

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **January 18<sup>th</sup> – January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** - The cold snap has kept many anglers indoors, but reports are still coming in from all the local rivers. Although pressure is lighter, Willamette River bank fishermen are still getting a few steelhead at Meldrum Bar and the blacktop. Backtrollers here have been almost nonexistent as of lately, but good water conditions warrant the effort. Catch and release sturgeon fishing in the Portland harbor has also produced for the few who brave the cold weather.

The Columbia below Bonneville Dam has for the most part been a ghost town, other than the occasional boat spotted in the Rainier/Kalama vicinity. Cold water temperatures drive sturgeon up into the Willamette that runs a few degrees warmer and anglers best serve themselves by focusing their time there. A few reports of "decent" sturgeon fishing have come in from above Bonneville Dam in the Cascade Locks and Stevenson areas.

The Clackamas has been in great shape and steelhead anglers are getting a few steelhead. Boaters and bank fishermen are both getting their share and some boaters have reported rather good fishing from the stretch between Feldheimers and Carver. Free-drifting roe and yarn as well as bobber and jig are producing. Expect good water conditions through the weekend. Eagle Creek is very low and clear and fishing conditions are poor, expect an improvement after the next rainstorm.

On the Sandy River, steelhead anglers have been busy catching fish. Water conditions were prime over the weekend and prospective anglers should expect lower, clearer conditions for the next several days. Fish are spread through-out the system, but the Dodge to Oxbow and Oxbow to Dabney drifts have been producing the best.

McKenzie levels came up on the 10th of January but have been falling since. It was at 4,000 cfs at Vida earlier this week and should provide a little winter C&R trout fishing for anglers in the area. Steelhead can be found below Leaburg Dam.

There are a few native winters in the Santiams but with only 600 over the Falls, it's not enough to create much of a catch-and-release fishery.

**Northwest –** With conditions ideal for weekend anglers on the north coast, anglers were out in force despite frigid temperatures. Although several anglers braved the hazardous road conditions in the early morning, anglers reported a fair bite first thing in the morning but action typically picks up better when water and air temperatures come closer together. That's usually from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Effort and success was likely best on the Wilson and Trask Rivers with the Nestucca starting to kick out more consistent success as well. A mix of both early run fish, both spent and a few fresher as well as broodstock fish are beginning to show. From here on through early April, quality hatchery fish will likely be from the broodstock program prevalent on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers with every other north coast stream producing a fair return of wild fish and far less crowded conditions.

Smaller systems such as the Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem and Three Rivers largely contain spent early run fish this time of year. Wild fish will return later in the winter but quality fish on

these systems will be few and far between for the next several weeks. Rain is once again needed to enhance these now low and clear streams.

Hazardous road conditions are likely to remain through the weekend. Vehicles towing boats over the coastal pass are especially susceptible to dangerous travel conditions. Use extreme caution and consider a later start for safety and improved angling opportunity.

With an east wind influence possible over the weekend, offshore conditions may exist that will allow safe bar crossings and smooth seas. Anglers wishing to take advantage of these potential offshore conditions will likely be rewarded with bountiful catches of seabass and lingcod out of most northern ports. Fair Dungeness crabbing is also a possibility although larger crab seem to move offshore this time of year.

Sturgeon tides are favorable although not below the optimum 0.0 stage. Target the afternoon low tide on Tillamook Bay using sand shrimp for bait in the west or middle channels. Bay crabbing will likely remain poor.

**Southwest**- With boats able to cross into the ocean over the past weekend, limits of rockfish and lingcod were taken out of central Oregon ports. Bottom fishing is open to all depths through March.

The entire coast remains closed to mussel harvest due to a naturally-occurring toxin. Scallop harvest is allowed but only the abductor mussel should be consumed.

As the mainstem Umpqua drops this week, it should produce winter steelhead although most will be natives requiring release. It's still early to expect the South Umpqua to provide quality fishing for hatchery steelhead.

Coos and Coquille systems are getting too low and clear to fish at their best. West Fork Millicoma anglers are taking a few.

The lower Rogue is predicted to settle in the 5,000 cfs range which is low by winter standards, but still fishable. Steelheaders have been pulling fish out of this stretch regularly. With winters moving into the middle Rogue with regularity, boaters pulling plugs and side-drifters should do well. The lower Applegate has been producing winters. Upper Rogue anglers are still taking a few summers but most are showing signs of too much time in the river.

