

The Guide's Forecast - volume 12 issue number 4

Northwest Oregon and Washington's most complete and accurate fishing forecast

Forecasting for the fishing week of **January 22nd – January 28th, 2010**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro - A few winters have been taken by plunkers at Meldrum Bar. The lower Willamette has been fair for sturgeon with smelt and squid top baits. As mentioned in this space previously, expect dramatic changes in sturgeon regulations and retention opportunities in 2010. New rules will be publicized February 18th.

While the Clackamas is swollen and results spotty, Eagle Creek produced winter steelhead early this week although many are near or past spawning.

Sandy water levels and visibility were fishable this week with fish taken on corky and yarn combo. Fishing has been fair to good.

Boaters are advised that water levels at Detroit are so low that the new 'low-water' ramp at Mongold is unusable.

For those who had the presence of mind to purchase a new angling license for 2010, be aware that the fading problem of 2009 has not been corrected by the ODFW. Don't store these documents in plastic or they will become illegible.

Northwest – Anxious steelheaders were once again restricted to smaller streams on the north coast as rains continued to keep larger systems out of shape. The North Fork Nehalem continues to be a bright spot and once again put out fair numbers of fish at mid-week.

The Necanicum was another bright spot but like the Highway 30 streams and Three Rivers, the majority of steelhead will be close to spawning if not spawned out already. "Kelts" as they are called, become quite aggressive after spawning, still providing good sport but poor tablefare.

Anglers have reason to get excited through the weekend as these larger streams should finally become fishable after many weeks of torrid flows. The Wilson and Nestucca Rivers will be prime systems to target the quality broodstock fish that return well into April. Anglers are also encouraged to become part of the broodstock collection team by transporting wild caught steelhead carefully to holding facilities to ensure the continuation of this program. Call Ron Rehn at ODF&W (503) 842-2741 in Tillamook for details.

The Siletz River near Lincoln City should also begin to produce good catches by the weekend. Sidedrifters dominate the river system, matching their drifting baits to the flow speed of the river to entice strikes.

Alsea River anglers have reported a poor season but hopefully, the wild component closely mirrors the wild coho run the Central Coast experienced this year. A broodstock program is underway in this system too.

Good sturgeon tides return to Tillamook and Nehalem estuaries early next week. Prior to the wild weather, catches were fair for Tillamook anglers using shrimp for bait. The fish should be active after all the high water. Crabbing will remain poor.

Southwest – Tenmile creek is quick to drop and clear while other rivers in the area are out of shape. It has been producing a few winter steelhead this week.

With the mainstem and North Umpqua running high and off-color, try the South Umpqua for winter steelhead where conditions are expected to remain good this week.

Water is high on the South Fork Coquille but the river will produce winter steelhead with any dropping and clearing.

The Coos River system has been consistent for steelhead when the water has been in shape and was productive over the past weekend. Expect the Millicoma be productive where there are still willing coho in the mix. East Fork Millicoma anglers are taking steelhead on all manners of bait and lures.

Steelheaders may expect to find high, swift conditions on the Rogue at Agness this week, making the Grants Pass stretch or, with winter steelhead passing Gold Ray Dam now, the upper river the better bet for hookups.

The Chetco was flowing swiftly and rising earlier this week with precipitation predicted to continue daily through the week. Drift boating is likely to be unproductive but there will be windows of opportunity for plunkers. Fresh, bright hatchery steelhead are entering daily so anglers can only hope for a break in the weather which will allow the opportunity to catch them.

High wind and waves will once again prevent bar crossings this weekend. The Elk River is brown with local winds gusting over 85 mph Tuesday of this week.

Eastern – The Deschutes has been producing steelhead hookups above Maupin. The numbers landed are somewhat lower than those hooked.

Lake Billy Chinook has started producing decent catches of kokanee on spoons tipped with corn.

SW Washington – With a poor run of smelt predicted back to the Cowlitz River, Washington fishery managers abbreviated the sport smelt dipping season to just 4 days this year. Recreational smelt dipping on the Cowlitz River will be limited to Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. with a 10-pound daily limit. Small commercial landings of smelt were reported in the lower Columbia River last week.

