

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **January 11th – January 17th, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Steelhead are consistently getting caught at Meldrum Bar on the Willamette River. Anglers plunking spin-n-gloves from the bank are getting fish right along with the small core of back trollers running plugs at the blacktop and along the island. Decent sturgeon fishing was also reported from the Portland Harbor but effort remains low. The bump in temperature will likely spur boat anglers to get out and try this coming weekend. Few, if any sturgeon anglers have been hitting the Columbia River with last week's cold snap.

The Clackamas River produced this past week with decent catches of fresh winter steelhead. The upper stretches from Carver upstream to McIver Park are getting the most attention and recent rains will likely introduce more fresh fish into the system. Although a few steelhead have been taken from Eagle Creek, the catch remains sporadic at best.

Sandy River fishermen had a good week, with many boats reporting 2-6 steelhead for a day's drift. Sleds on the lower river haven't fared quite as well, but they are still in the game. Bank anglers are getting their share too at Oxbow and Dodge Parks. The catch has been about 50/50, wild to hatchery fish but nobody's complaining as long as they are catching. This week's rain will push it out of shape for most anglers, but it should be back in fishable order by the weekend with a shot of fresh fish.

While McKenzie levels had been dropping over the past week, it has started rising to unfishable levels.

On the rise but predicted to be dropping in to the weekend, the South Santiam produced a few steelhead over the past weekend.

Northwest – After a short reprieve from rainfall, north coast rivers are once again on the rise, making smaller streams an option again after experiencing low and clear conditions over the weekend. Hatchery workers on the North Fork of the Nehalem reported over 500 fish in the trap on Tuesday morning but stated fishing was poor for anglers working the water near the hatchery. Boaters also reported poor results downstream of the hatchery on Tuesday. The river was on the rise.

The Necanicum and Highway 30 streams should once again be options although the bulk of the fish anglers are likely to come across will be in a darker condition. Although fresh early run fish should continue to come in for another week, the next pulse of fresh fish on these systems likely won't be until late February, and they will largely be wild.

Larger systems, particularly the Wilson, fished well last Friday, after a short period of low productivity as we transition from early run to late run steelhead. One guide reported double-digit opportunities last Friday, fishing downstream of Donaldson's Boat Ramp. A mix of spent early run fish and a rare fresh broodstock or early run steelhead exists this time of year.

The Trask River should start to see better returns of wild fish in the coming weeks. The Dam Hole is an excellent place to intercept fish in higher flows but boaters have good access in the upper reaches in higher flows and downstream of the hatchery is dropping conditions.

A minus tide series graces the coast over the weekend which is typically good for sturgeon

anglers. The problem is, low slack happens well after sunset, traditionally the best time to target estuary keepers in Tillamook Bay.

Crabbing will likely be challenging, no matter what estuary you try. The swell is expected to moderate which could bode well for razor clam diggers along Clatsop Beaches.

Southwest- When boats have been able to get out of central Oregon ports recently, catches of rockfish and lingcod have been good to excellent.

Crabbing in most coastal bays and estuaries has been productive, producing limits or near limits of hard Dungeness. Mussel harvest is closed coast wide although scallops may still be taken.

Water levels are rising on the Umpqua system this week. Steelheaders might consider the lower South Umpqua once the water starts to drop and clear.

The Coos River, which has been running low, clear and cold, will be rising this week. Steelheaders should see some improvement as the water drops.

Steelheading on the lower South Fork Coquille has been good at times.

Steelheading has been good on the lower Rogue over the past week for boat and bank anglers. Best results have been very low on the river. Most of the winters hooked have been natives with only small percentage of hatchery origin. Winter steelheading is just getting underway on the middle Rogue.

Plug-pullers are doing best on the Chetco River, taking decent numbers of chrome-bright winter steelhead.

Steelheaders have been taking fish on the Elk and Sixes where the window of opportunity is usually brief as conditions change rapidly on these small, volatile rivers. The Elk was low and clear early this week.

Eastern – Fly fishing for reddsides is worthwhile on the lower Deschutes with Blue-Winged Olives the primary pattern of interest although midges and small caddis patterns work at times. Steelheading remains slow.

Rainbows on the Crooked River have been cooperating with anglers this week, often taking dries although nymphs have been effective at times.

SW Washington- District streams are on the down-slide with most streams starting to show more spent fish than fresh ones. Anglers in this district will be waiting for the later returning broodstock fish, expected later in February.

Limited success was reported on the Washougal, Lewis and Kalama Rivers with the most effort remaining on the Cowlitz. Like NW Oregon streams, rivers in this district will witness a bump in the hydrograph but smaller streams may fish once again by the weekend. Some fresh fish are likely to show.

4 boat anglers reported 3 keeper sturgeon targeting them near the mouth of the Kalama River. Sturgeon historically gathered in this area in anticipation of a once-abundant smelt run that returned to the Cowlitz River this time of year. Smelt may indeed be in the mainstem Columbia right now but may not be retained by the sport or commercial fisherman.

Columbia River Fishing Report – An surprise of early season effort for sturgeon is taking place on the Columbia although success rates for keepers is less than desirable. There has been some success noted in the Portland to Longview stretch, both by ODF&W and WDF&W. Anglers historically gathered here this time of year when smelt began their winter migration up the Columbia, congregating sturgeon to feed on the once-abundant food source. Now, with that food source largely absent, sturgeon have once again adapted and we often find them scattered in several other coastal estuaries this time of year, feeding on shrimp, clams and even juvenile crab. Regardless, here are the stats from the latest ODF&W check. As you will see, icy weather kept many from fishing in the gorge where winter fishing was historically good as well. Here are the stats:

GORGE BANK:

NO REPORT - EFFORT WAS LIGHT DUE TO HIGH WINDS AND ICY CONDITIONS.

GORGE BOATS:

NO REPORT - EFFORT WAS LIGHT DUE TO HIGH WINDS AND ICY CONDITIONS.

PORTLAND TO LONGVIEW BANK:

WEEKLY CHECKING SHOWED NO CATCH FOR THREE BANK ANGLERS.

PORTLAND TO LONGVIEW BOATS:

WEEKEND CHECKING SHOWED TWO LEGAL WHITE STURGEON KEPT AND 58 SUBLEGAL WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 43 BOATS (113 ANGLERS).

