

**Fishing** from 1B

hatchery fish will start to show up in December and peak in January and February.

**ALSEA RIVER:** Winter steelhead  
Winter steelhead fishing is picking up on the Alsea River. The recent high water has put fish on the move headed for the hatchery on the NF Alsea and anglers are catching them. Conditions will be

good this week on the popular NF Alsea bank fishery as the river levels drop back into shape. The dry weather in the forecast will keep the river on the drop and fish moving through the holiday weekend. Conditions will be good for the drift boaters later in the week and into the weekend. Fish are now distributed throughout the river and the numbers will increase with each bump in river levels.

*Reminder:* The popular winter steelhead bank fishery around the Alsea Hatchery remains open but the hatchery grounds are closed to the public. Anglers are required to park in the designated parking lot to access the river and are not allowed to park near or enter the hatchery grounds. Please be respectful of the hatchery staff and follow these rules to ensure this popular fishery remains open for the 2020/2021 season.

Cutthroat trout fishing closed for the season on Oct. 31.  
**SALMON RIVER:** Winter steelhead  
Winter steelhead fishing is open on the Salmon River and should start to pick up later in December and into January. The peak for winter steelhead on the Salmon River is typically January to March. Note: The Salmon River hatchery remains closed to walk in anglers. Anglers can use access points upstream and downstream of the hatchery to access those traditional fishing locations.  
**SILETZ RIVER:** Winter steelhead  
Winter steelheading has been slow on the Siletz River due to the high unfishable water. The dry forecast this week has the river dropping quickly into shape creating great conditions for the first good push of winter steelhead for the season. Expect fish to be distributed throughout the system once the river levels recede. The typical peak for Siletz winter steelhead is January to March.  
The 4-mile bridge (aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is open to motorized vehicles on the weekends only. Anglers can walk/bike in the road during the weekdays. There is a parking area located at the 1-mile gate where anglers can walk/bike upstream from there.  
**WILSON RIVER:** Steelhead  
The Wilson's returning hatchery steelhead run is all "broodstock" hatchery fish, meaning their origins are Wilson wild steelhead. As such, their run timing mimics that of the wild run, which peaks January through March.

That said, there should be a few fish around as the Wilson drops back into shape.  
**YAQUINA RIVER:** Winter steelhead  
Winter steelhead will start to show up in the Yaquina/Big Elk in December and typically peak from January to March.  
**COOS RIVER BASIN:** Marine perch species, salmon, steelhead  
The lower Coos Bay estuary has been a little rough from the recent ocean swells but anglers can still catch rockfish along the jetty and submerged rock structures when the bay is calmer. Smaller jigs with a twister tail or 1-ounce jiggling spoons have been working to catch rockfish and greenling. The daily bag limit for marine fish was recently increased to 7, which for boat anglers cannot include any copper, quillback, China rockfish or cabezon.  
Bank anglers can still retain one copper, quillback or China rockfish and 1 cabezon as part of their daily bag limit. Boat and bank anglers are also allowed 2 lingcod per day.  
Trout fishing in streams and rivers is now closed until next spring.  
**TENMILE LAKES/ TENMILE CREEK:** Steelhead, largemouth bass  
Steelhead anglers have caught a couple hatchery steelhead on Tenmile Creek this past week. Eel Creek opens to steelhead fishing until Jan. 1.  
Largemouth bass in Tenmile Lakes can be found in deeper water around submerged cover. Anglers will want to slow down their presentation with the colder water

temperatures.  
The wild coho fishery in Tenmile Lakes closed Dec. 31. Most coho have moved upstream into the creeks to spawn and most anglers have switched over to steelhead fishing. Anglers are allowed to harvest 1 wild coho per day and 5 for the season in aggregate with Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes.  
**UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH:** Winter Steelhead  
You will start seeing more and more anglers on the South as we move in the January. Don't forget to turn in snout from hatchery Winter Steelhead for a chance to win a gift card.  
**PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES:** Bottomfish, surfperch  
Bottomfishing is open to all depths although the ocean has been pretty rough lately keeping most anglers from getting out on the ocean. The daily bag limit for marine fish was increased to 7 through the end of the year. But anglers must release all cabezon, copper, quillback and China rockfish when fishing from a boat.  
Anglers are also allowed 2 lingcod per day.  
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, deacon, redstripe, green-stripe, silvergray, chillipepper, and bocaccio rockfish.  
No other groundfish are allowed and offshore longleader fishing trips cannot be combined with traditional bottomfish, flatfish or halibut trips.  
Surfperch anglers are having some success on the beaches when the ocean swells are smaller using sand shrimp or Berkley Gulp sand worms.  
Ocean Chinook salmon fishing is now closed until next year.  
The Nearshore and All Depth Halibut seasons are now closed for the season.  
**Pacific halibut:** All areas are closed for Pacific halibut for the remainder of 2020.  
**Ocean salmon:** All areas are closed for ocean salmon fishing for the remainder of 2020. The area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. will reopen for all salmon-except coho on March 15, 2021 (this opening could be modified by in-season action during the March 2021 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting).  
**Razor clams:** The recreational harvest of razor clams is closed from the Columbia River to the California border. ODA recommends you discard and do not eat any razor clams dug from these areas on or since Monday, Nov. 16 as this is when samples were dug.  
**Crabbing:** Effective Jan. 1, 2020, recreational crabbers must mark all floating surface buoys with a name and other identifying information. While this rule does not apply to gear tied to docks, piers, jetties or beaches, ODFW recommends marking buoys on any gear that could become derelict or lost.

# the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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