The Cowlitz remains one of the better options for late season steelheading but the Kalama will begin to offer some broodstock steelhead in the coming weeks. Fishing on the Kalama should be fair into early March.

The Lewis River will have some big native steelhead enter in the coming weeks. Effort often remains light on this system as it is primarily a catch and release stream.

Columbia River Fishing Report – It's still slow here although anglers fishing above Bonneville Dam are catching a few legals. Traditionally, there can be some fair activity for anglers in the know in this area. Smelt do work up here but don't leave home without sand shrimp either. Crawfish is also an effective bait but hard to get this time of year.

Come 'on salmon.....

Some smelt were reported from the commercial fleet on the lower Columbia last week.

The Guide's Forecast – Nothing to get excited about here but anglers that work the pools above Bonneville are starting to see some catches of legal sized sturgeon, especially in the Bonneville Pool.

The first spring chinook will likely be caught in early February, especially if the warmer weather trend continues.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – While Water flow at Willamette Falls has moderated this week, more showers are forecast to fall. The water temperature had increased slightly to 46 degrees at mid-week. Winter steelhead are continuing to cross daily with the count well over 1,400 as of Wednesday this week. These are native fish bound, for the most part, for the Santiam system.

Santiam level and flow at Mehama has been steadily dropping for the last four days.

The Guide's Forecast – The lower Willamette as well as Multnomah Channel have keeper sturgeon available. Wading through shakers to catch one or two is de rigueur. Smelt has been the top bait recently as the traditional time of year for the run approaches. Whether it actually occurs or not, sturgeon seem to key on them in late January and into February. Sturgeon and sand shrimp are also getting bites.

There's a chance for a hookup with a native steelhead on the upper Santiam if catch-and-release fishing appeals.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – A slide on the Clackamas River about a mile below Barton Park has created a potential for hazardous condition below that point. Trees were partially blocking passage as of the morning of Thursday this week. Besides the possibility of trees washing into the river, sudden water level changes may occur. Boaters take heed; this could be dangerous. On a brighter note, steelhead were taken early this week pulling plugs and Eagle Creek has been consistent as well as consistently crowded.

The Sandy has been producing steelhead this week in the Oxbow to Dabney stretch with bait and lures equally effective. It seems more natives than hatchery fish have been banked recently. Release non-fin-clipped carefully. Fresh steelhead will be in the river following rain events for several weeks to come.

North Coast Fishing Report – This is beginning to get a bit redundant.... You know the story, big streams out, small streams fishing good but now more than ever, spawned out hatchery fish are making up the bulk of the catch. The North Fork Nehalem continues to be a bright spot on the north coast with anglers taking several fish when conditions are good. This system fishes best when the water level is between 38 and 45 inches. It came back in on Tuesday with ideal heights experienced Wednesday and Thursday. Hatchery personnel are recycling steelhead back to the lower river with fresh fish yet to be worked up in the trap. It's been a great year on the North Fork.

The Necanicum closely mirrors the North Fork Nehalem and the run over there is reported as good too. Although sweepers will always be an issue on this system, it does appear that the river is floatable from Klootchie Creek downstream. There is a \$50.00 fee for taking out at the Johnson's Gravel pit however and you must obtain the permit prior to launching. Like the North

Fork, most of the fish in this system are spawning or already spawned out although a few fresh fish should still be available.

Three Rivers on the Nestucca system is also an option but hatchery plants on this system were not as robust as history dictated. The deadline remains a very viable option however. Like most of these popular "deadlines", it will be crowded so bring your own rock.

State Trooper Trygve Klepp reported this from the Astoria area, "It's raining real bad here. Looks like our rivers will be blown out, but you probably already knew that. Steelheading has been great, the best I've seen and more effort this year than in many previous years. Is this a sign of the spring salmon run?" This report was forwarded on the 17th so the "blown out rivers" statement is no longer valid. Trygve often checks anglers on the Highway 30 system indicating that those river systems have also yielded good catches this season.

Our two signature steelhead streams, the Nestucca and Wilson Rivers, remained high and brown for much of the New Year. That is all changing as we write however, making for an interesting "The Guide's Forecast" for a change this week. We report on "how the fishing's been" however in this section. With the exception of a rare day this week in the upper Trask, all larger north coast systems have been very poor options lately. The upper Trask has been an option and anglers are catching fish in that stretch but it doesn't fish well for too long as high flows are necessary to safely navigate it's stretches.