ESTUARY BANK:

NO REPORT.

ESTUARY BOATS:

NO REPORT.

BONNEVILLE POOL:

EFFORT WAS LIGHT IN THE HIGH WINDS AND ICY CONDITIONS. WEEKLY CHECKING SHOWED FOUR SUBLEGAL WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 36 BANK ANGLERS; AND 70 SUBLEGAL WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 9 BOATS (29 ANGLERS).

THE DALLES POOL:

WEEKLY CHECKING SHOWED 26 SUBLEGAL AND FOUR OVERSIZE WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 54 BANK ANGLERS; AND ONE LEGAL WHITE STURGEON KEPT, PLUS 16 SUBLEGAL AND ONE OVERSIZE WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR EIGHT BOATS (16 ANGLERS).

JOHN DAY POOL:

WEEKLY CHECKING SHOWED TWO SUBLEGAL WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 44 BANK ANGLERS; AND THREE LEGAL WHITE STURGEON KEPT, PLUS ONE LEGAL, 14 SUBLEGAL, AND FOUR OVERSIZE WHITE STURGEON RELEASED FOR 22 BOATS (56 ANGLERS).

Although temperatures have moderated, catches likely will remain unimpressive through the winter months although experienced anglers may very well remain consistent with fresh bait (when available) and secret holes. Even though fresh smelt may be in the river, it is still illegal to use Columbia River Eulachon Smelt for bait. An Alaskan alternative is sometimes available however and although it may not produce the same results as the Columbia River Smelt, they can be one of the more effective baits on the water. Sand shrimp and squid are also a fair option this time of year.

It shouldn't take many trips to fulfill your annual quota this year, the daily and annual bag limit are exactly the same: 1 per day, 1 per year.

Steelhead fishing in the John Day River and in the John Day Pool has dried up or frozen out, whichever way you look at it. Frigid temperatures have squashed die-hards but as any fool-hearty angler knows, it's the bite that really dictates effort; no matter how cold and wet it is out there.

Crabbing is largely done on the lower Columbia with the onset of commercial crab season. Keepers are still available on favorable crab tides however. Effort has dropped off significantly.

The Guide's Forecast – Sturgeon is about the only thing on tap and anglers shouldn't count on an easy time finding keepers in the current state these fish are in. The Columbia remains open 3 days a week although the bulk of the fish are in the Willamette as is typical this time of year. The Willamette remains catch and release only. Managers should decide if anglers will get additional consumptive opportunity this year in the next 4 weeks. Target keepers and shakers in the Portland to Longview stretch with the Kalama/Trojan area most likely to produce.

John Day Steelhead, done.

Estuary crabbing, done, although a few sport legal keepers will certainly still be around. The tides aren't great for crabbing this weekend.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Steelhead are consistently getting caught at Meldrum Bar on the Willamette River. Anglers plunking spin-n-gloves from the bank are getting fish right along with the small core of back trollers running plugs at the blacktop and along the island. Decent sturgeon fishing was also reported from the Portland Harbor but effort remains low. The bump in temperature will likely spur boat anglers to get out and try this coming weekend. Few, if any sturgeon anglers have been hitting the Columbia River with last week's cold snap."

McKenzie River levels have been rising with precipitation this week. As the weather dries out, it should drop and clear, offering decent winter fly fishing.

Rain mid-week pushed the level and flow of the North Santiam well over that considered to be fishable. There can be a decent catch-and-release fishery here for native winters once numbers increase. There had been only 630 counted at Willamette Falls as of December 9th.

Alton Baker canal will be planted with 800 one-pound and larger rainbow trout this week.

The Portland Boat Show opened Wednesday this week and runs through the coming weekend. See **Random Links**, below, to obtain 2 for 1 admission coupons which are good any day of the show. Hours are 10 AM to 9 PM weekdays and Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM on Sunday.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Portland area rivers delivered some good steelhead fishing this last week and if the weather holds, next week looks like more of the same. The Willamette had some better days and some average days but anglers are consistently catching fresh steelhead at Meldrum Bar near Oregon City. Plunkers rig spin-n-gloves with or without a shrimp or prawn tail in tandem. Casting close to shore and setting your rod in a rod holder, bell attached is the norm. Many Meldrum Bar regulars will then retreat to their warm vehicles or huddle close to a fire to pass the time between "bell ringers". This is a social fishery, camaraderie included that intrigues the wintertime plunker.

Expect regular action here through April when more spring Chinook and summer steelhead become the target. Further down near St. Johns, sturgeon are the target species and anglers are experiencing decent action. This fishery lasts well into the spring when the water temperature on the Columbia bumps up, then the sturgeon seem to vacate the area for greener pastures."

Although the McKenzie is too high to fish at this point in early afternoon on January 10th, it will be dropping over the coming week and will be quite fishable at some point. As that occurs, try an egg pattern for success with winter reddsides.

North Santiam water levels aren't predicted to return to levels which would be considered fishable until late in the coming week.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Clackamas River produced this past week with decent catches of fresh winter steelhead. The upper stretches from Carver upstream to McIver Park are getting the most attention and recent rains will likely introduce more fresh fish into the system. Although a few steelhead have been taken from Eagle Creek, the catch remains sporadic at best.

"Sandy River fishermen had a good week, with many boats reporting 2-6 steelhead for a day's drift. Sleds on the lower river haven't fared quite as well, but they are still in the game. Bank anglers are getting their share too at Oxbow and Dodge Parks. The catch has been about 50/50, wild to hatchery fish but nobody's complaining as long as they are catching. This week's rain will push it out of shape for most anglers, but it should be back in fishable order by the weekend with a shot of fresh fish."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "On the Clackamas, guides and private anglers alike experienced the first wave of consistent steelhead fishing this last week. Boaters are getting fish free drifting roe and pulling plugs, while bank anglers are scoring with bobber and jig or drift fishing. The bulk of the effort is from Riverside Park upstream to Rivermill Dam, with plenty of access for bank anglers, drift boaters and power boaters. Water conditions at the time of this writing are above optimum, but expect prime conditions by the weekend. The Clackamas fishes best when the National Weather Service gauge at Estacada reads around 12 feet. Up closer to the dam you can have good fishing with a bit more flow. The winter steelhead run here lasts all the way through March, with decent fishing sometime lasting into April when the summers start to show.

