

NORTHWEST FISHING

EXPLORING THE PNW'S REEL LIFESTYLE

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JULY, 2025

PAGE 28

SOCKEYE SUMMER

IN WASHINGTON

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SALTWATER SALMON

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SUCCESSFUL BOTTOMFISHING
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EDITOR'S CORNER:

The Heat is On! Summertime has arrived with some hot weather and hot fishing. The name of the game is salmon fishing, and anglers are in for a special Two-for-One this year as sockeye flood in and pink salmon make their every-other-year appearance.

For sockeye, Torrey Banes gives us the details on where to go and how to fish for these delicious deep-red meat salmon. As for pink salmon, did you know your NW Fishing has a large growing database of articles online? If you visit our site at NorthwestFishing.net, just use the Search bar and type in "Pink" to find a great article published two years ago by Hannah Pennebaker.

Pinks are a wonderful fish to introduce young anglers to salmon fishing as they are plentiful and good biters. And sockeye, well, they are right up there among the best-eating salmon in the Pacific Northwest!

Do go prepared for some hot temperatures and wear your sunscreen. See you on the water!

- Mike Carey, Northwest Fishing



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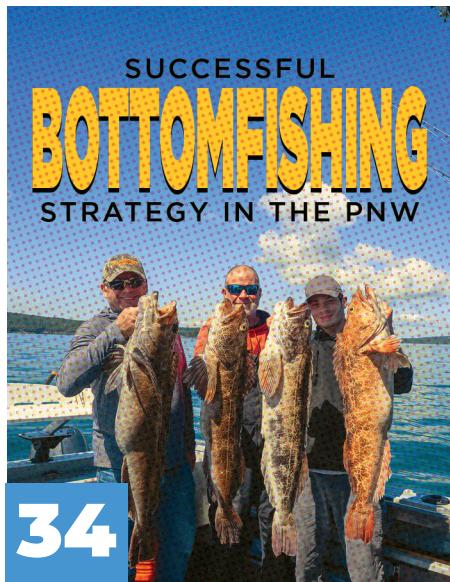
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CHINOOK CAUGHT IN THE TULALIP BUBBLE FISHERY. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY GREGG NILSSON.



DESTINATION: OCHOCO RESERVOIR



THIS CENTRAL OREGON FISHERY IS RUNNING FULL POOL, AND THE TROUT AND BASS FISHING IS FULL TILT.
BY GARY LEWIS

It was a windier day than we had hoped for, but the waves were not white-topped, and we had a 40-horse Merc and a trolling motor to fight the wind with. It was my first trip to Ochoco for the season, but my dad had been fishing it since March and knew right where we wanted to start. It didn't hurt that the wind was blowing us that way, too.

We started at the top of the lake where the creeks come in, around the flooded willows.

For my main rod, I had selected a rust-colored, sparsely tied mohair leech and was using a floating line with a 4X tippet.

My young dog Pepper was with me for her first time fishing. She thought she was expected to work

and was watching tweety birds while we unlimbered the fly rods. I tried to keep her from tangling in the expensive tackle. Once she got so excited, she jumped into the lake. After she realized this was just supposed to be a pleasure trip for her, she settled down and was just irritated for the rest of the day.

A big trout took my fly on the first pass but was able to throw the hook after a brief battle. Dad was also using a rust-colored fly, and our friend Keith Gran, fly-fishing for the first time in his misspent life, was using a fly called the Autumn Splendor, which might have reminded Keith of someone he used to know because he kept whispering to it, saying her name.

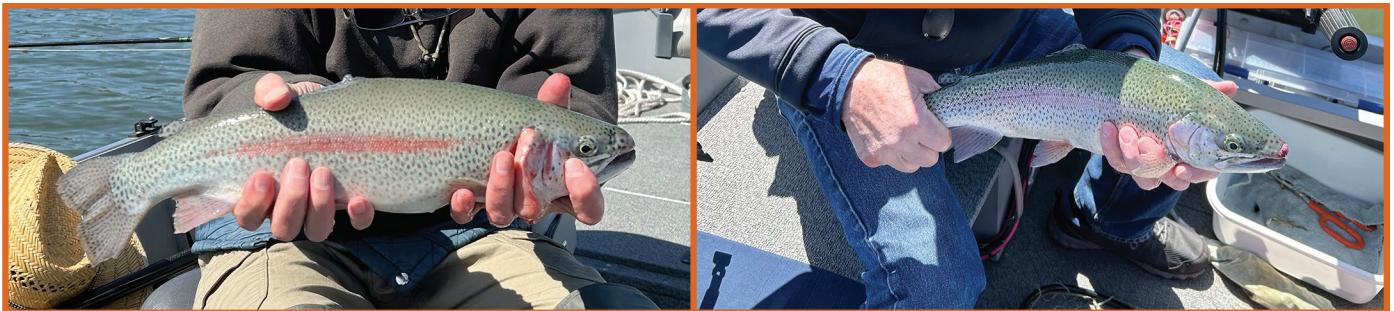
Whatever he was whispering to the Autumn Splendor was working

because soon he hooked and landed a trout. And then caught another.

For my part, I began catching bass. And dad, running the trolling motor and a 4-weight rod, began catching bass too, and a crappie.

OCHOCO AT FULL POOL

After three winters of better-than-average snowpack, a lot of central Oregon waters that were very low, even dry in some cases, are back and better than ever. Ochoco Reservoir has always been a bit of a local's secret. It is only six miles outside of Prineville, and when conditions are good, the trout grow fat, putting on an inch a month. Better yet, this reservoir has good wintering conditions, meaning that holdover trout are common, going 16 to 17 inches in late spring and early summer.



With water in it, Ochoco Reservoir is three miles long. Because it is an irrigation reservoir, water levels can change over the year. Surface acreage at low pool can go as low as 120 acres, but filled to full pool by early spring this year, the reservoir is full at approximately 1,100 acres.

At full pool, Ochoco averages 30 feet in depth with a maximum of 100 feet near the dam. A few lava outcroppings fortify the banks but because of up-and-down water levels, shorelines are composed of exposed silty bottom and muddy flats. Mill Creek and Ochoco Creek form channels in the reservoir. In the spring and summer, afternoon winds can be substantial.

When targeting rainbows

with a fly rod, try trolling from a float tube, canoe, or a pontoon boat. Fish along the riprap near the dam or on the east end of the lake near the inlets. Use an intermediate sinking line and troll leech patterns like the Woolly Bugger, Lake Bugger and Mohair Leech or a soft hackle wet fly like the Carey Special.

Crappie are often in large schools and may hold at specific depths around sunken structures. The challenge lies in locating them and plumbing the precise depth where the school is holding.

Because of the abundance of water, the trout fishing is going to continue excellently through July. But this is a great time of year to target smallmouth. And there are some surprisingly

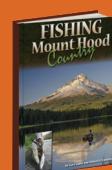
heavy bass in the lake. If fly-fishing is the game, use "bass nymphs" which are generally on No. 4 hooks tied like Woolly Buggers but with a heavy bead and black or yellow or orange rubber legs. These can be presented on floating lines under indicators or cast tight against the rocks or other structures. Bass will often take the fly on the drop. And you might be surprised by a big rainbow. When fishing with spinning gear, use spinner baits and crankbaits, or curly-tail grubs.

Ochoco Reservoir has been overlooked for the last ten years because it has been hard to fish. But those days are behind us. This Central Oregon fishery is running full pool, and the trout and bass fishing is full tilt.



