

**Fish Abundant in Waters of Klamath**

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waters of Pelican Bay, Recreation, Odessa and Short creeks, every spot famous in this country's history for past wonderful fishing. Arriving there, one may cast fly or spoon into the water, and feel sure of a catch before the day is done.

To thoroughly enjoy this sport, one can almost become a "rocking chair fisherman" for the boats in most places on the Upper Klamath Lake are fixed so that a person's back does not tire out at the end of half a day's fishing. The lake fishing, however, is for the "soft sports" and not for the kind who like to hit the trail for the almost inaccessible spots near Mount Pitt and the Crater Lake region. It is in such spots that the rainbow and brook trout await the coming of the fisherman, eager to both sample the wares and the williness of the man who holds the rod in his hands.

One of the spots which is renowned for excellent fishing is the district near Rocky Point at the upper end of Klamath Lake. It was but a few weeks ago that Dr. A. E. Sykes of Oakland brought out of the waters of Pelican Bay the largest reported rainbow trout ever captured in this county with a six ounce rod, a light braided silk line with a tensile strength of 30 pounds test. This mammoth rainbow was lured by the sight of a baserino or imitation chub to strike and for 30 minutes the worthy man of medicine had his troubles with this catch. This fish, by the way, will remain a testimonial to Upper Klamath Lake for years to come as it was taken at San Francisco for mounting. The reported weight was 23 1/4 pounds, girth, 23 1/4 inches and the length, 36 inches.

The average rainbow caught in this lake runs about 5 or 6 pounds and when the tug is felt on the line, the man on the other end of it knows well that a battle is on. Can one picture more delight than to have on of those game boys battling for his liberty after being lured to strike on a fancy looking edible, only to find that at the end of this tempting morsel, sharp barbs are attached? To feel the resistance and then bring the battling catch closer to the boat, see it rise out of the water in an endeavor to snap the hooks with a "fishy trick" but in the end to land it safely in the boat and then make a happy and minute inspection. No one but he or she who has landed one of this variety can describe the thrill that comes after the day's sport is over and the smell of the catch is being wafted to the olfactory nerves from the frying pan. Eyes are generally "bigger than the stomach" but how one can enjoy the "chow" that follows up a day of such sport! And this life is at the reach of the poorest or wealthiest citizen of this city and county.

According to L. J. Bean, a member of the Klamath Sportsmen's association and one of the real fishermen of this part of the state, who is the authority for much of the material in this article, there are eight varieties of edible fish in the waters of Klamath county, from the sluggish chub to the gamey peer of all fish, the true rainbow trout. Including in this group are the large species, the Great Lakes trout and the lake rainbow. The latter in cold water will give the best fisherman who ever held a rod a battle worth while.

Bean divides the line very finely on the question of the difference between a fisherman and an angler. In the beginning, the man who fishes to catch fish is a fisherman and not an angler. The man who buys all the equipment he can purchase for the sake of having it is a faddist and the party who secures all the new fishing tackle to become proficient in its use is an "experimentalist." The angler must needs be of the latter nature and first of all, be a lover of the out-of-doors. An empty creel to him is not a disaster but just a bit of experience that will be of use to him later on. The person who makes the big catch and boasts of it is not a sportsman or angler but is what Lee Bean would term a fisherman.

Of the eight varieties of fish found in this county the most common is the chub, minnow or shiner or by whatever name anyone designates them. This fish is found in all the waters of this county and while he does not attain any size in comparison with some of the other varieties, it is not to be despised as a non-edible fish despite the fact that it is a rather bony fish and easily caught. The last two factors does not add to its worth as a table fish.

The next most common fish is the sucker. There are two varieties but of the same family. Environment (temperature of water feed and coloration of the ground) makes a difference in color of the sucker as well as all other fish. One variety caught in the Klamath river is very rare but when a person eats one, and to the average person it is not a palatable fish, then he is eating a variety which is as rare as the other species are common.