"Sandy River fishermen also experienced some very good fishing this last week, only interrupted by Monday/Tuesdays rain and the rising freezing level. Expect the river to drop back into fishable shape by the weekend and catching will resume. Notable Sandy River guide services, Team Hook-Up and Red's guide service both had a string of good fishing days by the start of this week, with 3-6 fish per day and hook ups into double digits. Also worth mentioning was that the average size of most of the steelhead caught was "impressive". Drift boats and bank anglers are scoring best with some action being had by sleds on the river below Dabney Park. Rafts and pontoon boats are the usual suspects on the Dodge Park to Oxbow Park drift. The Pipeline rapid and two other boat munching boulder runs below there are to be taken very seriously, even by expert rafters and this factor keeps most hard boats off that section. From Oxbow down to Dabney Park is a pretty easy going drift, fine for novice drift boaters and personal pontoon boats. Although drift boats are common below Dabney, it's a power boater's world down there and drift boaters should take note that they share the water with everyone. January, February and March are all strong months on the Sandy River fishing calendar and expect more good things to come as long as water conditions allow. The Sandy River fishes best when the river begins to drop and the gauge near Bull Run approaches 10 feet."

North Coast Fishing Report – A wet, warm front moved through early in the week, rising north coast river levels once again. Prior to the high water, the larger systems began to fish fair with good reports coming from the Wilson late last week. In these lower flows, avid anglers and guides tend to focus their efforts in the lower reaches, intercepting fish that have ridden the tide upstream into fishable territory. In this case, anglers working the river below Donaldson's fared the best, side-drifting small baits. With good snow-pack still in the coast range, the river maintained its color.

The Trask and Nestucca systems also produced some fish but not to the magnitude that the Wilson did late last week. Effort was light on all systems as it had been a while since anglers had witnessed good action.

The mainstem Nehalem didn't quite get to a great condition although the mouths of some of this systems tributaries would have been a fair bet. It's still early for high expectations here but the latter half of January becomes a bit more consistent for anglers.

By mid-week, most north coast systems were out of range, including the smaller ones. The warm, wet weather not only fell in the form of rain but warmer temperatures began slowly melting the coast range snow-pack contributing to a significant rise in river levels. Very few people were fishing Wednesday and even on Tuesday, when levels were a bit lower, these rivers were rising too fast for anyone to witness any great success. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos** floated what should have been a productive stretch on the North Fork Nehalem, only to come up strikeless.

We'll go into more detail in the forecast section on steelheading opportunities through the weekend.

Sturgeon anglers have yet to make a strong showing so reports are limited. It's a good indication that the fishing is not "off the hook". None-the-less, keepers should be available on the Tillamook system as we're on top of another minus tide series at this writing. Weather has been a big factor in angler interest.

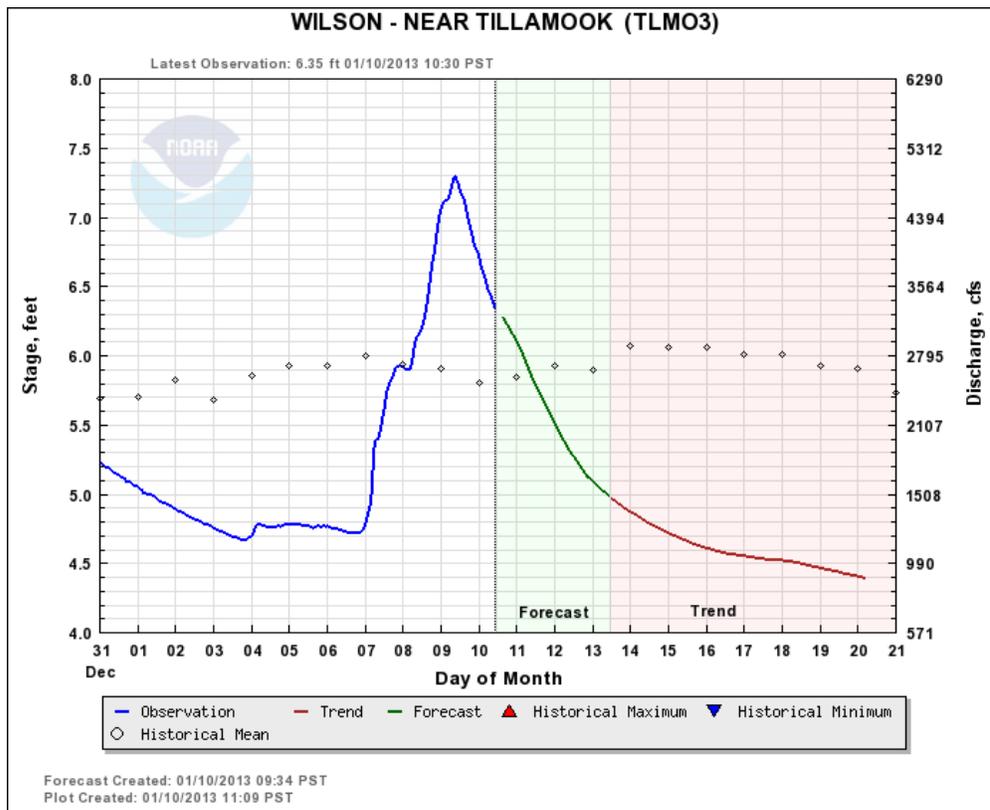
The Guide's Forecast – Steelhead will still be at bat this week and with the recent freshet once again bolstering returns, anglers may have one last chance at early season hatchery chrome by the weekend.

As always, the smaller streams will begin fishing immediately, actually, they likely just came in today (Thursday). The Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem and Three Rivers will be top bets and the Kilchis a distant second choice. These systems will have a mix of fresh and spent fish with the high likelihood of spent fish making up the bulk of your catch. Fish were reported off of the disabled angling platform on Thursday morning with the river in ideal shape for being so high. By Saturday and Sunday, these smaller streams will almost be too low to have high expectations and anglers will have to go back to low water techniques. If you're serious about your small stream steelheading, Friday will be the day to skip out and go.

