, Drain, and Dry' before putting their boat in at another water body. All boaters and anglers should be vigilant about cleaning and drying all their gear after each use," Boatner said.

ODFW technicians are specifically trained to inspect for aquatic invasive species such as zebra and

quagga mussels that can range in size from microscopic to up to two inches and attach themselves to many areas on boats that are hard to see.

They can also live as long as 21 days out of water. New Zealand mud snails are just three to six millimeters long and easily attach themselves to boots, waders and fishing gear.

In 2019, technicians inspected 26,875 watercraft coming into Oregon and found 400 with aquatic invasive species.

Aquatic vegetation, marine and freshwater organisms contaminated 384 of those boats and the remaining 16 had quagga or zebra mussels attached.

Contaminated boats came from Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Texas and Utah.

For boat safety inspections, contact your local county sheriff marine patrol or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Fishing from 1B

the road during the weekdays. If anglers do walk in, they can park at the 1-mile gate and start from there.

ALSEA RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing has slowed down on all sections of the Alsea River. Low water has made for tough conditions throughout the system resulting in slower fishing.

The later returning hatchery fish will continue to move in through the month of March and provide opportunities to catch a steelhead. Until we get some rain the lower portions of the river will be the best chance for success.

Reminder: No overnight camping is allowed in vehicles around the NF Alsea hatchery in the parking lot or on any of the roads.

The Alsea River receives two different stocks of hatchery steelhead, one "traditional" stock that is

an early returner and peaks in December/January and a later returning wild broodstock that peaks January-March.

These two stocks combine to provide winter steelhead fishing opportunities through April.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen on May 22.

WILSON RIVER: steelhead

Access may be limited and many boat ramps and campgrounds on the Wilson have been closed for the time being.

The Wilson is still a little low and clear but is predicted to be on the rise this weekend, which could get steelhead moving again. There are hatchery and wild steelhead throughout the system.

Anglers are reminded that the Little North Fork and South Fork will close to steelhead fishing at the end of the month.

Trout season will reopen on May 22, 2020.

YAQUINA RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead is

open on the Yaquina and Big Elk systems for the season. January through April is the typical peak for winter steelhead in the Yaquina/Big Elk.

• Trout stocking schedule offline:

We have taken down the online trout stocking schedule in order to prevent public crowding at waterbodies when we deliver hatchery fish. We will continue stocking trout but we will deliver on a slightly different schedule and at some different locations to avoid a rush of anglers showing up along with the hatchery truck.

We will continue to stock popular lakes and ponds as long as people do their part and continue to use social distancing. We want to spread out angling effort in terms of timing and physical distance between anglers by not sharing our stocking schedule with the public. Thank you for understanding and doing your part to keep each other

safe.

NOTE: Local ODFW offices do not have access to the trout stocking schedule either.

PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES: bottomfish, salmon, halibut, surfperch

Bottomfishing is now open to fish at all depths. Fishing for lingcod has been good when anglers can get out on the ocean.

The daily bag limit for marine fish is 5 of which only one can be a copper, quillback or China rockfish.

Anglers are also allowed 2 lingcod per day. The harvest of cabezon will not open until July 1.

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Anglers may also choose to fish the offshore longleader fishery outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line, which is open year-round. The longleader fishery has a daily bag limit of 10 fish made of yellowtail, widow, canary, blue, and green stripe.



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This closure includes the sales department, autobody shop and service.

We have an expected re-open date of April 13th.

Although the closure is not state mandated

Johnston Motor Company believes extending the closure is an important precaution to keep staff and customers safe. The health and safety of the community is our top priority.

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