Very little summer fishing is done for this variety but during the spawning season, which occurs in the spring, they are caught by the tons by the Indians. The Indians dry or smoke them for winter's use. The sucker is not found in the Upper Lake waters as he is more of an inhabitant of the sluggish, slow moving reaches, somewhere in a deep hole in still water, compatible to its nature. At Rocky Point, or out from the point, in the clear water, one may see them in schools feeding on the bottom and it is possible to take them on bait.

The next variety is the cat fish found in abundant numbers in Lost River, southeast of Klamath Falls, a distance of 12 miles. While they do not attain any size and are not a sporty fish, they are fine as a table food. Flies or other artificial bait, or spinners, are not attractive to it but wiggle a garden hackle or an angle worm, meat, liver or in fact any kind of natural bait in front of him, and at once he is inquisitive.

This fish is found from the diversion dam on Lost river to Clear lake a distance of nearly 50 miles. Mr. Bean comments on the gaminess of this variety as follows. "Don't think it's not sporty to catch them but the real sport arrives when you start to skin them. Despite his horns and general appearance, it's excellent table delicacy and worth your time."

Lower Klamath lake has a variety of perch known as the "Pumpkin Seed" or yellow perch. This variety has a shape similar to a pumpkin seed and the edge of the gills has a beautiful golden tip edged with red. While not many have been caught, occasionally some are taken in Lake Ewauna, at the outskirts of this city. Like the catfish, the perch are bottom feeders and can only be taken on bait. In Minnesota, however, this species readily takes to a small springer frog or flies strung out on a leader.

Mr. Bean stated that while the four varieties mentioned above do not appeal to the average angler, still, not overlook them as a change. "Sitting on the bank watching a float, smoking your old pipe, observing the birds and wild life around it will make you wonder if it isn't one more venture in contentment, and under the conditions as outlined, wouldn't it make you realize that it isn't all of wishing to catch a fish?"

The anglers' ideal fish are the trout, and taken according to their abundance, the best trout and seldom caught is the Great Lake trout, found only in the Upper Klamath lake. This fish was planted some four years ago by the fish and game commission and so far, have only been caught on the east side of the Upper lake in the vicinity of the Pelican Bay mill as far as Algoma, a distance of 12 miles from Klamath Falls to the latter named point. This trout resembles the rainbow and may be easily taken. One method of catching them is by trolling with spoons and should an angler catch one weighing around 40 pounds, (which is not considered large,) do not think that he has broken any records for rainbow trout for he has not as this variety is a char and according to authorities, aside from the rainbow, all trout found in the waters of Klamath are "chars."

The next variety in trout is the Eastern Brook trout, also a "char" and not a true trout. So far, none have been caught elsewhere except in Rock Creek, a small stream on the road to Rocky Point, about 22 miles from Klamath Falls. Although not considered a fish who will take to flies, still they are one of the best table fish found in this vicinity. Many consider this species a better pan fish than the ones at Diamond lake.

One of the best bits of information on the brook trout situation comes from the fish and game commission as they are sending one million eastern brook trout eggs to Klamath county to be hatched and liberated. These eggs will be sent here as soon as the eggs are taken this fall. This species is known as a fall spawner while the rainbow, as a rule spawn in the spring. This fact governs a majority of the rainbow as Klamath county sportsmen have found from experience that the rainbow spawns every month in the year and at present, the state is taking eggs from a fall spawning rain-

bow. Sportsmen who seek this table delicacy at Rock Creek should remember while the eastern brook trout raises to a fly, the thick underbrush there makes it difficult to use ordinary tackle and a short rod and bait is best suited, according to Bean's experience. While many are hooked in this place, lots escape as the angler is at a disadvantage at all times but it adds zest to try for this nimble fish in his own element.