The Highway 30 streams will follow the same pattern although these streams get smaller runs than those listed above. There is more private land to navigate as well but there are fishable numbers available on Gnat and Big Creeks as well as the Klaskanine River. Small, drifted baits will produce the best numbers.

Most folks will begin to look to the larger systems in hopes for a rare, early run broodstock fish or growing numbers of wild steelhead. The Wilson and Nestucca will be primary targets and are primed to fish good exactly on the weekend. On Thursday morning, the Wilson was showing a steep drop on the hydrograph with the prime target range between 4.5 and 5.5 beginning on Saturday. Saturday will be the best day on the Wilson and the crowds that you'll witness will likely make you think that it's peak season here. Whether on the Wilson or the Nestucca, the results will likely be similar. There should be a mix of fresh, early run steelhead (although few and far between), spent early run fish and a few broodstock as well as natives available. With the expected crowds, no one should expect double-digit opportunities but persistent anglers should find some fish to exercise this weekend.

All reaches of the Wilson should produce results and the Vanderzanden Ramp was recently cleared so there should be a good long reach of river available for productive steelheading. And even though the bulk of the effort will take place above Sollie Smith Bridge, anglers that are versed in the water below Sollie Smith should also find good success in this reach. Bigger, brightly colored baits should produce results under these water conditions and don't overlook the slower moving water, especially if the water retains the off-color steelhead green that I expect it will, given the amount of snow that still exists in the higher elevations. Here's the most recent updated hydrograph model:



On the Nestucca, all reaches here should also have fish although if you plan on targeting some of the early run hatchery stock, you will want to focus your efforts downstream of First Bridge. The bulk of these early run fish head back to Three Rivers, well downstream of First Bridge. There should however, be some broodstock fish beginning to show and that stock is well distributed throughout the lower mainstem.

Still a bit early for large numbers of wild fish to return to the north coast but anglers should start to see an up-tick in this numbers this week. Those fish should grace most north coast systems but the Trask will be a primary target for anglers wishing to get away from crowded conditions expected on rivers that harbor broodstock returns. Of course, these fish have to be released unharmed but provide excellent sport on many systems. The mainstem Nehalem should start to see these numbers climb but the river likely won't fish until mid-week if the weather remains consistent. Just remember to match your offering to the water conditions, big baits/lures in big water, small baits in small water.

Sturgeon anglers on Tillamook Bay should still have outgoing tide opportunity into the weekend. Although the best action commonly happens during the last half of outgoing, mid-way through the tide can produce results too. Both the west and middle channels should be holding fish right now. Sand shrimp is really the only bait worthy of your time.

Although Monday is still a long ways off, wouldn't it be cool if we finally got some time for offshore recreational opportunity? Here's the offshore forecast for those interested in saltwater bottomfishing or possibly crabbing opportunities:

FRI

NE WIND 5 TO 10 KT. GUSTS TO 15 KT IN THE MORNING. WIND WAVES 3 FT...SUBSIDING TO 1 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL 11 FT AT 12 SECONDS...SUBSIDING TO 9 FT AT 11 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON.

FRI NIGHT

SE WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS. CHANCE OF RAIN AND SNOW.

SAT

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 10 SECONDS. CHANCE OF RAIN.

SAT NIGHT

W WIND 10 TO 15 KT...BECOMING E 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT AT 11 SECONDS. RAIN LIKELY.

SUN

NE WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

MON

NE WIND 5 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

By the way, estuary crabbing is fair at best right now with no real estuary out-producing another. Netarts Bay will remain the best north coast option however.

Central & South Coast Reports – Boats haven't been able to cross into the ocean from Central Oregon ports since January 5th due to rough offshore conditions. When recreational craft were able to launch out of Newport last Saturday, they found willing rockfish and easy limits, a tough lingcod bite and slow ocean crabbing. Long-range forecasts are not optimistic for the coming weekend but improve into the coming week for those in a position to make a weekday offshore launch.

A good news reminder to south coast steelheaders. Starting in 2013 and (supposedly) for the remainder of the calendar year, the bag limit for steelhead on the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille basins is three per day. All that remains is to find, hook and land three of those evasive critters.

Steelhead were taken on the Alsea early this week by anglers using dark-colored plugs but as rain colored the water on Wednesday this week, the preference was for brightly-colored spinners. The hatchery is seeing fair returns.

While rain this week did cause a rise on the Umpqua mainstem, it was far less than predicted and should have little effect on crabbing at Winchester bay. Results for Dungeness have been fair but improving. Fishing from the South Jetty in the Triangle area has been good, producing a variety of fish including a few lingcod. Jetty fishers are advised caution, particularly if the surf is up. The Umpqua mainstem should produce some winter steelhead as the water drops and clears but these will be primarily natives which must be released. The North Umpqua will provide catch and release action for unclipped winters as the numbers build. South Umpqua steelheaders are most likely to catch hatchery winters but it will be tough until the run gets fully underway in February.

Crabbing on Coos Bay has been good, particularly in the Charleston area. Steelheading stalled on the Coos River early this week with the river running low and clear but the storm front which passed through Wednesday has put some water and color into the river and should improve results.

Coquille steelheaders have been taking fish on the North Fork and South Fork with the latest freshet bringing fresh fish into the system. Bank fishers on the mainstem have reason for optimism over the coming weekend.

When lower Rogue water levels permit anchor fishing, try plugs to intercept fish. Results had been good prior to the latest freshet earlier this week but the river is predicted to settle down and fish well as the water drops and clears. Bank anglers plunking Spin 'n' Glos will score first, followed by boaters pulling plugs. Steelheading will be improving on the middle Rogue as winters move upstream. It's high at this writing on January 10th and while it will be dropping into the coming weekend, it may be Sunday before it's fishable. Best results will be in the Grants Pass stretch. The upper Rogue will be on the to-do list until winters arrive; the extended summer steelhead fishery is winding down and those few being caught are showing signs of their long-term residency.

Steelheaders on the Chetco have been catching decent numbers of fish over the past couple of weeks. Winters are running heavier than average and on Saturday, January 5th, a 21-pound hatchery brat was taken. Just as the water was getting low and clear, precipitation on Wednesday this week sent the river rising and put some color in it. Chetco levels aren't forecast to get crazy, however, with flows forecast in the 4,000 cfs range (quite fishable here) and predictions indicating a steady drop through the week to come. For plug pullers and side drifters, results are expected to be good. According to ODFW fish checkers, side-drifters using cured egg or yarn balls have been doing best.