Gary Lewis Bio

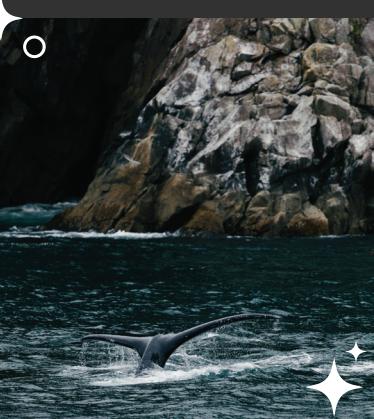
Gary Lewis is an award-winning author, TV host, speaker and photographer. Recent books include *Fishing Central Oregon, 6th Edition*, *Fishing Mount Hood Country* and *Bob Nosler Born Ballistic*. Gary has hunted and fished in eight countries on three continents and in the islands of the South Pacific. Born and raised in the Northwest, he has been walking forest trails and running rivers for as long as he can remember. Lewis is twice past president of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association and a recipient of NOWA's Enos Bradner Award.



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Summer

SALTWATER SALMON

BY MARK YUASA

Summer saltwater salmon fishing fun is now in full swing as the number of opportunities continues to ramp up, and hopefully, the decent catches seen in open areas last month are a signal of what lies ahead for the remainder of summer.

With no jarring environmental changes in the ocean salmon pastures for the past several years and based on what we saw last summer, it is likely that success will remain status quo and possibly a smidge or so above preseason predictions.

A number of marine areas opened in late May and June, including the Tulalip Terminal Area and Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island) for hatchery kings, both of which were decent. Marine Area 10 (Seattle-Bremerton Area) opened last month for coho, and anglers have been reeling in a good share of

resident fish, averaging 2 to 4 pounds with a few larger-bodied fish. In fact, participation and Chinook catch rates have been so good, surpassing preseason expectations, in the Tulalip Terminal Area that WDFW announced salmon fishing will be open Fridays and Saturdays only of each week now through Sept. 1 – closed Sundays and Mondays.

MARINE AREAS 1 - 4

The ocean salmon fisheries off Marine Areas 4, 3, 2, and 1 (Neah Bay, La Push, Westport-Ocean Shores, and Ilwaco) also opened in late June. Early indicators from the commercial troll fishery show a good mix of Chinook and coho are lurking from Neah Bay south to the Washington-Oregon border.

Word has it that this huge forecast of nearly 7.8 million pinks has already started to filter into the Strait of Juan

de Fuca, including some caught in Marine Area 10's coho fishery, and likely means the buildup for what happens in August will come to fruition.

Whatever location you choose to try your luck this summer, be sure to check the 2025-2026 WDFW regulation pamphlet or website for specific salmon daily catch limits, species and size restrictions, and other regulations that vary for each marine area. Emergency closures or adjustments to seasons are also possible.

All those early-season indicators have me really stoked for more options in July, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca's hatchery king opener. While I do mention some salmon fisheries here in August and beyond, we'll dig deeper into those in the August issue of this magazine.

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MARINE AREA 5

Sekiu & Pillar Point

Make plans to head to the western Strait around Marine Area 5 (Sekiu and Pillar Point), which opens July 1 through Aug. 15 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho and pinks. The Chinook fishery could close sooner if the 6,247 (6,539 in 2024) legal size encounter guideline is met. Fishing remains open for pinks and hatchery coho beginning Aug. 16. The two-bonus-pink limit applies here from July 1 through Sept. 26. Rules for coho change in late September, so check the regulation pamphlet for details.

MARINE AREA 6

Port Angeles

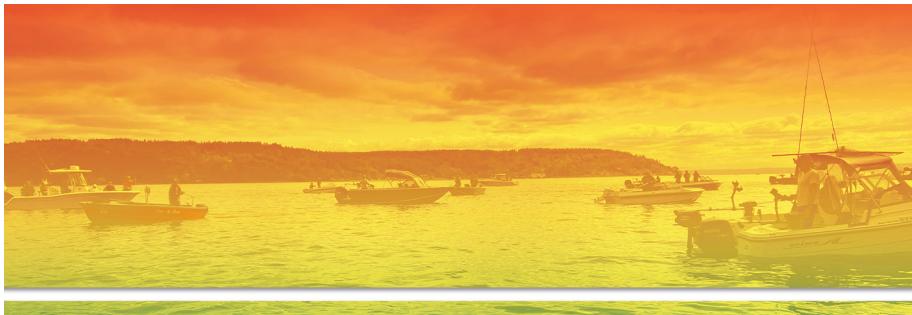
The eastern Strait in Marine Area 6 (Port Angeles) – west of a true north/south line through the #2 Buoy immediately east of Ediz Hook – opens July 1 through Aug. 15 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho. The Chinook legal-size

encounter guideline is

6,550 (11,173 in 2024). Fishing remains open for pinks and hatchery coho beginning Aug. 16. The area east of the boundary is open July 1 through Sept. 26 for hatchery coho only. The two-bonus pink limit applies here from July 1 through Sept. 26. Rules for coho change in late September, so check the regulation pamphlet for details.

WDFW fishery managers aligned several summer hatchery Chinook directed fisheries beginning July 17-19 in Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), northern Marine Area 9 (North Puget Sound/Admiralty Inlet), Marine Area 10 (Seattle-Bremerton Area), and Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island). WDFW will assess the Chinook catch after the initial three-day opener for all four marine areas. Additional Chinook openings on a Thursday





through Saturday basis may occur in each marine area based on available quota. All Puget Sound seasonal salmon fishery guidelines and quotas are available on the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports/creel/seasonal#ps-summer-chinook>.

MARINE AREA 7

San Juan Islands

Marine Area 7 is closed in July for all salmon fishing outside of the July 17-19 period when it is open for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho and any early pinks. Marine Area 7 is open daily beginning Aug. 1 for pinks and hatchery coho. The expected 2025 Chinook catch quota is 2,181 (2,181 in 2024), total unmarked encounters are 3,368 (3,845 in 2024), and total sub-legal encounters, fish under the 22-inch keeper size limit, are 1,967 (2,141 in 2024). The two bonus pink limit applies here from July 17-19 and Aug. 1 through Sept. 30. Rules for coho change in September, so check the

regulation pamphlet for details.

MARINE AREA 9

North Puget Sound

Marine Area 9 is closed in July for all salmon fishing outside of July 17-19, when it is open for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho and any early pinks. Marine Area 9 is open daily Aug. 1 for pinks and hatchery coho. The expected 2025 Chinook catch quota is 3,900 (3,900 in 2024). The two bonus pink limit applies here from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

MARINE AREA 10

Seattle-Bremerton Area

The Marine Area 10 hatchery Chinook fishery is open July 17-19 only. Marine Area 10 is also open daily for pinks and nonselective coho through Nov. 15. There are some pockets of summertime closures and openers within Marine Area 10, and refer to the 2025-2026 WDFW regulation pamphlet for details. The expected 2025 Chinook catch quota is 3,166 (3,166

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in 2024), and total sub-legal encounter, fish under the 22-inch keeper size limit, is 6,742 (6,477 in 2024). The two bonus pink limit applies here from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

MARINE AREA 11

Tacoma-Vashon Island

The Marine Area 11 hatchery Chinook fishery is open July 17-19. On other days in July, Marine Area 11 is closed to all salmon fishing. Fishing is open daily beginning Aug. 1 for hatchery Chinook, pinks, and coho. Chinook will remain open until Sept 30 or until one or more of the fishery guidelines are met. Pinks and coho will remain

open daily if Chinook closes early. Marine Area 11 has non-retention Chinook impacts built into their season. The two bonus pink limit applies here from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

The expected 2025 Chinook catch quota is 3,379 (3,379 in 2024), and total sub-legal encounter fish under the 22-inch keeper size limit is 3,675 (5,907 in 2024).