Water levels at the Chetco are dropping and have turned clear. If the forecast remains accurate, it will be too low to fish well by the weekend to come and this is unfortunate as results have been good. Winter steelhead averaging 10 pounds are distributed throughout the system with the occasional hatchery fish in the 20-pound class.

The Elk and Sixes rivers will be low and clear until the next round of precipitation falls in the southwest.

The ice at Diamond Lake is improving with three inches on the surface and about a foot of compacted snow atop that. Caution is still advised. Fishing is fair but it seems all who have tried it have taken a few fat trout.

**Eastern** – Redside fishing is fair on the lower Deschutes with tiny BWOs and caddis patterns effective. Steelheading remains very slow.

Generally considered the best winter stream fishing in Oregon, action on the Crooked River is holding up well. Primarily a nymph fishing show, dries are effective when Blue-Winged-Olive

hatches occur.

The tricky Metolius has been fishing well for those who know the river and its idiosyncrasies.

**SW Washington-** The already poor return of hatchery fish on most district streams will further disappoint although the Cowlitz will continue to provide the best opportunity for most district anglers.

Wild fish will begin to enter these systems but numbers won't improve significantly for several more weeks on the Lewis and Kalama. The Washougal will also produce some wild fish but anglers won't be overly impressed here.

Sturgeon interest continues to improve although the cold east wind has anglers thinking twice about exposure. Keepers may congregate near the mouth of the Cowlitz in greater numbers in the next several weeks, especially if the smelt run materializes.

**Soapbox Update:** I signed a petition to Governor Sean Parnell which says:

"We the sport and subsistence fishing people of Alaska, demand an end to trawler bottom fishing of pollock, which produces chinook salmon and halibut bycatch. We demand a full investigation and the complete shutdown of this fishing industry until results show the trawlers don't take all the fish. We have a right to our fair share of this fishery through sport and/or subsistence fishing according to Article 8.3 of Alaska State Constitution."

Will you sign this petition? Click here:

[http://signon.org/sign/end-salmon-halibut-bycatch?source=s.em.mt&r\\_by=2369411](http://signon.org/sign/end-salmon-halibut-bycatch?source=s.em.mt&r_by=2369411)

Thanks!

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Cold weather kept most sensible sturgeon anglers at home and may continue to do so through the weekend. The Columbia can be a miserable place to spend a day when temperatures drop below freezing, especially with an east wind.

Although sturgeon effort remained light, some fish are being caught in the Portland to Longview stretch, particularly around the mouths of the Lewis and Cowlitz Rivers. Sturgeon used to congregate from the Cowlitz downstream in large numbers before the crash of the winter smelt run destined for the Cowlitz River. Now, with that population of fish severely in decline, sturgeon have moved out of the mainstem and into other coastal estuaries in search of another abundant food source. The recent publication of the joint-state stock status report indicates that adult smelt returns in 2013 will be similar to those of the previous 2 years. This may warrant further effort in the Longview area but you'll have to get your fresh smelt elsewhere as it's an illegal bait since its listing back in 2010. Shrimp for bait is a distant 2<sup>nd</sup> but may just be the most effective given the circumstances.

Bonneville Pool sturgeon anglers reported some fair success with this creel check courtesy of ODF&W:

**Bonneville Pool:**

Weekly checking showed ten sublegal and one legal white sturgeon released for 52 bank anglers; and ten legal white sturgeon kept, plus 353 sublegal, one legal and two oversize sturgeon released for 28 boats (74 anglers).

Other upstream pools (John Day and The Dalles) didn't fare nearly as well for keepers but shaker action is fair to good.

The steelhead creel check is done for the year but it would be foolish to subject yourself to these winter conditions in search of a spent summer run fish.

There are very few other choices on the mainstem right now. Crabbing in the estuary should even be a bust right now.

**The Guide's Forecast** – With warmer temperatures in the forecast, sturgeon anglers may find an uptick in opportunity if waters follow suit. A slow rise in mainstem water temperatures may be expected but it will be a slow rise. The Willamette will continue to offer the best opportunities for sturgeon action but you'll be practicing catch and release fishing, at least for now.