Reported as low and clear earlier, rain fell on the southwest corner of the state mid-week, raising Elk River levels and providing some color. As it drops, fresh steelhead will be available as the season gets underway. Although there will still be some Chinook available and in decent shape, this run is winding down. Plugging is expected to be more productive than bait fishing. Local anglers hope that showers in the forecast through Saturday will extend the window of opportunity here, which can be brief.

There has been no update on conditions at Diamond Lake but those few who have ventured out, literally on thin ice, have all taken fish. Snowshoes and life jackets are still advised. The latest ice conditions are available by calling 1-800-733-7593, ext 236 or 238.

ODFW sez, "For the first time in decades, Diamond Lake is open to year-round fishing. To help you take advantage of this great winter fishing opportunity, ODFW is hosting a two ice-fishing workshops on Feb. 9 and 10 at the Diamond Lake Resort. Geared toward the whole family, the workshop is \$40 for adults and \$10 for children, and includes instruction, use of equipment and lunch. For more details and to register go to the ODFW webpage." Click here: http://dfw.state.or.us/education/outdoor_skills/workshops/family_ice_fishing_feb_10.asp.

Central and Eastern Oregon – There has been snow on the banks of the lower Deschutes periodically but with dry weather predicted through the weekend to come, sunshine should melt any remnants despite cold air temps. Winter reddsides will respond to BWOs, midges and caddis patterns in small sizes. Steelheaders who lower their expectations are less likely to be disappointed. It is slow.

The Crooked River remains a reliable winter fly-fishing destination with rainbows abundant but whitefish oddly scarce recently. Small dries or nymphs have been effective recently.

Lake trout are cooperating with hearty trollers plying the waters of Crescent Lake in frigid, snowy weather conditions. Best results have been occurring in the afternoons.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for January 2013

Updated on December 28, 2012

North Puget Sound

(Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties)

Winter has arrived, but anglers still have opportunities to hook hatchery steelhead on several streams and blackmouth salmon in Puget Sound. Weather will be a major factor in deciding where to fish; if rivers are out of shape from heavy rain, anglers may want to head out onto Puget Sound for blackmouth salmon.

The San Juan Islands traditionally reward salmon fishers with some of the highest catches during winter months. Before heading out, anglers can check [creel reports](#) for information on catch and effort in Puget Sound. Recreational fishery samplers with WDFW collect the information each week at fishing access sites throughout Puget Sound.

Areas open throughout January for **salmon** fishing include marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), Edmonds Fishing Pier in Marine Area 9 and Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Anglers fishing those marine areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook salmon. The rest of Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) opens for salmon fishing Jan. 16 under the same rules.

In freshwater, several rivers are open for hatchery steelhead fishing, including the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Skykomish, Snoqualmie and Green rivers. "If the rivers fall back into shape, fishing for hatchery steelhead should be decent in early January," said Bob Leland, steelhead program manager for WDFW. "Anglers usually find bright fish through the month."

Leland reminds anglers that fishing for steelhead and other game fish will close in January in Puget Sound and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca to protect wild steelhead. The early closures will affect the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Green and Puyallup river systems, along with several streams along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Most river systems will close Feb. 1. However, the Puyallup River system and the lower section of the Green River will close Jan. 16, and some waters near WDFW fish hatcheries are scheduled to close Feb. 16.

Pre-season estimates developed by WDFW last fall indicate that wild steelhead will return to those watersheds in numbers far short of target levels, said Leland. "By taking this action, we can protect wild steelhead that do make it back to these river systems," he said.

Meanwhile, a section of Tokul Creek – from the Fish Hatchery Road Bridge to the posted cable boundary marker downstream of the hatchery intake – has opened for trout, hatchery steelhead and other game fish, ahead of its Jan. 15 scheduled opening date. The early opener was possible because the hatchery facility is ahead of schedule collecting winter steelhead broodstock.

For more information on Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca steelhead seasons, check fishing regulations and emergency rule changes on the [WDFW website](#).

Winter is prime time to jig for **squid** in Puget Sound. Good spots include the Elliott Bay Pier in Seattle and the Edmonds Pier. More information is available on the department's [squid fishing webpage](#). Information on fishing piers is available [here](#).

The **Puget Sound crab fishery** closes at sunset Dec. 31. Crab fishers are required to report their activity to WDFW by Feb. 1, whether or not they actually fished or caught Dungeness crab. To submit catch reports, crabbers may send their catch record card to WDFW by mail or file their report on the department's licensing website. The mailing address is WDFW CRC Unit, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091. The [online reporting system](#) is available Jan. 1-Feb. 1. For more information on catch record cards, visit WDFW's [catch record card webpage](#).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

(Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston and Pacific counties)

Anglers have several winter fishing opportunities, including salmon in the marine waters of Puget Sound, hatchery steelhead on several streams, and razor clams at ocean beaches.

Early in January, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will proceed with an evening **razor clam** dig at several ocean beaches if marine toxin tests are favorable. The tentative opening dates and evening low tides are:

- Jan. 8, Tuesday, 3:44 p.m., -0.2 ft., Twin Harbors
- Jan. 9, Wednesday, 4:38 p.m., -0.9 ft., Twin Harbors
- Jan. 10, Thursday, 5:27 p.m., -1.3 ft., Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis,
- Jan. 11, Friday, 6:14 p.m., -1.6 ft., Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Jan. 12, Saturday, 6:58 p.m., -1.5 ft., Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Jan. 13, Sunday, 7:41 p.m., -1.2 ft., Twin Harbors
- Jan. 14, Monday, 8:22 p.m., -0.6 ft., Twin Harbors

Another digging opportunity is tentatively scheduled later in January. Tentative opening dates and evening low tides for that dig are:

- Jan. 25, Friday, 5:44 p.m., +0.0 ft., Long Beach, Twin Harbors

- Jan. 26, Saturday, 6:18 p.m., -0.2 ft., Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Jan. 27, Sunday, 6:50 p.m., -0.2 ft., Long Beach, Twin Harbors

Clam diggers are reminded that they should take lights or lanterns for nighttime digs and check weather and surf forecasts before heading out. No digging will be allowed before noon on any of the razor-clam beaches. Harvesters are allowed to take no more than 15 razor clams and must keep the first 15 they dig, regardless of size or condition. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container.