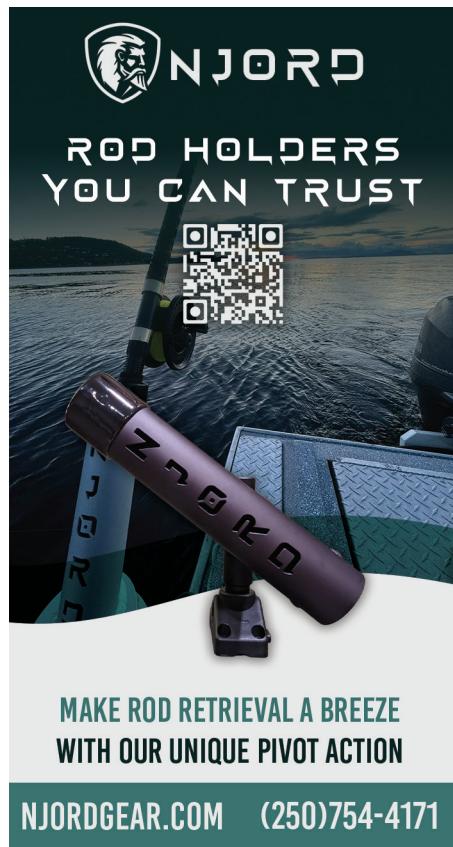
If Marine Area 11 is slow or closes sooner than expected in late July, anglers can move south of the Narrows Bridge in Marine Area 13 (South Puget Sound), which is open year-round for

hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho, and has a two bonus pink limit that applies here from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

MARINE AREA 12

Hood Canal

Marine Area 12 (Hood Canal) north of Ayock Point opens for hatchery coho beginning July 11 and has a two bonus pink limit that applies from July 11 through Sept. 30. Marine Area 12 south of Ayock Point is open for Chinook and hatchery coho beginning July 1 and has a two bonus pink limit that applies from July 1 through Sept. 30.



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TIPS & TRICKS

A note of advice for anglers is that migrating summer Chinook don't tend to stick around in one spot for very long as they head to their natal spawning grounds. The best action tends to occur during early mornings when they're suspended in the upper and middle water column. As the sun rises, the kings head to deeper water and can usually be found near the bottom. Other important keys to success are locating baitfish schools at the proper depth and getting your presentation into the mix, and looking at a tide chart since being in a certain location determines if you'll have any luck at catching a fish.

In the summer, hordes of dogfish move into Puget Sound, so more often than not, fishing with bait can lead to a lot of frayed leaders. Many tend to switch over to trolling with lures or drift fishing with jigs. Anglers can also make it a combo of success as WDFW shellfish managers were busy late last month planning the summer

Dungeness crab fisheries in many marine waterways of Puget Sound. The crabbing season opens on July 3. You can find the news release with specific dates and open locations by going to the WDFW website.

There are several Puget Sound region freshwater salmon fisheries, including a few sections of the Skagit River open July 1-15; Cascade River open now through July 15; Baker Lake open July 12 through Aug. 31; Lower Skykomish open now through July 10; and Lower Nisqually River opens July 1.

Before making any plans to go summer salmon fishing in marine or freshwater locations, be sure to check the WDFW regulations webpage for any updates or emergency closures and what specific salmon species you can retain in open areas. The WDFW 2025-2026 regulation pamphlet was expected to be available in July at statewide tackle shops and vendors.

In the next issue of this magazine, I'll dive into August pink salmon fishing options, where Puget Sound is expected to be flooded with nearly eight million pinks.

Until then, I hope to see you on the water very soon!





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THE RIVER LESS TRAVELED



I'd never given it much thought until recently, a thought drifted up from my subconscious. This epiphany revealed to my satisfaction a reason for my deep peace and joy I experienced floating rivers on my pontoon. "Huckleberry Finn". The childhood memory engulfed me, and I realized, all these years later, what a profound influence Mark Twain had on my life, all from a book I read many years ago in my childhood. I would be lying if I told you I remembered any specific details that I read, rather, it was a realization that the journey of Huck Fin and

Tom Sawyer, floating down the Mississippi, had etched into my spirit a longing for adventures, pondering what lies around the next bend, floating effortlessly on a liquid highway, seeing new sights and connecting with nature, and my essence, in a way that gave me a level of serenity essential to my very being,

Now, so many years later, I see that it was natural for me to combine fishing with adventures. Indeed, from childhood on, I've found my true moments of peace outdoors. Adding fishing to the equation gave me a purpose, an excuse, and as I travelled through

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the decades of my life, I instinctively gravitated to the combination of fishing with outdoor adventures.

Canoes and overnight trips were the stuff of my early travels, whether a five-day float down Wisconsin's Kickapoo River, or paddling and portaging the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, I saw the beauty of the outdoors, catching fish along the way. Casting a small Mepps up against a sandstone wall and feeling a beautiful brown trout bend my budget friendly spinning rod, pulling line off the reel, or tossing a topwater spinner into a weedy



shoreline, the bubbling chatter of the blade drawing the attention of a green-striped pike knifing toward it with a V-shaped wake, the anticipation and final smash of the grab – I was literally hooked for life!

I was fortunate to have moved to Washington during a time when hatcheries put out large numbers of smolts, and returns of hatchery fish made for many memorable days of steelhead limits. My go-to rivers were the Cowlitz, Skykomish, and Satsop. I ran up and down these rivers in an eight-foot sport raft with an eight-horsepower prop (with my own modified, raised transom to avoid rocks). It was a fun time, but there was something missing.

I can only thank the subconscious imprint

Mark Twain had on me. At a winter Sportsman's Show, I happened upon a booth where Dave Scadden rafts and pontoons were displayed. I stopped in mid-step and took a closer look at what would soon become my new passion. Dave had a variety of pontoon boats on display, but what really caught my eye was a cherry red two-person twelve-foot pontoon boat. My mind immediately began contemplating the adventures I could have with friends, and two boys who would soon be old enough to join in on trips with me. I remember the boat had features that caught my attention, such as being able to easily convert it from a two-person to a one-person pontoon, and a nifty storage system for coolers or overnight trips. Fighting the impulse to buy

on the spot, I went home that night and did my research. Satisfied that it was a good quality product at a fair price, I came back the next day and made my purchase.

The rest, as they say, is history. My cherry red pontoon took me on multiple adventures, including floating the Wilson River with each of my sons for fall chinook. Many a water was explored and many fish netted in my fire-red pontoon. The years added on, and the boat served me well.

Twenty or so years later, my retirement years are coming ever closer. Last year, my wife and I moved to Great Falls, Montana, to be closer to our grandchildren, and farther away from the ever-growing Puget Sound region with its claustrophobia-inducing congestion.

My backyard river is now the Missouri. My son Matt and I have floated the river several times, and the pontoon performed fine, but I found myself gazing enviously as drift boats and larger rafts floated by. I observed they offered a more stable platform for tossing flies and anchoring up on this big river.

The seed had been planted, and it took full root when my wife JoAnn casually mentioned there was some spare cash in a savings account, which I knew nothing of. Husbands know that spare cash and a wife's "OK" are the final straw. My research kicked into high gear!