Other fisheries such as the sturgeon fishing on Tillamook and Nehalem Bays and ocean fishing have also not been options because of poor tides or rough weather. That too will change in the next section however so read on.....

Crabbing? Are you kidding me?

The Guide's Forecast – Smaller stream success is peaking at this writing with the North Fork continuing to lead the charge. The Necanicum and Three Rivers will still be fair options by the weekend and the Highway 30 streams will also continue to produce spawned out steelhead with an occasional fresh one, and I do mean occasional. By the weekend, you'll have to downsize your baits and offerings to match the water heights. Spinners may also become effective in the dropping water.

Most anglers have been anxious to get back on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. These systems should begin to produce good results for broodstock steelhead with a few early run fish as well that will likely be in poor condition. The upper drifts should fish very well by the weekend. We'll rank them by preference:

By Friday, the Wilson from Vanderzanden's down should produce fair results with broodstock fish making a fair showing if not a good showing. The upper Nestucca should also produce results from 6th Bridge downstream but be aware of technical water. You shouldn't float this stretch if you haven't done it before. The upper Trask may still be an option but be cautious of rocks beginning to get exposed. The lower Trask will likely be a fair option but fish will have blown through in the higher flows. The Dam Hole for bank anglers should still fish well but tapering off compared to the previous few days.

By Saturday, flows are expected to remain somewhat stable, making the above options still feasible. Assuming torrential rains don't hit again (and heavy rain is not in the forecast over the weekend if you can believe that), the river should continue to clear despite stable flows. This will make the lower drifts possible on both the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. By Sunday, all systems

should be go with the exception of the Nehalem River where we'll need a much longer period of dry weather before that system clears.

Without doubt, the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers offer up the best chance for fresh run, quality broodstock fish on the north coast. And, they will be caught in fair number over the weekend. Use big baits and bright colors until the water begins to clear to 4 foot or better visibility. Plugs won't be a great option until flows subside even further but if you do have confidence in them, run them in the slower water closer to the rivers edge.

It should be a good weekend to steelhead fish!

Sturgeon anglers may see some fair opportunity in the coming week as well. Tides start to look favorable beginning on Monday with low tides happening in the early afternoon. The last 3 hours of outgoing are the most productive and recent reports from the west channel in Tillamook indicate some fair possibilities. Nehalem Bay may also be an option but likely not as productive as Tillamook.

Crabbing will remain a sham but a few keepers are available on Netarts Bay. You'll have to work for them.

Central & South Coast Reports – It'll be another rough ocean weekend with wave and wind measurable in the 'teens. A morning ebb is of little consequence with seas this high.

Recreational clam and mussel harvesting is open on the Entire Southwest Zone according to the ODA as of January 19, 2010.

Alsea water levels have been fluctuating but with only showers in the forecast this week, there may be a window of opportunity this week if flows stabilize, Winter steelhead have been entering the hatchery facility in increasing numbers this month.

The South Umpqua produced several winter steelhead on Wednesday this week. There are fair to good numbers of hatchery fish being banked. The water is a little high but boats drifting downstream from Canyonville have been catching fish with some consistency. Mainstem anglers are enduring high water levels with the fishing only fair at best. Keep an eye about for poachers on the mainstem Umpqua, particularly just below Elkton. With the number of hatchery steelhead in the river low, boneheads are bonking natives. While a call to the TIP (Turn In Poachers) line could result in a \$100 reward, the promise of monetary gain pales in comparison to seeing these violators dealt some justice. Call 1-800-452-7888. The North Umpqua has been consistently slow.

Unlike most bays and estuaries where freshets have stalled crabbing, results have remained fair in Coos Bay. It will improve further with a break in precipitation. While the South Fork Coos has kicked out the occasional winter, East Millacoma anglers have been scoring steelhead on jigs.