All diggers age 15 or older must have an applicable 2012-13 fishing license to harvest razor clams on any beach. Licenses, ranging from a three-day razor clam license to an annual combination fishing license, are available on [WDFW's website](#) and from license vendors around the state.

Meanwhile, January is typically one of the best months for **hatchery steelhead** fishing on the north coast rivers, said Kirt Hughes, regional fishery manager for WDFW. "The rivers are running cold and the snow is sticking to the higher elevations," he said. "If the weather holds up, fishing for hatchery steelhead should be great through the month."

Anglers fishing the Quillayute and portions of the Bogachiel, Calawah, Hoh, and Sol Duc rivers have a daily limit of three **hatchery steelhead**. Information on weekly steelhead catches in the Quillayute River system and the Hoh River are available on [WDFW's website](#).

Hughes reminds anglers that they will not be allowed to catch and keep **wild steelhead** on eight Olympic Peninsula rivers until mid-February. The annual opening date for wild steelhead retention is Feb. 16 on the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Hoh, Quillayute, Quinault and Sol Duc rivers. Those eight rivers are the only waters in Washington where wild steelhead retention is allowed.

Later in January, anglers might want to try fishing for hatchery steelhead in the Chehalis River Basin, said Hughes. "Anglers who don't want to make the trip to the north coast rivers should find some good fishing for hatchery steelhead in the basin, particularly at the Chehalis, Satsop and Wynoochee rivers," he said.

Freshwater anglers looking to hook salmon also have opportunities in January. Anglers can find **late-run hatchery coho** salmon in some of the region's rivers, including the Humptulips, Satsop and Willapa, said Hughes.

On Puget Sound, Marine Area 13 (South Puget Sound) remains open for **salmon**. However, regulations for Marine Area 13 change Jan. 1, when anglers will have a daily limit of one salmon. Anglers should be aware that salmon fisheries in marine areas 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island) and 12 (Hood Canal) are closed in January.

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Marine Area 6 (Eastern Strait) remains open for salmon through April 10. Anglers fishing Marine Area 6 have a daily limit of two salmon, but must release wild chinook. Marine Area 5 (Seiku) is closed to salmon fishing.

Before heading out, anglers should check [WDFW's sportfishing regulations pamphlet](#) for details. Anglers can also check [creel reports](#) for information on catch and effort in Puget Sound. Recreational fishery samplers with WDFW collect the information each week at fishing access sites throughout Puget Sound.

The **Puget Sound crab fishery** closes at sunset on Dec. 31, and crabbers are reminded that they are required to report their winter catch to WDFW by Feb. 1. Reports are due for the winter season, whether or not crabbers actually fished or caught Dungeness crab. To submit catch reports, crabbers may send their catch record card to WDFW by mail or file their report on the

department's licensing website. The mailing address is WDFW CRC Unit, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091. The [online reporting system](#) is available Jan. 1-Feb. 1. For more information on catch record cards, visit WDFW's [catch record card webpage](#).

Southwest Washington

(Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties)

Winter steelhead are still the name of the game for many anglers in the lower Columbia River Basin, although several other fisheries are beginning to compete for anglers' attention. Sturgeon fishing reopens Jan. 1 from the mouth of the Columbia to McNary Dam, and more than 30,000 catchable-size rainbow trout will be planted along with any excess broodstock in lakes and ponds around the region by the end of the month.

Anglers opting to fish for steelhead, salmon, or cutthroat trout should be aware that **barbless hooks** will be required on a large section of the mainstem Columbia River starting Jan. 1. The new rule issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in late December will be in effect from the mouth of the river – including the north jetty – to the state border with Oregon, 17 miles upstream from McNary Dam.

Anglers may still use single-point, double-point, or treble hooks in those waters, so long as any barbs have been filed off or pinched down.

State fishery managers said the rule is necessary to make Washington's fishing regulations consistent with those in Oregon, where that state's fish and wildlife commission recently banned the use of barbed hooks on the Columbia River as part of a broad-based measure to restructure the fishery.

"Fisheries can be very difficult to manage under two different sets of rules," said Guy Norman, WDFW southwest region director. "The two states have worked together for nearly a hundred years to maintain regulatory consistency on the river that serves as a common boundary."

In recent months, both states have discussed a ban on barbed hooks as part of the restructuring plan, which also includes phasing out the use of gillnets by non-tribal fishers in the mainstem Columbia River. The rule issued in December will remain in effect until further notice.

For **steelhead**, the Cowlitz River is still the best bet in January, although the Lewis, Kalama, Grays, Washougal, Elochoman rivers – and Salmon Creek in Clark County – are also producing fish, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist stationed in Vancouver.

As usual, river conditions basically determine success at this time of year," Hymer said. "Most anglers do best when water levels are rising or dropping. It's a lot harder to catch steelhead in the peaks and troughs."

As with all steelhead fisheries in southwest Washington, only hatchery fish with a clipped adipose fin and healed scar may be retained. All wild steelhead must be released. The daily limit on all area rivers is two marked, hatchery-reared steelhead.

Starting Jan. 1, anglers may also retain up to two hatchery adult **chinook salmon** per day on the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream and in the Cowlitz and Deep rivers. On the Lewis and Kalama rivers, the daily limit is one hatchery adult chinook per day.

While the bulk of the **spring chinook** run isn't expect to arrive until March, Hymer said anglers will likely start catching early-arriving fish by late January or early February.

"It's good to keep the chinook regulations in mind, even if you're fishing for steelhead," he said. "Somebody has to catch the first springer of the year, and it could be you."

WDFW recently released preliminary forecasts of Columbia River salmon and steelhead returns for 2013, predicting an upriver run of 141,400 adult spring chinook, down from last year's return of 203,100 fish. Approximately 180,500 sockeye and 73,500 summer chinook are also expected to return at levels below last year. However, the outlook for upriver bright fall chinook shows improvement over 2012.

The preliminary forecasts, along with anticipated fishing seasons, are posted on [WDFW's website](#). Current fishing rules are described in 2012-13 [Fishing in Washington](#) pamphlet and river conditions are available from the [Northwest River Forecast](#).