I looked at the variety of drift boats and rafts out there and narrowed my choice down to a raft. I prefer the flexibility and lighter weight of a raft. After looking at several companies and designs, I found myself on the Dave Scadden website. I was instantly impressed by the

selection of framed rafts, with sizes and features aimed at whatever budget and needs a boater was looking for.

I had determined that in addition to a stable platform, I also wanted a big enough raft to handle three anglers, and space to store overnight camping gear for those Huck Finn adventures. Each year, Montana opens the Smith River to a lottery, allowing a limited number of anglers to float this secluded and scenic 57-mile canyon-lined river. I've decided this four-day float is going to be on my Bucket List.

After a call to Dave to discuss my goals, I selected his new 14-foot Dragonfly. With a 6-foot beam, three seats, a casting brace, an inline anchor system, and the rigid dry floor insert feature, the raft was just what I was looking for. Throw in an excellent warranty and my positive experience with my pontoon boat, and I feel confident I'd found a winner.

Pairing my new raft with a flat bed 5x8 trailer (to which I added a couple of rollers made with PVC piping), my sons Matt and James, and I headed to the Missouri River for a

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maiden voyage. Launching below the Holter Lake dam, we floated 5 miles down to the takeout at Craig. Around us were every style of floating vessels – drift boats, pontoons, rafts – we felt right at home. The Dragonfly had plenty of room for the rower and two anglers. While the front angler had a casting brace, the rear angler did not. This would be a feature I will try to add as a DIY project. The anchoring system is also not as robust as a higher-end (and twice as expensive) raft. I can live with it. Again, if you go on YouTube, there are some

DIY setups to improve the anchor system.

Anchored up and casting nymphs with indicators, James let out a “fish on”, his first ever fish caught on a fly, and his first ever Montana fish. A nice native whitefish came to the net after a bulldog fight. The smile on James’ face was my big catch for the day. Introducing Matt and James to my inner Huck Finn was more satisfying than catching a 20” trout – well, maybe.



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INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-SCHOoled KOKANEE

PART ONE

BY GARY GORDON

***This may or may not have taken place on one of my favorite kokanee lakes...
but the advice is good whether it really happened or was just in my head...***

KOKANEE: Ok, I'll admit it. I'm moody. But that does not mean I'm impossible. But being moody is as much fun for me as it is for the fisherman.

DUDE: You know, that might not be the case for all kokanee fishermen. Some can spend all day chasing you with no results. That is not fun.

KOKANEE: I suppose it is all in your perspective.

DUDE: So tell me why some days you cannot resist one particular color, and then the very next day you shun it.

KOKANEE: Well, it is a little more complicated. I hope you get it. If your readers had really carefully read and understood Kokanee University, Part 1, then the answer would be easy. But alas, you can lead some fish to water, but you can't make them swim.

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So here goes.

Humans live in their world, and I live in mine. Most everything is different in my world from the human world. If a kokanee fisherman wants to become a whole lot better, he had better stop thinking about the material world and start thinking about what life is like in my water world.

I wonder how humans would like it if their favorite views were seen in contrasts of shades of gray, and light and dark. It might change their perspective a bit. Or suppose humans could only see color a distance of about 21 inches, and then only right in front of their nose. Or, how would humans react if they could not focus their eyes? Limited color vision and no ability to focus. For humans, limited color vision and no ability to focus would likely

change a few things in your material world.

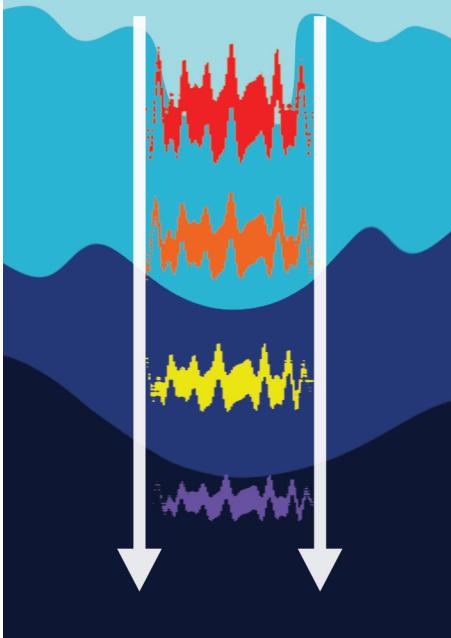
DUDE: You sound, maybe a little bitter. Only a guess, of course.

KOKANEE: I can do things in my world that humans only dream they could do. That kinda makes up for any human deficiency in my water world. Balance is achieved. It helps comfort me that my brain is the size of a pea, while the human brain...

DUDE: Please don't go there.

KOKANEE: As I was saying, my color vision is quite limited. And although I can see in shades of gray and black, the clarity of the water becomes a major issue for me. If the water clarity is limited, then that governs how far I can see contrast. Sometimes, the lack of water clarity makes it almost impossible for me to even see color within

WATER EATS LIGHT COLORS EATEN BY DEPTH



that 21-inch window.

DUDE: And the effect of light at depth?

KOKANEE: For sure, things get darker at depth. Go deep enough and there is no light. Water literally eats light. Water gobbles light. Depending on the time of year, as much as 40-50% of the light that hits the water is reflected back and away from the water. That means there is less light under the water. Always. No exception.

DUDE: You said that water eats light?

KOKANEE: So I did. You are paying attention. When you go down the water column,

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things get darker. But not darker red or darker orange. As you descend the water column, it gets a reducing combination of darker green, blue, and indigo and purple before it goes completely black.

DUDE: So what happened to red, orange, and yellow?

KOKANEE: Dude, the water ate it.

DUDE: When?

KOKANEE: Up front. First the red, then the orange, and then the yellow. Gone. And this happens very quickly in fresh water. Except for early season, most of the fishing for us kokanee takes place in water that contains only

green, blue, indigo, and violet light.

DUDE: Ok. I know that visible light can be put through a prism, and it then breaks down into the colors of the rainbow. In fact, as I recall, the colors of the rainbow are always displayed in the same sequence. Freaky?

KOKANEE: This is where you could benefit from having a pea-sized brain. When I am talking about color, I am really talking about wavelengths.



Most colors that are visible are a blend of other visible colors.

DUDE: Let me stop you right there. You used the term "visible." Are there colors that are invisible?

KOKANEE: No. And I guess I have to make an admission that you humans and we fish actually have something in common. We are both vertebrates, and we have vertebrate eyes. Within our eyes are structures that connect our eyes to our brain. We both have corneas, and attached to these corneas are both rods and cones. Although we have them in different proportions, these rods and cones operate the same way. Simply stated, rods help us differentiate between light and dark, while cones take care of visible color detection.

Color is only a visible concept. If you put all of the visible colors together,

you get white. White light is what daylight is all about. Run that white light through a prism, and you get a display of the rainbow. When you look at that rainbow, the colors are always displayed the same way. That is because visible colors have specific wavelengths. Wavelengths are measured by frequency. Frequency can be thought of as a way to measure how long or how short the wavelength is. In the visible spectrum, red has the longest wavelength, whereas violet has the shortest. All of the other visible colors are in between.

DUDE: OK. But how does water eat light?

KOKANEE: It eats light by wavelength frequency. As you descend the water column, the longest wavelengths are eaten first. That would be the visible color red. Go a bit deeper, and you also lose the visible color orange. Go deeper, and you also lose the visible color yellow. The very last visible color to get eaten is violet. After that, the water is black.