The Bonneville Pool will offer up the best opportunity on the Columbia mainstem for a while to come. Anglers still have the opportunity for catch and keep in this section of river and this time of year can offer up some of the best opportunity for those seeking a consumptive opportunity.

The John Day and The Dalles Pool are also consumptive options but don't typically produce nearly the same results as the Bonneville Pool does. Guidelines are in place for each pool with the Bonneville Pool split up into two different guidelines to preserve some opportunity for summer anglers.

Steelhead fishing won't be worth talking about until later in the winter. Winter run fish continue to pass Bonneville with some of these fish destined for the Hood River. This fishery typically picks up later in February when temperatures climb a little more and higher concentrations of fish become available.

Crabbing in the estuary has dropped off since the commercial opener but persistent crabbers can still take legal sized keepers downstream of Buoy 22 and 23. Tides are not the best for great crabbing.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "The cold snap has kept many anglers indoors, but reports are still coming in from all the local rivers. Although pressure is lighter, Willamette River bank fishermen are still getting a few steelhead at Meldrum Bar and the blacktop. Backtrollers here have been almost nonexistent as of lately, but good water conditions warrant the effort. Catch and release sturgeon fishing in the Portland harbor has also produced for the few who braved the cold weather."

This ought to be good for ratings as the news of this broadcast is circulating the fishing community. Fly Fishing the World will be shown on the Sportsman's Channel the week of January 28th, featuring **fly fishing** (!) for sturgeon in Portland. Check Dish channels 395, Comcast channel 736 and dial in 605 on Direct TV. This should be a hoot!

Flow at the McKenzie River has been moderating with the latest data indicating 3,800 cfs at Vida although the water temperature, while rising, is still hovering around 38 degrees.

With this spate of dry weather, the Santiams are in excellent shape for fishing although the water is running really cold. See the Forecast, below, for additional insight, prior to planning a trip however.

Enter by January 31 to win one of four \$100 gift certificates from the ODFW to be awarded for the best photographs depicting fishing or hunting in Oregon. Find details online at [\\*http://goo.gl/W4xFw](http://goo.gl/W4xFw).

Fly fishing guide Nick Rowell will be presenting a program from 10 Am to Noon on Saturday, January 19th at the Northwest Fly Fishing Outfitters, 10910 N.E. Halsey in Portland, on fishing the Oregon coast with a questions session following. This free event with the public welcome.

**ODFW sez,** "The last stocking of rainbow brood trout for the season takes place this week with releases of 40 to 50 fish each at Mt. Hood Pond, Junction City Pond, Timber-Linn Lake, Walter Wirth Lake and Waverly Pond. Alton Baker Canoe Canal and East Freeway Lake will be stocked this week with rainbow trout in the one-pound or larger class."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "The relatively dry weather is keeping the Willamette in good shape and with no amount of rain in sight; expect it to be as green as you will see it for this time of year. These are the kind of conditions that make for the likelihood of a January springer. When it's raining and the Willamette is the color of week old pea soup, it's hard to muster up the gumption to hitch up the boat and wet a line. But when the sun shines and the mid-day temperatures reach into the mid-forties, these are the kind of days that fishermen want to get their boats out and run some fuel through the lines. Well, you have to bring a rod and hell, why not drown one of last season's left over herring and try for an early springer. There has already been a confirmation of a fish caught on the lower Columbia nearly a week ago. If somebody gets an early springer on the Willamette, it will happen between Sellwood and Meldrum Bar. Reliable sources tell us that over the years, there have been a handful of early springers caught in January.... and February springers are not much of surprise at all. There are three things that have to come together for early springer action. #1 is a strong run of five year olds. These fish come earlier than the smaller three and four year olds and a strong overall run is just as important. We likely don't have that luxury for 2013, so let's focus on the other two important factors that contribute to early springer action. #2 is having an extended dry spell, like we are having right now. The dry spell allows for the river to run clearer and having good visibility, better for Mr. or Miss Springer to see your green label herring. #3 is effort. Nothing brings out a wintertime fisherman more than day after day of dry, sunny weather (as long as it isn't 22 degrees and blowing 20 mph). #2 and #3 are closely related and you won't have much of #3 if you don't have plenty of #2. In a nutshell, good weather + effort = early spring Chinook. My earliest springer came on March 3rd and in fact we had 5 bites, hooked three and boated two beautiful hatchery fish. This was more than ten years ago, under the power lines at the head of the Multnomah channel.....that is also the earliest I ever tried my hand fishing for spring chinook and only because I had heard of a few being taken and the weather was very respectable. What I remember about that day was the weather had been dry for two weeks; the Willamette was as green as it gets for March and a handful of fish had already been caught after the first of the year. Score for the BBQ! I have a friend who fishes Sellwood religiously, let's call him "Sultan". He has put in more days there in the last 25 years than anyone in recent history. His earliest springer to date is Feb 7th, but he has witnessed the elusive January fish in other boats more than a handful of times. His goal for 2013 is to catch a January springer and if anyone can do it, he can. Have you checked the weather forecast, looks like Mother Nature has her money on the Sultan."