The Dolly Varden is fairly common in Klamath streams and some are found in Odell lake. In this last named place, some have been caught weighing as high as 5 and 6 pounds. This species is not caught in the large streams, but in the upper waters of all streams they are practically the only fish that can be caught. They are not considered a fly fish by the angler as they are bottom feeders. They do not maintain any great size in the running waters. Sportsmen can find fair numbers in Cherry Creek, Seven Mile, Anne Creek, in both forks of the Sprague river and as stated before, in Lake O'Dell. Peculiar as it may sound, the state does not propagate these fish as they are not considered on a par with the Great Lakes trout, Rainbow, Eastern Brook. The United States bureau of fisheries considers the Dolly Varden a menace to all fish as they are cannibals. The writer noticed a Dolly Varden following in the wake of Tyee or Humpback, even King Salmon females as they spawned at the Skymenish river in Cascade mountains near Index, Washington, and as fast as an egg was left there was a flash and a red salmon egg disappeared down the throat of the Dolly. The same is true regarding the offspring of the salmon among the rocky places, the small fry falling before the onslaught of the ever hungry Dolly.

**Many Lures for Vacationist in Klamath Land**

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The roads that lead to the Lake of the Woods are being worked at present and access will be better than it has been in the past. This point has always had its share of visitors each year and from indications at present, this year will be its "banner visitors' year."

Eagle Ridge tavern has been drawing large crowds of both local and outside visitors this year. The daily launch service to this point has benefited Eagle Ridge greatly and will be a factor in making this place very popular with the class of people who like the big open but are not strong enough to stand the rough edges of "roughing it."

It is almost needless to describe much about Rocky Point as this popular place has been in the limelight for a long time. The place where the monster rainbow trout was taken by Dr. Sykes of Oakland, California. The fishing has been reported good all season and few parties ever fail to make nice catches there.

No writer ever lived who could with any near accuracy tell what Crater lake looks like, as it is one of those wonderful bodies of water that changes its moods, nearly every day of the season. This place has to be seen to be appreciated, and from the tourist and local traffic which is wending its way up there, this year will be an exceptional one.

While the roads leading to the fishing and climbing points are not like the paved highways of neighboring states, still the roads can be classed with the average "rough district country road, at this season of the year. Despite the fact that certain hardships must be taken into consideration and with all other discomforts added, there is nothing that appeals to the imagination or refreshes the "tired mind" like a trip to some of the famous fishing and outing resorts in Klamath county.

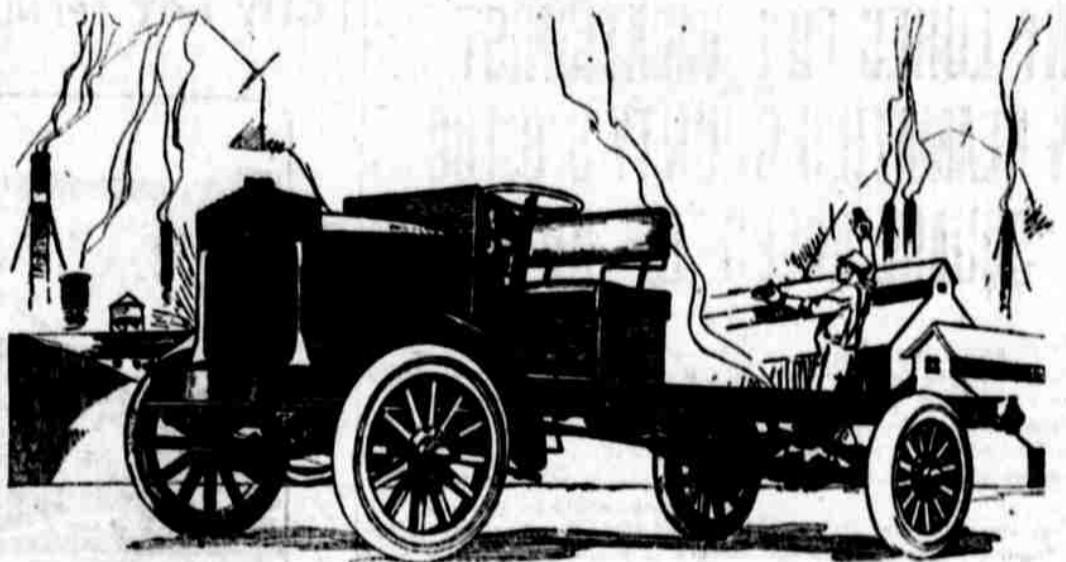
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