DUDE: I guess that black is the absence of light.

KOKANEE: Technically, black is the absence of

visible light. There are other wavelengths out there that you might understand and feel the effects of, but their wavelengths are outside of the visible color spectrum.

DUDE: I hear so much about UV light. All of the manufacturers want me to buy their stuff because it is "UV!"

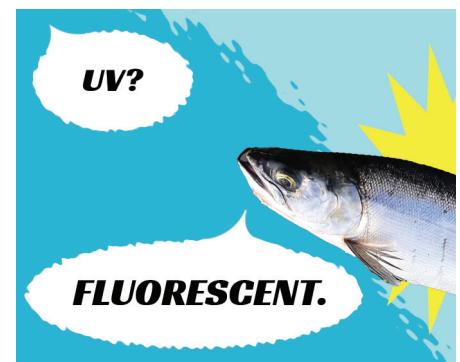
KOKANEE: Here is where I get to "see" how much you have been paying attention. "UV" is short for ultraviolet. It is called ultraviolet because it is in that part of the spectrum that is beyond violet. It has shorter wavelengths than violet.

DUDE: But if UV light has a shorter wavelength than violet, then that means that it is not part of the visible spectrum.

KOKANEE: Exactly.

DUDE: So what about the claims that fish can see UV light?

KOKANEE: That claim is nonsense. Go back to our discussion of the vertebrate



eye. We have rods and cones. There are no rods or cones that can detect UV light. There is a study that attributes UV detection to the Japanese Dace and some goldfish. It has never been shown that salmonids can detect UV light.

DUDE: But the fishing tackle makers would never lie to us, would they?

KOKANEE: Decide that for yourself. I can tell you this: their terminology is incorrect, and the reasons they give for their product's effectiveness are incorrect. However, the products are effective.

DUDE: Now you are really confusing me.

KOKANEE: I specialize in confusing fishermen.

DUDE: Well then, what is the correct terminology for "UV?"

KOKANEE: The correct terminology is the term "fluorescent."

DUDE: Then why don't the tackle makers call it "fluorescent?"

KOKANEE: I suppose because it is a lot harder to spell than "UV." And "UV" is a lot easier to text.

DUDE: Is that black light charging the material, you know, to make it glow?



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KOKANEE: No. Glow is phosphorescence. It gives off light energy (glow) regardless of whether there is light present, provided that it has been "charged. Fluorescent materials do not need to be charged. All that is required is for some available light to act on it. Fluorescent materials retain their color all the way down the water column. There is no color fade.

DUDE: Color fade?

KOKANEE: Ordinary colors can fade as you go down the water column. Ordinary red will turn black in just a few feet of water. But a fluorescent red will remain red all the way down the water column, provided there is some light to act on it. Even if there is only one percent light way down deep.

Fluorescent red will remain red in the absence of the red wavelength in the water column. And you will recall that red is the first

wavelength to be eaten by the water as you descend the water column. Because I have cones in my eyes, I can see a fluorescent red at 50 feet - if there is some light - even just blue/purple light at that depth.

DUDE: So no fading. Does this work the same for all fluorescent colors?

KOKANEE: Yes. In fact, some fluorescent colors are so effective, they get brighter in the water as you go down the water column. In any event, no fade.

DUDE: You said that the stuff marketed as "UV" is mislabeled.

KOKANEE: All of the stuff marketed as "UV" is really fluorescent. So all of the stuff you bought as UV is still good stuff, but call it UV as much as you like, it is not a dragonfly - it is fluorescent. Remember, since that stuff is in fact fluorescent, there is no color fade as you descend the water

column and likely gets brighter as well.

DUDE: Would using UV/fluorescent materials increase the visibility of my presentation?

KOKANEE: That is exactly what it does.

DUDE: But you earlier told me that you can only see color about 21 inches in front of your snoot.

KOKANEE: True. But you forgot that I can see contrast in shades of dark, light, and grey at a farther distance. Fluorescent material can still be detected outside that 21 inches because they do provide good contrast.

DUDE: Fluorescent colors retain their color all the way down the water column, independent of your ability to detect them at distance, correct?

KOKANEE: Correct. Color is not the way I get attracted to your lure. What makes me want to investigate is not color, but vibration.

DUDE: Vibration?

KOKANEE: Yep. I'm thinking about good vibrations.

DUDE: Is there a difference between the way sound acts in water than it does in the air?

KOKANEE: Yes, and very much yes. For one thing, sound travels in air at about 1,000 feet per second. You humans see a flash of lightning, then count off one/one-thousand, two/one-thousand, three/one-thousand to determine how far away that lightning struck.

But sound travels way faster in water than in air. Sound travels in water at 5,000 feet per second. And I'm not just talking about sounds that you humans can hear. I'm talking about sounds that are beyond human ability to detect. I assure you that I can detect sounds that you cannot.

Just because you cannot hear such a sound does not mean that such sounds do not exist.

DUDE: My head is starting to reel.

KOKANEE: It is fine with me if you would like to take a break. A few minutes to stretch, perhaps?

DUDE: Yes, that would be fine. Catch you then.

KOKANEE: Not likely.

TO BE CONTINUED....

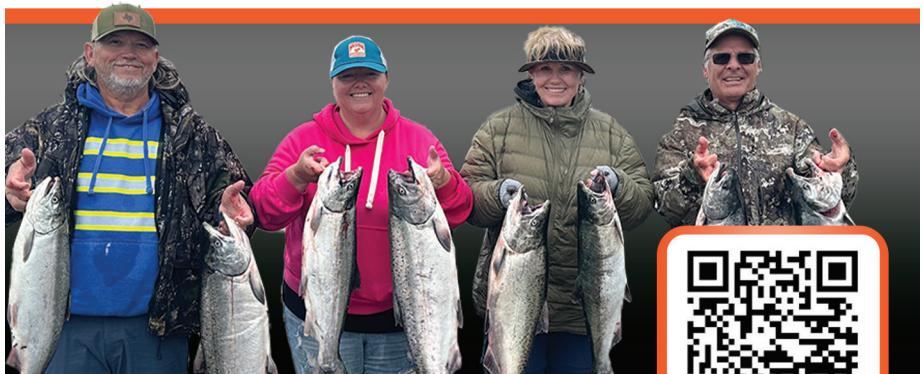


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LOCATIONS



SOCKEYE

Summer

IN WASHINGTON

BY TORREY BANES

THE TEMPERATURE AND THE SUNSHINE WON'T BE THE ONLY THINGS THAT'RE HOT THIS SUMMER.

Every year in July and August, Sockeye fever hits Washington. I'm sure you've scrolled through social media this time of year and seen glory shots of the delicious red-meat salmon limited out on your feed. While some of us make it look easy, there is definitely a learning curve that leaves many anglers scratching their heads.

For those who don't know what a Sockeye is, I'll give a brief biology lesson. Sockeye are one of the 5 species of Pacific salmon we have here on the West Coast. They start their lives in cool, clear waters, often adjacent to a large lake. What makes Sockeye unique is that they use a nursery lake to rear for

about 2 years before heading to the ocean.

These Sockeye make up the majority of their diet of shrimp, krill, and plankton, which give them that delicious sought-after meat. After 3 to 5 years (most Sockeye return at 4 years old), they return to the rivers where they were born.

While there are a handful of naturally occurring Sockeye populations in Washington. The main ones that I will focus on are the Columbia River, Baker Lake, and Lake Wenatchee. Most of these fisheries target Sockeye trolling from a boat. However, bank anglers do have success plunking spinning glows and shrimp close to shore in certain areas of the Columbia and Skagit Rivers.