Rather catch **sturgeon**? All fishing areas will open to anglers Jan. 1 from the mouth of the Columbia River to McNary Dam under the rules outlined in the 2012-13 [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet. Like last year, retention fishing is allowed daily in all waters except the stretch from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam (including all adjacent Washington tributaries), where retention is limited to Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The daily limit is one white sturgeon per day with an annual limit of five fish.

Angling will be prohibited in the slough formed by Sand Island along the Oregon shore east of Rooster Rock State Park on the Columbia River.

One change adopted by fishery managers from Washington and Oregon in December establishes a winter season in the Bonneville Pool that will run through Feb. 10 or until 1,150 sturgeon are caught, whichever comes first. The goal of that fishery is to preserve an estimated 850 fish for a summer fishery.

But broader **regulatory changes** may lie ahead when fishery managers meet Jan. 30 to establish new guidelines for the 2013 sturgeon and spring chinook seasons. In December, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission held back 10 percent of the lower-river sturgeon quota for conservation purposes and reduced the annual catch limit to one legal-sized fish per angler in response to ongoing concerns about declining sturgeon populations. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission has directed WDFW Director Phil Anderson to seek an even tighter catch quota during upcoming negotiations.

"Washington anglers won't be affected by any of these developments in January, but should keep an eye on the department's website for possible changes in the months ahead," said Brad James, a WDFW fish biologist. The upcoming season-setting meeting, which is open to the public, will be held Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 Northeast Airport Way, in Portland.

Another option is to head for a local lake and catch some **trout**. Through January, WDFW plans to stock more than 30,000 catchable-size rainbows – plus any available excess broodstock – in 13 lakes and reservoirs around the region.

Those trout were raised at state hatcheries in Goldendale and Vancouver with the intent of providing winter fishing opportunities in the southwest region, said John Weinheimer, another WDFW fish biologist.

"We want to give area anglers a chance to get outdoors in the wintertime and catch some fish," Weinheimer said. "All of these waters can be fished from shore, so you don't need a boat and a lot of gear to get in on the action."

Weather and road conditions allowing, WDFW plans to stock catchable-size rainbows in Fort Borst Park Pond (1,500) in Lewis County; Silver Lake (4,000), Sacajawea Lake (3,000), Horseshoe Lake (2,000) and Kress Lake (2,000) in Cowlitz County; Battleground Lake (2,000) and Kline Pond (2,000) in Clark County; Icehouse Lake (817) and Little Ash Lake (1,000) in Skamania County; and Rowland Lake (3,000), Spearfish Lake (1,800) and Maryhill Pond (500) in Klickitat County.

But when it comes to **eulachon smelt**, Hymer said there will be no fishing of any kind this year. Once abundant in the Columbia River Basin, eulachon were listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act in May 2010. Since then, Washington and Oregon have closed all sport and commercial dipping in the Columbia River system. All marine and freshwater areas in Washington are also closed to fishing for eulachon smelt.

Eastern Washington

(Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties)

As wintery weather waxes and wanes throughout the month of January, anglers need to be careful about ice conditions on waterways. "Shelf ice" along the shorelines of rivers and streams can be hazardous and lake fishing on and through ice is only safe after extended day and nighttime below freezing temperatures.

Randall Osborne, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) central district fish biologist in Spokane, reports winter season **rainbow trout** lakes – Hog Canyon and Fourth of July – had been fishing well in late December when ice started forming near the shorelines.

"Given the nighttime freezing/daytime thawing patterns we've had, I'm pretty sure any ice out there is not safe to fish on yet," Osborne said. "Until we get a week or more of continued freezing and ice is deep enough to safely support anglers, the fishing will be from shore if open spots can be found for casting. Finding those spots will probably require a bit of hiking."

WDFW Enforcement Sgt. Mike Sprecher, said Hog Canyon Lake is almost completely covered with thin ice and Fourth of July Lake has thin ice on about the north third and open water on the south two-thirds. Fishing activity was very light due to those ice conditions, he said.

Bill Baker, WDFW northeast district fish biologist, relays similar caution to anglers seeking rainbows at Stevens County's two winter-only fisheries – Hatch and Williams lakes. It may not be long, but in late December ice was still not thick enough on either lake for safe ice fishing.

WDFW does not measure ice on fishing lakes and cannot guarantee ice fishing safety. But here are a few tips to help keep an outing safe:

- Don't fish alone. Let others know exactly where you and your fishing partners are going and when you plan to return.
- Keep fishing holes small and few. When drilling fishing holes with an ice auger, keep the diameter under eight inches. Bigger holes are not necessary to land fish and can create a safety hazard for others.
- Watch your step. Avoid ice fishing near feeder streams or known springs; brush, logs, plants or docks; multiple ice cracks or ice that is popping or otherwise audible; and dark-colored ice that may be weak.
- Spread out. Too many people congregated in one area may be more than the ice can safely support. Disperse weight and fishing holes.

- Be prepared for weather conditions and emergencies. Dress in layers and wear thermal underwear, fleece or wool, and wind and waterproof outerwear, especially for feet, hands and head. Take extra clothes, food, water, sand for on-ice traction, and a sled for easy on-ice transport of all equipment. Carry equipment such as ice picks or awls, rope, and personal flotation devices. Also pack a first-aid kit and matches for starting a fire.

January is a good time to fish year-round-open Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir off Grand Coulee Dam. Anglers are catching 16- to 18-inch rainbow trout from Seven Bays downstream. "Fishing is not red-hot at Roosevelt," said Osborne. "But for those willing to put in a little time, limits of trout in that size range are not uncommon."

Osborne also reports anglers on year-round-open Long Lake (Lake Spokane) have been doing fairly well on **crappie** and **yellow perch**. Year-round Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line, can be good for **bluegill**, **crappie** and **trout**, but ice is forming on much of the lake and may not yet be safe for ice-fishing.

Snake River **steelhead** fishing continues, although participation has been low with recent wintery conditions. Best catch rates in late December were on the Grand Ronde River, a tributary of the Snake, where creel checks indicate about three hours of fishing effort per steelhead caught (including both released wild fish and kept hatchery-marked fish.) Anglers checked on most stretches of the mainstem Snake River have averaged about 20 hours of fishing effort per steelhead caught.

