



Left, Sierra Gookins, 6, of Portland, holds the largest fish she caught during the Youth Fishing event at Vernonia Lake on May 6. The event was held in conjunction with River Fest by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Gookins had the first limit of fish and the largest fish and won a rod and reel. The event included a casting contest with each child receiving free prizes. ODFW Youth Fishing events are part of their Youth Angling Enhancement Program funded half from the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and half by the Oregon Legislature and staffed by ODFW. This event was also staffed by volunteers from NW Steelheaders of Tualatin Valley. If Gookin's smile looks somewhat forced it's because she wasn't thrilled to be holding the large, slimy, dead fish.

Razor Clamming opened May 11

State fishery officials have announced razor clamming has opened as of May 11 from the north jetty of the Siuslaw River near Florence to the mouth of the Columbia River.

Oregon beaches south of Florence remain closed because of domoic acid levels more than 20 ppm, ODA officials said. Razor clamming areas north of Newport to Seaside opened in March this year after a yearlong closure due to unsafe domoic acid levels.

Normally, razor clamming from the Columbia River to Tillamook Head is open from October 1 through July 14. However shellfish harvesting areas are closed to all harvesting when toxins exceed an alert level. An alert level of 20 ppm for domoic acid provides a margin of safety and halts harvest before toxins reach a higher level that may cause illness.

A recreational shellfish license is required for anyone 14 years or older to harvest all shellfish. The daily sport limit for razor clams is the first 15 taken, regardless of size or

condition. Small and broken clams must be retained.

"Following the 'first 15' rule is one of the best ways to avoid wastage and conserve the razor clam resource," said Matthew Hunter, ODFW shellfish and estuary project leader. "To avoid smaller clams look for a siphon holes or 'shows' that are dime-sized or larger. If you use a clam gun to dig, make sure it is at least four-inches in diameter to avoid damaging the clam. Always remember that small and broken clams, although harder to clean, are safe to eat and must be included in your bag limit."

A razor clam reaches an average size of 3.5 inches in its first year, and up to 4.5 inches by the second year. Growth slows after the second year as energy is used for reproduction rather than accelerated growth.

For more information on Oregon's razor clams, including tips on how to dig razor clams, visit ODFW's Web site, <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/razorclams>.

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Randy Shaw big duck race winner

Vernonia River Fest 2006 saw the launching of 15 vessels into the Nehalem River and 484 ducks were released to race down Rock Creek. The plastic ducks were a fundraiser for the Lions Club with sales provided by the Cub Scouts.

The duck race winners were:
\$1.00 ducks; 1st - Logan Martin of Vernonia, 2nd - Katie

Kalyoncuoglu of Beaverton, 3rd - Mary Roumanos-MacDiarmid of Vernonia.

\$5.00 ducks; 1st - Robert Premo of Vernonia, 2nd - Ed Roediger of Vernonia, 3rd - Ryan Dennis of Beaverton.

\$20.00 ducks; 1st - Randy Shaw, 2nd - Kermit Fisher, 3rd - Bob Curl, all of Vernonia.

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