THE COLUMBIA RIVER:

These fish start crossing over Bonneville Dam in Late May and early June, with the run peaking there around the 1st of July. Most of the fish are destined for the Okanogan River, Lake Wenatchee and Redfish Lake on the Snake River, with a handful going up Yakima and Deschutes rivers.

As they make their way upriver, they can be targeted at several different areas, including below Wanipum Dam, Wells Dam, and the ever-popular Brewster pool. The Brewster pool is where the fleet will fish for the majority of the season and for good reason.

All the fish in this upper reach of the river are headed up the Okanogan River and into lakes in Canada.

THE THERMAL BARRIER:

Sockeye do not like to slow down for anything. The only times they really stop are when they make it to their home lake, have to cross a dam, or encounter some type of obstacle. In this case, it's what we call the thermal barrier. You see, when the Okanogan gets above 70 degrees, the sockeye will stay down in the cooler Columbia, making them sitting ducks until cooler waters prevail.



Most years, the thermal barrier will set in by mid to late July, but varies depending on snowmelt and weather temperatures. The last couple of years, the thermal barrier was set right from the get-go, and this year looks no different. You can find the Okanogan River temperature on the USGS river flows site.

THE BREWSTER 500

You will not get solitude up in Brewster, but you will find great fishing. Most of the boats will fish right at the mouth of the Okanogan, but if you want fewer boats, you can fish down by the pump

house. There is a nice shelf there, and the fish will sit all throughout there up to just above the Okanogan. To target these fish, I like to run a size 0 dodger in either chrome, chrome/silverscale, or moon jelly. Followed by a Mack's Lure smile blade, 3 red beads, and a coon shrimp. I will run anywhere between a 12 and 16-inch leader, with 14 being my sweet spot. I recommend either a 2 or 3 single hook setup tied with 2/0 hook or 1 single and a size 4 to 6 treble for a trailer. These will generally be 10 to 25 feet deep and can be targeted with either lead balls or with downriggers.

An advertisement for Jones Sport Fishing. It features a man and a young boy holding a large salmon. The background is a collage of various fishing-related images. The text includes "CLEARWATER RIVER", "SNAKE RIVER", "BUOY 10", "JONES SPORT FISHING", "Now Booking", "The Northwest's Premier Outfitter offering guided fishing trips", "CONTACT US", and "JONESSPORTFISHING.com". A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

You'll want to troll slowly for these fish, often 1 mph or less going up river. Remember to speed up a bit going downstream. Levels and flows change throughout the day, so pay attention to the action of your gear. You want a side-to-side action on your dodger. If it starts to turn over and do a figure 8, then you are going too fast.

Here are a few things to note here fishing Brewster. It gets HOT! Temperatures are normally in the 90s and triple digits. Drink plenty of water and wear appropriate sun attire. When fishing the

Brewster pool, keep your head on a swivel.

It's literally combat fishing with boats. Know your limits. If you're not comfortable with the main pool, don't be afraid to fall back to less crowded areas. Be mindful when parking your boat on shore. The Columbia River is dam-controlled, and water levels fluctuate rapidly, sometimes within minutes. Every year, boats get left high and dry.

BAKER LAKE:

Ah, the Westside's beautiful Baker Lake. I remember the days of plunking for sockeye on the Baker River. Back then, a Sockeye fishery in Baker Lake was just a wishful thought. Finally, in 2010, after some hatchery and smolt collection improvements, the Baker Lake Sockeye fishery was born and has been an absolute hit ever since. This year, there are 60,000 sockeye forecast to the Baker River, and as of the time of writing this article, there have already been a bunch trucked up to



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the Whatcom County lake. The Sockeye here are big, bright, and fight hard!

As I talked about with Brewster, you'll be slow trolling with dodgers for these guys. Here is a rundown on the gear I use to consistently put Socks in the boat. I like to run either a size 0 or 00 dodger in Chrome, chrome/silver scale, purple haze, 50/50, or moon jelly.

Sometimes, I will put a slight bend in the dodger for a little more thump. Hoochies work very well at Baker, with orange, purple, and pink being my go-to's.

WILDLIFE SCULPTURES IN GOLD
BY FRANK MCCUBBINS

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I run a Macks Lure Smile Blade above them and tip my hooks with pink coon shrimp soaked in Slammin Sams XXX. Sometimes I will also run just a smile blade and beads, as well as just bare red hooks. I tie all my leaders with 8 to 10 inches of 20 to 30lb fluorocarbon. Any lighter and these crazy fish snap it like it's nothing. There are 2 main areas where people fish here. Down near the dam and up lake in the old Baker Lake bed. Don't be afraid to move around and hunt for these fish, as they will move around to get away from pressure.

Troll .7 to 1.2 mph and watch your fishfinder for cruising sockeye. Typically, the fish will hang anywhere from 20 to 60 feet down and are best targeted with downriggers or 6 to 12 oz of lead. There are 5 boat launches to choose from. Starting at the dam with Kulshan, Horseshoe Cove, Panama Point, Swift Creek, and Shannon Creek at the far end. In past years, Shannon Creek has been restricted to campers only. This is a fun fishery and should be good right from the get-go on July 12th when it opens.

LAKE WENATCHEE SOCKEYE

Last but not least, my personal favorite fishery: Lake Wenatchee Sockeye! Watch the counts at Tumwater Dam. Once we've reached our escapement goal of 23,000 fish plus several thousand for harvest, WDFW will open the lake by emergency rule. This will usually be in either late July or early August. For gear, keep it stupid simple. 2 or 3 bare red hooks behind your dodger on a short leader, 8 to 10 inches. Shorter is always best at Lake Wenatchee. Check the regulations, as here it is no bait and single barbless

hooks. The wardens are normally out in force. For depth, the fish here are much deeper.

I usually catch them at 30 to 50 feet early on, and later in the season, I'll fish as deep as 115 feet down. Trust your electronics! Also, mindful of the wind out here. It blows more often than not and gets extremely rough!

Good luck out there, and if you're feeling ambitious, I recommend hitting all 3 fisheries!

Torrey is the owner and operator of Torrey's Guide Service.

torreyssportfishingadventures.com/



Torrey Banes is the owner of Torrey's Sportfishing Adventures LLC. He has been an absolute fishing fanatic since he could hold a fishing rod, and immersed himself in all things fishing and enjoying all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

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SUCCESSFUL **BOTTOMFISHING** STRATEGY IN THE PNW



BY ANTHONY MARRESE JR.

Halibut, lingcod, and rockfish are the top three species of bottom fish here in the Pacific Northwest.

There are three main methods for targeting bottom fish, and the cool thing is that the tactic you use is more dependent on the depth and environment you're fishing in, rather than the species itself. All species can be found in virtually any depth in the ocean. In fact, many of the biggest lingcod I have ever caught have been in less than 50 feet of water. This means that if you know your water, you can choose a tactic that will give you the best chance at success.