The McKenzie is worth a shot for a redbside encounter. Try nymphs but watch for Blue-Winged-Olives which often hatch in winter months. Steelhead are also in the system.

As of January 17th, fewer than 700 winter steelhead had been counted at Willamette Falls which means darn few in the Santiam system. Give this one some time, hope that the run is decent this year in which case the North Santiam will deliver some worthwhile C&R action for native winters.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The Clackamas has been in great shape and steelhead anglers are getting a few steelhead. Boaters and bank fishermen are both getting their share and some boaters have reported rather good fishing from the stretch between Feldheimers and Carver. Free-drifting roe and yarn as well as bobber and jig are producing. Expect good water conditions through the weekend. Eagle Creek is very low and clear and fishing conditions are poor, expect an improvement after the next rainstorm.

On the Sandy River, steelhead anglers have been busy catching fish. Water conditions were prime over the weekend and prospective anglers should expect lower, clearer conditions for the next several days. Fish are spread through-out the system, but the Dodge to Oxbow and Oxbow to Dabney drifts have been producing the best.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Anglers on the north coast have enjoyed one of the longest stretches of good water conditions than any other time this season. With these types of conditions often come cold air temperatures and hazardous roads. None-the-less, it's nice to have some options after such a volatile early season. Small systems are back to low and clear but larger systems are fishing good but stable conditions often bring a dependence on tides rather than river conditions so anglers are spending most of their time in the lower reaches of these larger systems.

The Wilson remains one of the highlights of the north coast and effort on this river compared to other systems proves it. Of course it's proximity to Portland is largely the reason this system receives so much attention but a quality broodstock program is just getting underway along with a fair early season run of Alsea stock fish that is starting to wane. Anglers pursuing fish over the weekend and early this week did fair but anglers know not to come bearing high expectations under these water conditions, they are too consistent (if that makes sense).

The Nestucca is starting to produce with more regularity. More steelhead are starting to come from the mainstem upstream of Three Rivers with some fish reported above Beaver recently (approximately at First Bridge). Under the current conditions, anglers will likely remain focused on water downstream of Beaver and especially Three Rivers and fish will now be more influenced by the tides than they will by water conditions. More broodstock fish will begin to show while anglers will also find more spent, early run fish in the system, particularly below Three Rivers and in Three Rivers itself.

The Trask remains primarily a wild fish show and with water conditions the way they are, this system has not drawn a lot of attention lately. That will likely remain the case as is the fact that since it's primarily a wild fish river, the bulk of adults will return later in the season, as in February, March and April.

The mainstem Nehalem will become a stronger option this week as dropping flows should allow for some of the best opportunity of the season. Coincidentally, the native run begins to pick up steam this time of year although we're still weeks away from the best fishing.

The North Fork predictably reported low, clear water conditions and slow action by bank anglers targeting steelhead near the hatchery. Workers took out ~350 steelhead on Monday noting that

most of those came in on the last high water. Small baits presented at the identical speed of the current you're fishing will offer you up the best chance at hook-ups.

Anglers were starting to get excited about offshore opportunity at mid-week out of most central and north ports although only fair bottomfishing was reported. Lingcod seemed to be pretty willing but sea bass action was sporadic. Sport boats frequently put out their pots while pursuing bottomfish but it seems some of the best action came out of Garibaldi. The commercial fleet often crabs deeper than 100 to 150 foot so it would behoove the savvy sport crabber to work water inside of commercial gear.