Northcentral Washington

(Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties)

Some traditional year-round fisheries in Okanogan County may now be through the ice catches – Patterson and Davis lakes in the Winthrop area, Rat Lake near Brewster, and Big and Little Green lakes west of Omak.

"It's mostly a rainbow trout show at Davis, Rat, and Green lakes, with fish in the 10- to 12-inch range," said Bob Jateff, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Okanogan District fish biologist. "Patterson Lake has **yellow perch** in the seven- to eight-inch range. Powerbait works well for trout, and small jigs tipped with mealworms work well for perch."

Anglers are cautioned to be alert and aware of changing ice conditions at these and other waters. WDFW does not measure ice on fishing lakes and cannot guarantee ice fishing safety. But here are a few tips to help keep an outing safe:

- Don't fish alone. Let others know exactly where you and your fishing partners are going and when you plan to return.
- Keep fishing holes small and few. When drilling fishing holes with an ice auger, keep the diameter under eight inches. Bigger holes are not necessary to land fish and can create a safety hazard for others.
- Watch your step. Avoid ice fishing near feeder streams or known springs; brush, logs, plants or docks; multiple ice cracks or ice that is popping or otherwise audible; and dark-colored ice that may be weak.
- Spread out. Too many people congregated in one area may be more than the ice can safely support. Disperse weight and fishing holes.
- Be prepared for weather conditions and emergencies. Dress in layers and wear thermal underwear, fleece or wool, and wind and waterproof outerwear, especially for feet, hands and head. Take extra clothes, food, water, sand for on-ice traction, and a sled for

easy on-ice transport of all equipment. Carry equipment such as ice picks or awls, rope, and personal flotation devices. Also pack a first-aid kit and matches for starting a fire.

Okanogan County's Leader Lake, located three miles west of the town of Okanogan on Hwy. 20, opens Jan. 1 for an extra four months of fishing. This mixed-species fishery is usually open from late April through September, but if new proposed regulations are adopted next spring, it would be open year-round.

Jateff says the new winter fishery at Leader Lake provides extra opportunity to fish for an abundance of **crappie, bluegill, largemouth** and **smallmouth bass**, and **rainbow trout**. Statewide gear and freshwater species rules are in effect for all game fish.

Rufus Woods reservoir, on the Okanogan County south boundary off Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River, has big **triploid rainbow trout** that can be caught throughout the winter months.

Jateff notes there are several areas upstream of Chief Joseph Dam that can be accessed by the shore angler. Boat anglers can launch at the Army Corps of Engineers boat ramp and can explore upstream any one of numerous back bays and shorelines that could hold triploids.

Steelhead fishing remains open on the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers, and parts of the mainstem Columbia River.

Southcentral Washington

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Anglers continue to reel in hatchery **steelhead** from portions of the Columbia and Snake rivers, although the lure of bigger fish will undoubtedly prompt some to switch gears. Starting Jan. 1, the John Day Pool (Lake Umatilla) will reopen for retention of **white sturgeon** that measure 43 to 54 inches from their snout to the fork in their tail.

Anglers planning to go after sturgeon should be aware there is a 500-fish annual quota for sturgeon on Lake Umatilla, said Paul Hoffarth, a regional fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "In recent years, the quota has been reached in a couple of months, so I'd advise anglers to get out early if they want to take a sturgeon home for dinner," he said.

Another option is McNary Pool (Lake Wallula), including the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam, which reopens for sturgeon retention Feb. 1. There is no quota on that pool, which often keeps anglers busy up until the area closes to sturgeon retention Aug.1.

Walleye fishing can get slow in winter, but there's always a chance of catching a lunker. Some of the largest walleye of the year are boated during the winter months near the Tri-Cities – including the 19.3-pound state record taken in Lake Wallula in 2007.

Typical of the winter fishery, **steelhead** fishing has been up and down, said Hoffarth, noting that some of the best catches on the Columbia River have been reported in the Ringold area. In the Tri-Cities area, the fishery is open for retention of hatchery steelhead from John Day Dam upstream to the wooden power line towers at the old Hanford town site through March 31, 2013.

The lower Snake River is also open for the retention of hatchery steelhead through March 31. The daily limit in the Snake is three hatchery steelhead. Barbless hooks are required.

Winter **whitefish** seasons are currently open on the Yakima, Naches, Tieton, Cle Elum and Bumping rivers. Whitefish gear rules are in effect on the the Yakima River from the Highway 223 Bridge at Granger to Keechelus Dam through Feb. 28. Whitefish seasons for the other rivers run Dec. 1 to March 31. Anglers are advised to check the Fishing in Washington [rules pamphlet](#) for regulations that apply to specific river reaches.

Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist stationed in Yakima, recommends that anglers fishing for whitefish concentrate their fishing efforts in deep pools below riffles. 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), and bait is allowed. Anderson said most whitefish are caught with a small fly, tipped with a maggot. The individual limit is 15 whitefish per day, most of which range from 10 to 15 inches long.

Rather catch **trout**? A catch-and-release trout fishery is open year-round above Roza Dam under selective gear and whitefish gear rules. Above Easton Lake, there is no size or catch limit for eastern brook trout.

Those interested in fishing local ponds near Yakima should know that WDFW recently stocked several of them with more than 400 brood stock rainbows, averaging 5 to 10 pounds apiece. I-82 Pond #4, Rotary, and Myron lakes and the pond at Sarg Hubbard Park all received some of the lunkers in December. Sarg Hubbard Park Pond is open only to juvenile anglers under 15 years old and anglers with a disability and reduced fee license.

Several other waters stocked with big trout in November are also still worth a try, Anderson said. North Elton Pond near Selah got 2,000 jumbo rainbows (1.5 lbs. each), while North Fio Rito and Mattoon Lakes in the Kittitas Valley got 250 rainbow brood stock (5-10 lbs. each). Anglers are reminded to check the Fishing in Washington [rules pamphlet](#) for special gear and catch limits that apply on lakes and ponds.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail – Let us know what you think, give us a question, share a story!

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Quote of the week from the above story: "Requiring that science be non-controversial is like ordering your omelet made with uncracked eggs," - **Jeff Ruch**, Executive Director, PEER

GOOD LUCK!