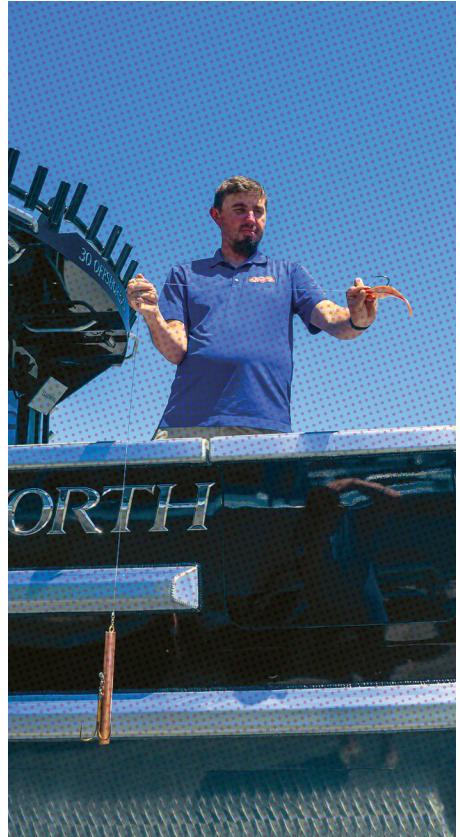
TACTIC NUMBER ONE:

Live bait rigs. Live bait is the most natural presentation to a fish. As the name implies, you need an actual prey item connected to your hook, and this often elicits the most aggressive feeding response. The flip side is that you have to spend considerable time catching bait. Additionally, it can be difficult to keep your bait alive throughout the day. I have found that live bait rigs work best when targeting ling cod on reefs that are under 150' deep.

Ling cod will readily take live bait of nearly any size, and often do not even

need to be hooked to bring them to the boat. To decide between large and small bait, know your area. If you are fishing a particularly busy reef with lots of rockfish, and you are not allowed to keep them, try to use larger baits such as greenling or other sculpin to keep bycatch to a minimum. The best live bait rig I have ever seen, I learned from John Kerrigan of Seeking Limits Guide Service out of Everett, WA. John's rig is devilishly simple.

It consists of a sliding weight system where the plastic slide is connected



WALLEYE FISHING

A large walleye fish is held horizontally by two men. The man on the left is smiling and holding the fish's tail. The man on the right is wearing a cap and sunglasses and is holding the fish's head. They are on a boat on a body of water. The background is a dark, slightly overexposed sky.

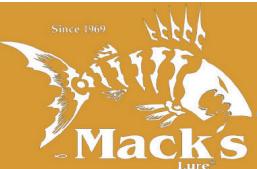
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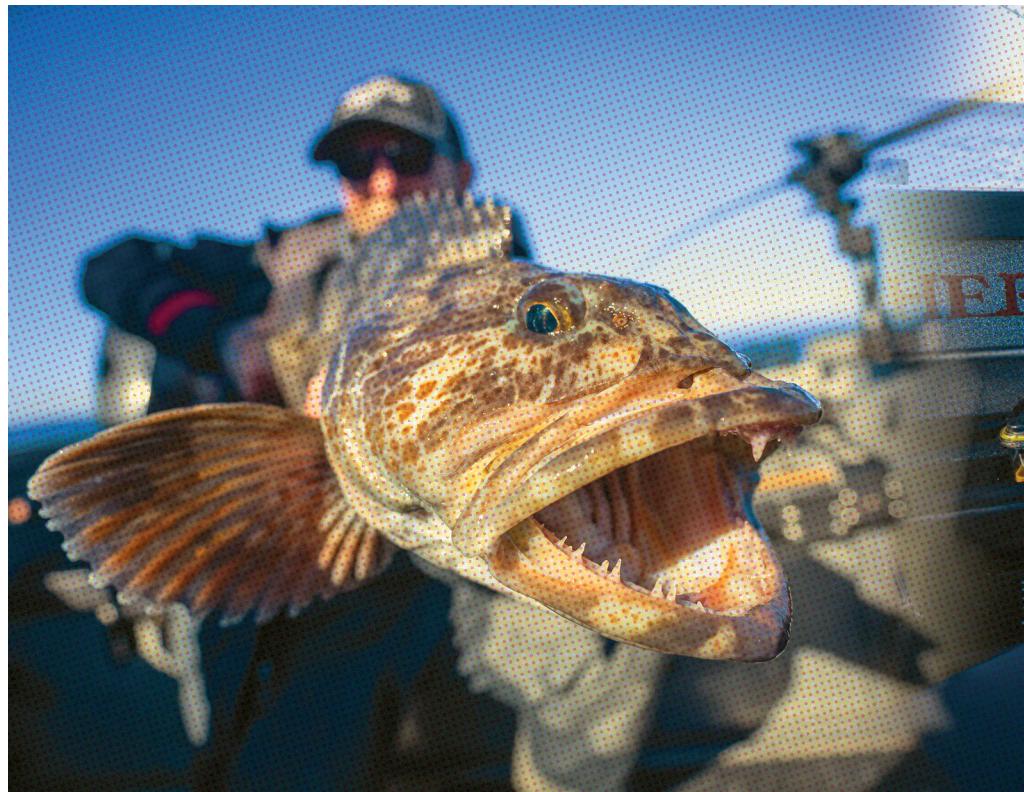


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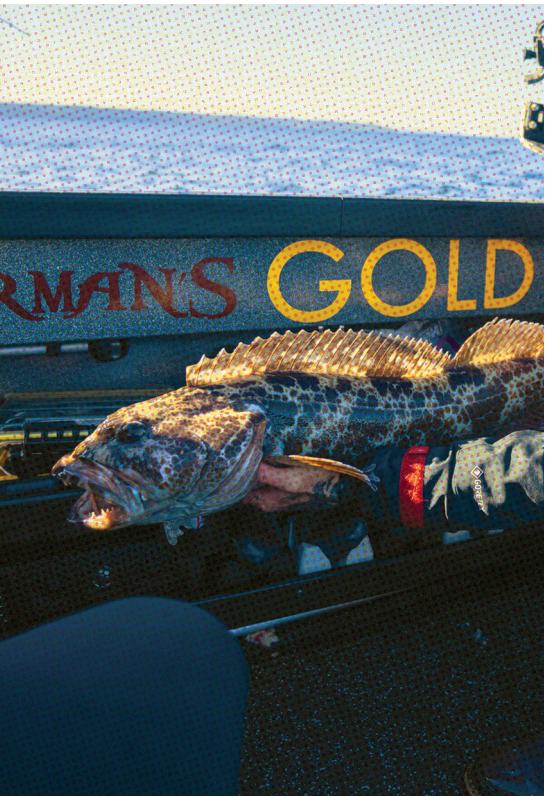
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to the weight with a rubber band, and it is stopped by a swivel to a leader. The rubber band keeps you from losing an entire rig if your weight gets stuck, and the swivel will keep the live bait tangle-free. Give it a try with surf perch on a single hook rig, or sand dabs and greenling on a double hook rig.

The **SECOND BOTTOM FISHING METHOD** is jigging with soft plastics. This method allows you to go right out to the fishing grounds. Oftentimes, the soft plastic jigs come pre-rigged, so all you have to do is tie them onto a 50-pound mono leader and

drop it near the bottom. My absolute favorite for jigging soft plastic is a Fisherman's Gold Electric Eel jig. It has caught absolutely everything from giant 50-pound lingcod to limit after limit of rockfish. The only consideration is how heavy and how big you want your plastic. Obviously, using a 32 ounce 12 inch eel won't be the right choice for rockfish, but if you're shallow, there is little better than catching black rocks on a 1 or 2 ounce eel. Fishing soft plastics is the most versatile of the 3 methods. You can fish them light or heavy, large or small, shallow or



deep. Soft plastics can struggle in areas of intense pressure and is most difficult in areas where there are lots of toothy bycatch, such as arrowtooth flounder or dogfish that can tear up your bait.