And for those thinking that they'll pursue cabezon in the near future, the new cabezon opener has been postponed to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Here is the official press release:

### **Marine Zone**

Cabezon retention is prohibited until July 1, 2013.

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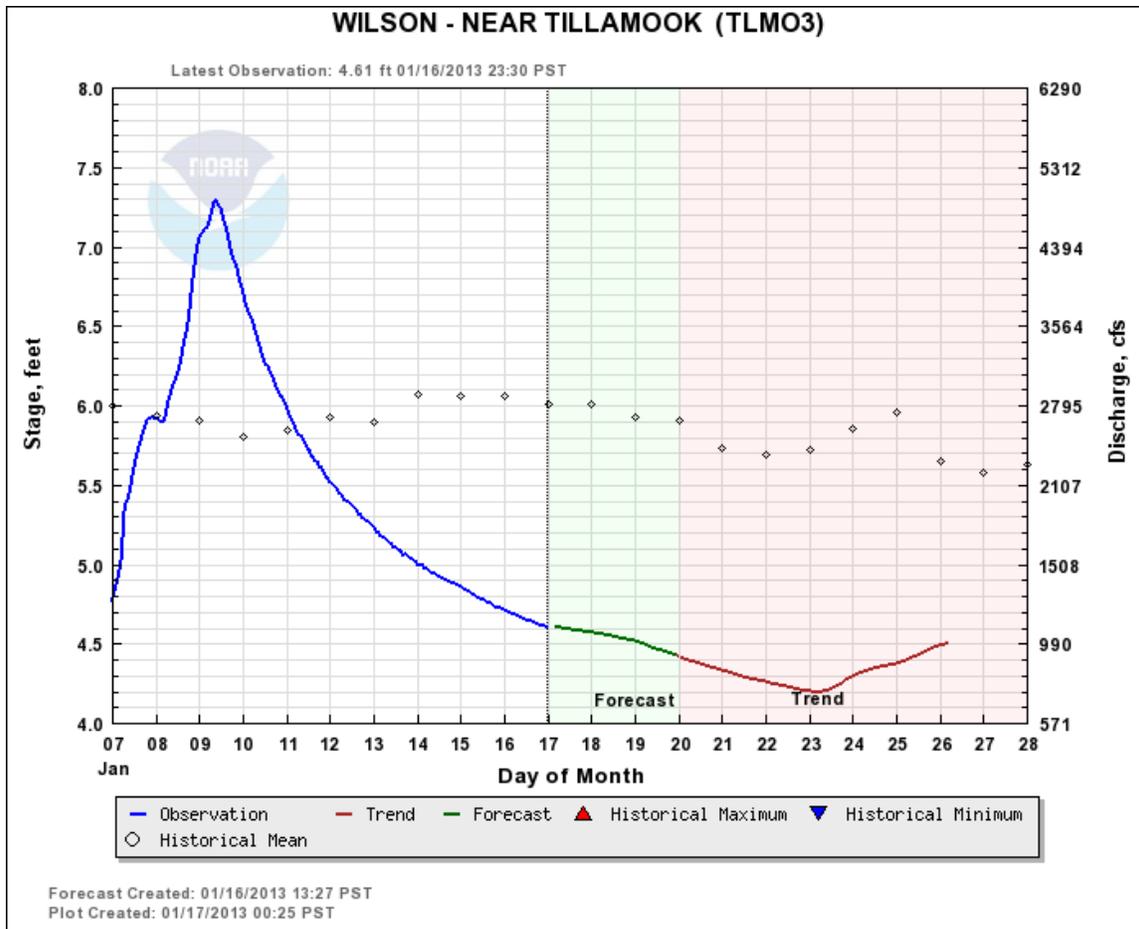
Prohibitions at Oregon's marine reserves at Redfish Rocks and Otter Rock are in effect as of Jan. 1, 2012. Fishing, crabbing, clamming, hunting and gathering seaweed are all prohibited. Beach walking, surfing, bird watching, diving and other non-extractive uses continue to be allowed. Complete details and a map of the boundaries of the reserves

- [Otter Rock Marine Reserves](#) (pdf)
- [Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area](#) (pdf)