The Rogue at Agness is running over 8,100 cfs and just over 2,000 cfs at Grants Pass. While steelheading has been fair in the off-color middle Rogue, with about 2,500 winters over Gold Ray Dam, the upper river holds the most promise for the weekend. As a bonus, the water will be clearer and dropping slightly.

As recently as Tuesday this week, plunkers took winter steelhead on the Cheto with the river running about 5,000 cfs. It was 5,700 and rising on the morning of January 21st. It's time to tie up tackle, sharpen hooks ... you know the routine. The Chetco will remain out of shape through

the coming weekend although plunkers may stand a chance if the flow falls below 5,000 cfs.. Drift boaters will be waiting until the flow falls to 4,000 cfs or less. Rockfish and ling cod catches will be excellent when the ocean allows access.

Conditions are poor at the Elk River with more rain in the forecast. When the weather breaks, this river will recover rapidly and offer a mix of wild and hatchery steelhead. The Sixes will also fish when it drops into shape. High winds have pounded the area and rainfall, and inch Wednesday this week and another 3/4 inch today have kept water high.

Central and Eastern Oregon –Water color on the Deschutes is good but the river is running somewhat high and swift. Steelheading has been slow to fair in challenging conditions.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report January 20th – February 3^d, 2009

North Puget Sound

This time of year anglers have a decision to make: cast for steelhead in the local rivers or get out onto Puget Sound and fish for salmon.

"Weather conditions usually help anglers make that choice," said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "If the rivers are in shape, steelheading is a good bet. But if the rivers are blown out, blackmouth fishing in the marine areas is probably the best option."

Thiesfeld said he has heard reports of a few nice **blackmouth** - resident chinook - hooked in Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), where fishing has picked up recently. Anglers fishing Marine Area 7 have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook.

Elsewhere, Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) recently reopened to salmon fishing. However, the fishery got off to a slow start, said Thiesfeld. "Overall, fishing was spotty on the opener," he said. "It certainly did not start off the way it ended in November, when fishing was pretty good."

Anglers fishing Marine Area 9 - as well as marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) - have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook.

Thiesfeld reminds anglers that Marine Area 10 is only open through Jan. 31.

In the freshwater, fishing for **steelhead** continues to be slow. Thiesfeld said anglers should be aware that the lower portion of the Green River closed to fishing Jan. 16, while the upper stretch is scheduled to close Feb. 1. The Skagit and Sauk rivers also will close to fishing Feb. 16. With low steelhead returns expected back to those rivers, the emergency closures are necessary to protect wild steelhead.

Meanwhile, both the North Fork Stillaguamish and the Cascade rivers recently re-opened for fishing. Details on those emergency rules can be found on WDFW's fishing regulation website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Heavy rain and high water have put a damper on steelhead fishing in the new year, but anglers have some other options to consider while waiting for the rivers to drop back into shape.

Razor clams , for example. Five ocean beaches are scheduled to open for razor-clam digging later this month if marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat. Under the current plan, Long Beach and Twin Harbors will be open Jan. 27-31, Copalis and Mockrocks will open Jan. 29-31 and Kalaloch beach Jan. 30-31.

Digging at all five beaches will be restricted to the hours between noon and midnight. Under WDFW rules, harvesters may take no more than 15 razor clams and must keep the first 15 taken, regardless of size or condition.

"With the rough weather we had during the last opener, digging dropped off significantly as people played it safe," said Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. "On the plus side, there are likely enough clams remaining in the quota to offer more digs later."

Blackmouth fishing on Puget Sound is another option. Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) recently opened to resident chinook fishing, and two additional areas - 11 (Tacoma-Vashon) and 12 (Hood Canal) - are scheduled to open Feb. 1. Marine Area 10 is also open for blackmouth through Jan. 31.

Anglers are required to release wild salmon in all four areas. Regulations are described in the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

"Blackmouth fishing in Puget Sound has generally been slow, but that can turn around fairly quickly," said Steve Thiefeld, a WDFW fish biologist. "You can't catch them unless you go out there and find them."

But high-water conditions have made it tough - even dangerous - for anglers to find steelhead during the first two weeks of the new year. After some good fishing in December, most anglers are taking cover until the rain subsides and the rivers drop back into shape.