The **LAST METHOD** is a combination of pipe jigs and unweighted soft plastics on a ganoin type rig. This method is great for deep drop fishing, particularly for halibut. The pipe jig not only allows enough weight for a rig in 500 feet of water, but it also can get chewed on for hours and not lose its efficacy. By running some unweighted plastics above the pipe jig, you can also

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take advantage of the extra color and action to bring fish to your rig. However, this method is really prone to snags, and can be expensive to lose if you are fishing the more shallow rocky reefs.

I typically pair this method with electric reels in deep water and on flatter bars in the open ocean. You can build a ganoin by using a 3-way swivel connecting the main braided line to one end, a 6 foot ganoin of heavy mono (80 pound or heavier) to one of the other sides, and lastly a short heavy mono leader connected to a large 12/0 J hook that you hook your eel or flounder plastic to.

Making a game plan for your specific environment is the best way to set yourself up for success. Always consider the time you have to fish, the depth at which you want to target, and the overall fishing pressure to help you decide between durable baits like pipe jigs or if a natural live bait is the right choice. Get out there and try it for yourself!

Anthony is part of the Fisherman's Gold Team out of Everett, WA

www.fishermansgold.com



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CALVIN'S CRAB HOUSE

WHO

**CALVIN'S
CRAB HOUSE**

WHAT

**FRESH SEAFOOD
& COFFEE SHOP**

WHERE

NEAH BAY

Calvin's Crab House sits amongst the shoreline of Neah Bay on the Makah Indian Reservation in NW Washington. Neah Bay is a stone's throw away from Cape Flattery, which you may have heard of as the most northwest point in the continental US. Take Highway 101 through the Olympic rain forest past Crescent Lake to the Sekiu cutoff. This highway is a destination in and of itself. This scenic highway has attracted fishermen and travelers for generations. The smell of the fresh rainforest air, ancient trees, and wildlife makes this a destination for those who wish to connect to the outdoors. Salt runs through people's veins here. Fishing here is not for the faint-hearted. I had the opportunity to check out Calvin's Crab house when fishing Neah Bay

for Halibut, bottom fish, and Kings with SeaWalker Charters, Ripple Effect, and Fishermen's Gold. Calvin's Crab House was a welcome treat after 2 long days grinding away on the water.

Everything here is homemade and local. The Dungeness crab and fries were everything I hoped they would be. The crab is fresh and served cold with a warm cup of butter. The fries are hand-cut and seasoned perfectly, just like my mom used to make.

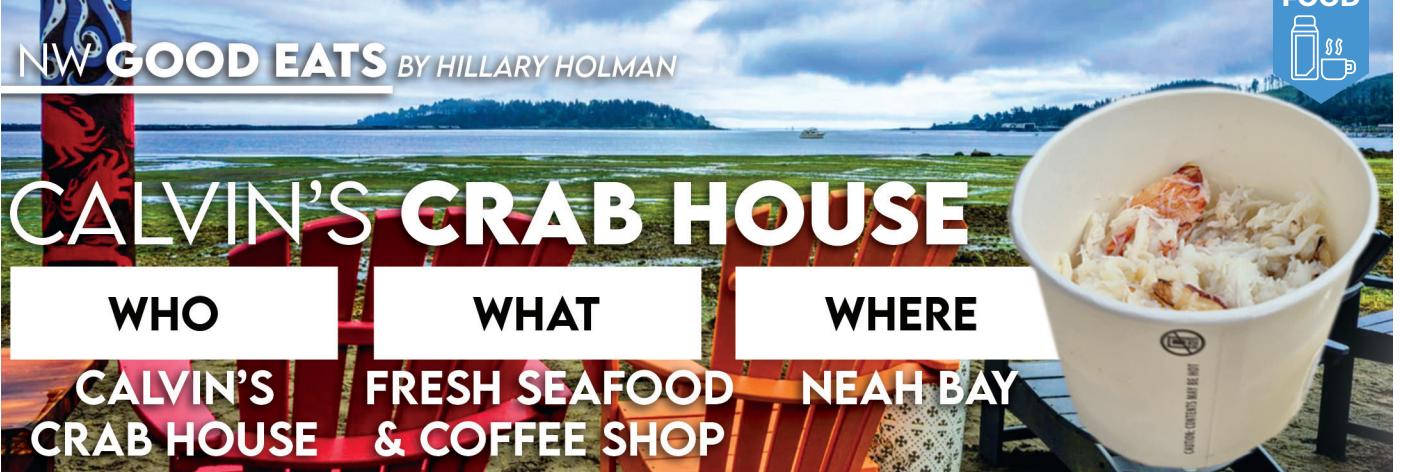
Calvin's Clam Chowder is the best broth-based Clam Chowder I have had in YEARS! The broth tastes like the clean ocean these clams were harvested. Fresh celery and potatoes served with oyster crackers make this the perfect way to warm up on a cold day. Their cinnamon roll is a must! Pick one up for the

boat or the next leg of your drive. Goodies galore in their bakery case, and change from day to day. You never know what awaits you!

The restaurant looks and feels like an old watchman's post, with wood walls and a small wood bar to peer out the window at the ocean as you eat. Adirondack chairs line the shoreline for a peaceful spot to eat as you take in the spirit of the water and the totem pole that marks the spot.

Happy adventuring! Keep Calvin's on your radar when in town. Remember, Cape Flattery is just a stone's throw away, and Charter Captains are waiting for your call to get you out on the water!

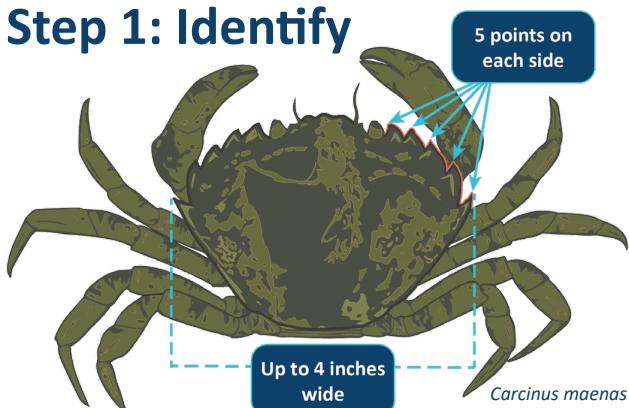
**Don't forget to stop in at the tribal office for your visitor's pass when passing through.*



Report Invasive European Green Crabs



Step 1: Identify



Step 2: Report

If you find a suspected European green crab or their shell, photograph it, note the location, and report it.



Scan to report!



wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab

The European green crab is a damaging invasive species that poses a threat to native shellfish and habitat for salmon and many other species. They are not always green and may be orange, red or yellow. These shore crabs are found in less than 25 feet of water often in estuaries, mudflats, and intertidal zones. They are not likely to be caught in deeper water, but may be encountered by beach anglers, waders, clam and oyster harvesters, or those crabbing off docks or piers in shallow areas. **As a Prohibited species, it is illegal to possess or transport live European green crabs in Washington.** Shellfish growers and private tidelands owners in areas with European green crabs should contact WDFW for management support or permits. Please email ais@dfw.wa.gov.

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov). For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.



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Invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels threaten our outdoor recreation, economy, infrastructure, environment, and public health. Help stop the spread by cleaning, draining, and drying your gear, equipment, and watercraft every time you leave the water.



Learn more:
wdfw.wa.gov/clean-drain-dry

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A group of people on a boat holding up fish. A man in the foreground is holding a large salmon. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

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