Bay crabbing has also reportedly taken to the slower side but there remains some inland crabbers claiming to be taking good catches of keepers in Tillamook Bay, especially in the deeper water and away from other sport gear.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Another consistent week/weekend for water conditions will spell low water tactics, lower in the river systems. Tides are fairly favorable to bring in fresh fish this weekend with a fairly significant high tide occurring in the a.m. hours through the weekend. The Wilson will remain a primary coastal target for most metro anglers. Cold weather will keep anglers cool but the wise fisherman will wait out the cooler early a.m. temperatures and center their efforts around 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when fish are more likely to be active during these cold spells. Of course there will be fish taken in the early a.m. as there is always a first light bite, especially when fresh fish are present in the lower reaches of these systems. Those would be fish that haven't had a lot of offerings already thrown at them in the last several days.

For Wilson River anglers, driftboaters working the water from Donaldson's and downstream should find the greatest success. Power boaters working the water downstream of Sollie Smith Bridge should come across fair numbers of fish. Side-drifters will likely still take the highest numbers of fish but anglers will have to lighten up their offerings to match the speed of the water flow to entice fish that will become ever-so-wary in the dropping water conditions. Here is the hydrograph for the Wilson this upcoming weekend:



Once the Wilson gets below 4.5 feet, it begins to run pretty clear after such a prolonged period of high water events.

The Nestucca should also begin to put out more fish starting this week. Anglers should target their efforts below Three Rivers and fish upstream of this point have seen a lot of gear and bait drift by in recent days. The freshest tide fish should begin to make an appearance this weekend and should be targeted in the lower reaches. Bait will entice these fish the most but anglers may also run across a biter or two working plugs as well.

For most of these systems, plugs can become an effective tool for taking fish when the flows become lower and clearer.

The lower Trask as well as the lower Nehalem should offer up some opportunity for wild fish this week. Although still several weeks away from peak season, the wild runs on these two north coast favorites should jump start by the weekend. They too will most likely fall to side-drifted baits and an occasional plug. Plugs seem to be most effective in smaller streams however.

And speaking of smaller streams, rivers like the Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem, Three Rivers and the Highway 30 streams should all have early returning fish in them. But, since they were "early-returning" they are also "early-spawning" and therefore, not in great condition. They will be quite spooky in conditions like what we're likely to witness over the weekend. More rain is needed but more importantly, these fish become largely native-run later this month.

Afternoon low tides may offer up some opportunity for sturgeon anglers on Tillamook Bay. Low tides occur in the mid-afternoon, allowing ample opportunity for shrimp soakers to take advantage of fair population of keepers that should be in the estuary. Try and middle and west channels for your highest likelihood of action. The Ghost Hole and Bay City may be worth your efforts as well, especially with the crab population likely seeking saltier water this time of year.

Crabbing will best be left to offshore enthusiasts while in pursuit of bottomfish. Here is the current offshore weather forecast, highly likely to change at any given moment:

**FRI NIGHT**

S WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 7 FT AT 25 SECONDS.

**SAT**

S WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 7 FT AT 22 SECONDS.

**SUN**

NE WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 9 FT.

**MON**

SE WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 8 FT.

Folks, it doesn't get much better than that.....That doesn't mean however that you can let your guard down. Use extreme caution this time of year.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Ocean conditions look promising this week and have thus far allowed boats to access deep water out of Newport and Depoe Bay to take limits of rockfish and good catches of lingcod. Swells are forecast to pick up in the coming weekend. Ocean crabbing has been slow.

Bag limits for pacific halibut 2013 will be decided at the Jan. 21-25 meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

For just a \$15 entry fee, you can take part in the Steelhead derby being held this weekend on Tenmile and Eel creeks. The contest starts at 7 Am both days, winding up at 4 PM on Saturday and 5:00 on Sunday when awards will be handed out. For information and where to register, call 541-759-3312.

Siletz River steelheaders have had some good days but have had to work a little harder for fish this week with the water temperature turning cold. Side drifting and patience are suggested. With months of winter steelheading ahead of us, look for prospects to improve with rainfall.