Scott Barbour, a WDFW fish biologist, said the Chehalis River has been awash in high water and debris. "Right now it's a safety issue," he said. "Fishing aside, I wouldn't recommend that anyone take a boat out there with all those logs and tree limbs floating down the river."

Fishing conditions have also been tough on the north coast rivers, said Randy Cooper, another WDFW fish biologist. "The rivers have started dropping, but that could change with another heavy rain."

On the bright side, Cooper said the high water has brought some good-sized wild steelhead into the rivers. "We're approaching the time when the focus shifts from hatchery steelhead to wild fish, and what I'm seeing bodes well for the weeks ahead," he said.

Wild steelhead-retention rules are now in effect on the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Hoh, Hoko, Pysht, Quillayute, Quinault and Sol Duc rivers. Anglers may retain one wild steelhead per license year on those rivers. On all other rivers, anglers may retain only hatchery-reared steelhead marked with a clipped adipose fin and healed scar.

"It's a waiting game," said Ron Warren, WDFW regional fish manager for south Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula. "Lots of hatchery steelhead are moving into the rivers, but they're tough to catch under these conditions."

Southwest Washington

Late-run winter steelhead are moving into area tributaries, thousands of trout have recently been planted in area lakes, sturgeon are beginning to stir, and openings have been scheduled for both smelt and razor clams. Fishing opportunities abound in the days ahead, but prospects for success vary, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist.

"Weather is always a factor at this time of year, but there are also other things to consider in deciding what and where to fish," Hymer said. Here's his assessment of fisheries coming up in the next few weeks:

- **Winter steelhead:** The early run is winding down, but late-run winter steelhead are beginning to move toward the hatcheries on the Cowlitz and Kalama rivers where they were raised. The fishery for late-run fish tends to peak in late February and early March, although some late-run steelhead are already beginning to show up in the catch. As with the early run, high water can always push those rivers out of shape for fishing.
- **Smelt:** Projecting another poor return, WDFW is limiting the Cowlitz River sport fishery for smelt to four days this winter. That river will be open for smelt dipping Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. with a 10-pound daily limit. "This fishery is primarily intended to provide information on the size of this year's run," said Hymer, noting that NOAA Fisheries is currently considering listing West Coast smelt under the federal Endangered Species Act. Sport fishing for smelt on the mainstem Columbia River opened seven days per week, 24-hours day, starting Jan. 1, although anglers catch very few fish there.
- **White sturgeon:** Catch rates of legal-size sturgeon have picked up considerably in the Bonneville Pool in recent days, likely triggered by warming water temperatures. Sturgeon fishing in the lower river remains slow, but that could change if smelt return to the Cowlitz River in greater numbers than expected, Hymer said. Sturgeon regulations for all areas of the lower Columbia River listed in the Fishing in Washington rule pamphlet will remain in effect through February. New seasons will be set by fishery managers from Washington and Oregon at a public meeting scheduled Feb. 18 in Oregon City, Ore.
- **Razor clams:** Five ocean beaches are tentatively scheduled to open for razor-clam digging in late January. If marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat, Long Beach and Twin Harbors will be open Jan. 27-31, Copalis and Mockrocks will open Jan. 29-31 and Kalaloch beach Jan. 30-31. "Once WDFW gives final approval for the dig, the main concern is the surf," Hymer said. "People can dig a limit of razor clams in foul weather, but a big surf can make digging difficult and potentially dangerous." He strongly recommends that diggers check surf conditions before hitting the beach.
- **Trout:** While nothing is certain, anglers have a pretty good chance of catching trout - some averaging eight pounds - in lakes planted by WDFW during the winter months. During the second full week of January, hatchery crews planted 3,000 catchable-size fish in Kress Lake near Kalama, 1,500 in Battleground Lake and 1,500 in Kline Pond. Several hundreds broodstock rainbows, ranging from four to eight pounds apiece, were also planted in Lake Sacajawea in Longview, Spearfish Lake near Dallesport, and Rowland Lake near Lyle.

As of mid-January, Hymer said he had not received any reports of spring chinook landed in the lower Columbia River, so they didn't make his list of fishing options. "But the season is currently open, and we expect to start hearing catch reports soon," he said.

Until mid-February, when fishery managers will meet to set the new season, anglers may retain hatchery-reared spring chinook under the rules printed in the Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet. "At this time of year, we consider spring chinook 'bonus fish' in the winter steelhead fishery," Hymer said.

Eastern Washington

Fishing for **rainbow trout** and **kokanee** continues to be excellent at Lake Roosevelt, the reservoir on the Columbia River off Grand Coulee Dam. "During the winter, the rainbows usually move down into the lower reservoir," said WDFW District Fish Biologist Chris Donley. "They're following the movement of zooplankton downstream, so the Keller and Spring Canyon areas become the target, rather than Seven Bays and above."

Donley said kokanee or "silver trout" can be found near the surface of Lake Roosevelt in late January and into February. "Roosevelt is really the place to be for trout fishing now with these warm conditions," Donley said. "That's because ice on smaller trout waters is probably pretty rotten."

Marc Divens, WDFW warmwater fish biologist, said that without freezing nighttime temperatures, and daytime temperatures exceeding 40 degrees, many year-round open fishing waters that appear iced-over are probably unsafe to fish.

"Usually this is a good time to fish Eloika or Newman lakes for their **bass, perch, crappie**, and other fish," Divens said. "But I wouldn't recommend anyone venture out on the ice on those lakes, at least not until we return to more normal temperatures with freezing days and nights." For more on ice-fishing safety, see http://wdfw.wa.gov/factsheets/ice_fishing.htm.

Snake River steelhead action has slowed, but tenacious anglers who find the fish pooled up near the mouths of tributaries may be successful.

Northcentral Washington

Bob Jateff, WDFW district fish biologist, said upper Columbia River **steelheading** is best in the tributaries above Wells Dam. Anglers who are drifting the slower moving, deeper runs, where the fish tend to hold at this time of year, are probably doing best. Steelheaders must retain all adipose-fin-clipped hatchery steelhead, up to the limit of four per day. They must also immediately release all steelhead with an intact adipose fin without removing the fish entirely from the water.

The Methow River is open to **whitefish** from Gold Creek upstream to the falls above Brush Creek and the Chewuch River from the mouth to the Pasayten wilderness boundary. The Similkameen River is open from the mouth to the Canadian border. Jateff said those fishing for whitefish in areas that are currently open for steelhead must use selective gear (single barbless lures and flies, no bait allowed).

The safety of ice fishing throughout the region is questionable with recent warm weather and rain, and anglers are advised to be very cautious. **Rainbow trout** are available at Rat Lake near Brewster, Sidley/Molson Lake near Oroville, Big and Little Green lakes near Omak, and Davis Lake near Winthrop. Yellow perch are available at Patterson Lake near Winthrop. For more on ice-fishing safety, see http://wdfw.wa.gov/factsheets/ice_fishing.htm.

Winchester Wasteway (the portion within the Winchester Game Reserve) and Stratford/Brook Lake in Grant County opens Feb. 1 for fishing under standard statewide rules.

Southcentral Washington

WDFW District Fish Biologist Paul Hoffarth said **steelhead** fishing in the Ringold area on the Columbia River near Tri-Cities should be slightly above normal through the rest of the season, which runs into mid-April.

"I think the pattern we saw in December will hold," Hoffarth said. "December's catch and harvest was higher than any of the past six years. Boat anglers averaged 5.8 hours per fish in December and bank anglers averaged roughly 10 hours of angling per steelhead."

Whitefish action on the Yakima River and other local streams continues to be good. "Some of the best whitefish areas besides the mainstem Yakima are the Naches, Tieton, Cle Elum, and Bumping rivers," said WDFW District Fish Biologist Eric Anderson in Yakima.

Check the fishing rules pamphlet for specific river stretch descriptions. Whitefish gear is

restricted to one single-point hook with a maximum hook size of 3/16-inch from point to shank, hook size 14. Fish are usually caught with a small fly tipped with a maggot. Up to 15 whitefish can be retained daily. Most fish are 10 to 15 inches. Concentrate fishing efforts in deep pools below riffles, Anderson said.

Reader E-mail

Got a question, story to tell or information to share? Shoot us an Email!

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Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

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"I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully." — George W. Bush

GOOD LUCK!