Crabbing in Coos Bay has been rewarding for those dropping wings or traps in deeper water. Winter steelheading has produced fair to good catches on the mainstem Umpqua although the majority are natives which require release here. While 94% of the steelhead in the North Umpqua are natives which provide a C&R fishery, there won't be enough of 'em to provide worthwhile action for four weeks or so. On the other hand, water conditions are decent. There has been an above-average number of hatchery winter steelhead bagged on the South Umpqua which entered due to high water events earlier in the year. Catches will improve into February and March. While we'd encourage waiting 'til then ordinarily, it's actually worth a shot right now. As a bonus, water conditions are expected to be good here for the weekend. Expect some company.

As with other south coast streams, the Coos River has dropped and cleared. The West and East Fork Millicoma has also dropped to levels which has slowed steelheading. The only shot on this system would be the South Coos which has a little more water and flow than the alternatives. When flows have been decent, fishing has been worthwhile in the Coos system.

Steelheading has been fair to good on the Coquille River although the water level is below that which would be considered optimum for best results.

Decreasing levels and flows on the lower Rogue has slowed winter steelhead results which has been decent over the past week. Fishing the middle Rogue was a viable alternative to the low, clear water downstream until the past couple of days, during which this stretch became unseasonably low as flows dipped into the 2,200 cfs range. While bait is allowed on the upper Rogue, with the summer steelhead fishery all but over and few winters arriving, water conditions are moot. It's shaping up to be a tough weekend for anglers.

While the Chetco has produced decent winter steelhead catches as recently as Tuesday this week, the level has dropped below the critical 1,400 cfs at Brookings, which flow is considered the minimum for fishing here. Forecasts are for the river to get even skinnier through the weekend. We'd suggest an alternative if possible. Catch the Chetco following the passage of the next storm front.

Elk and Sixes Rivers are too low and clear to fish and will remain that way until the next round of precipitation. Though there's none in sight. Check Elk River conditions by phone at 541-332-0405.

Rent snowshoes at the resort at Diamond Lake for additional safety navigating the three or so inches of ice under a foot of packed snow. Count on catching a few nice-sized trout for your efforts. Updates on lake conditions are available toll-free at 1-800-733-7593, ext 236 or 238.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – The Metolius has been uncharacteristically tough, even for, well, the Metolius. There have been very few hookups this week and even when Mayflies *have* been hatching, the fish seem disinterested.

Water levels at Crooked River remain low while an encounter with a local rainbow or whitefish remains high. Plan on nymph fishing but watch for hatches and the opportunity to cast dries.

Bull trout are cooperating with downrigger trollers who are dragging lures or plug-cut herring to hook up at Lake Billy Chinook.

Crescent Lake has produced some large lake trout to hearty winter trollers recently, including one that went just over 26 pounds. Prepare for bone-chilling temperatures if you go.

A free nymph fishing clinic will be held on Saturday, January 19th at The Caddis Fly Angling Shop located at 108 West 6th Avenue in Eugene. Starting at 10 AM, this one-hour seminar will cover techniques, the rigs, reading nymph-water and more.

**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**

Subscriber Karol C. wrote to TGF co-editor and pro guide Bob Rees this week, "Hi! While I know that we could just GO where the fish GO there are many times that we are staying at the family house in Lincoln City. We enjoy fishing the Siletz Bay and the Siletz River.

"I am new to the area and to this newsletter. I don't see much written for these area – just very occasionally. Should I be looking in the Central Coast section or the North ? I do look through both but feel that I may be missing something at times. Thanks for you advice!

"We can certainly just drive to the Nestucca or other areas... it is just nice to walk down to the shore or take a short drive to the river. Thanks."

Bob replied, "Thanks for your comments Karol. Between Michael Teague and myself, we'll try and get more info for this area. We try and cover this area in the north coast, that's my section but sometimes Michael has more info than I on this elusive river system (and he does the south coast). We don't really have a central coast section.

Best of luck this season!"

### **Write to the TGF staff:**

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### **Random Links**

Diamond Lake Ice Fishing Primer from Pete Heley: <http://www.peteheley.com/1541/>

Sportfishing in America:

[http://asafishing.org/uploads/2011\\_ASASportfishing\\_in\\_America\\_Report\\_January\\_2013.pdf](http://asafishing.org/uploads/2011_ASASportfishing_in_America_Report_January_2013.pdf)

Economic Impact of hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing to Oregon:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic\\_impact.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic_impact.asp)

**GOOD LUCK!**