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# REEL LIFE

COVER STORY 12

## SALTWATER COHO FORECAST

16 Limited time, Cost of  
Fuel and The Bubble!

My Top 8 Summer  
Bass Fishing Patterns 18

28 Prop Repair and  
Selection

Grande Bass At  
Mexico's Lake El Salto 34

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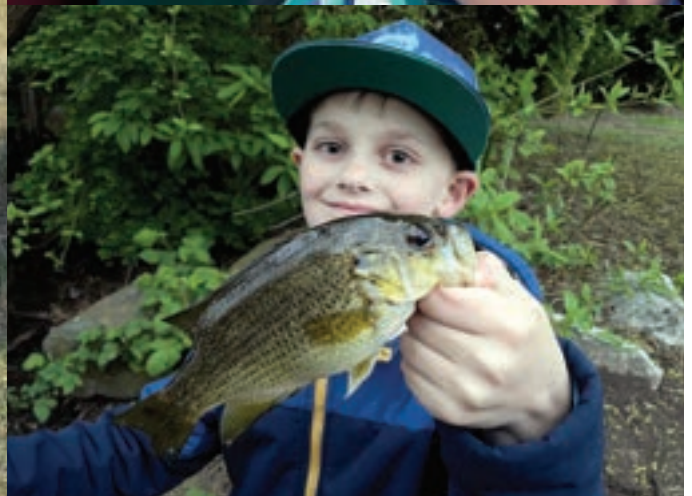
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# EDITOR'S CORNER:

Wow! Salmon Season is off to a roaring start with record numbers of sockeye salmon returning up the Columbia River. Baker Lake opened giving Washington anglers another favorite fishery to enjoy. Chinook runs up the Columbia have been strong as well. Here's hoping returning coho make this year a trifecta for salmon anglers in the Pacific Northwest. This month's Theme is salmon, but we also have a nice mix of articles from our writers I know you'll find useful. Hannah gives the low-down on repairing the floor/flotation on that appreciating asset – your boat. Having done this repair myself on a 16 foot Fiberform I can tell you it's well worth it!

From my desk 700 miles away in Montana I've been enjoying the renowned trout fishing and scenery Montana is known for. While I will certainly miss the salmon season, I'm enjoying the quiet and wide-open spaces this beautiful state has to offer. Keep an eye out as I share my adventures in Big Sky Country!

Mike Carey - [mikec@nwfishing.net](mailto:mikec@nwfishing.net) @mikecareynwfr



## CONTENTS

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**08**

Perch Fishing:  
Family Fun, No Boat  
Required

*Paul Lewis*

**18**

My Top 8 Summer  
Bass Fishing Patterns

*Rick Lawrence*

**28**

Prop Repair and  
Selection

*Mike Carey*

**12**

Saltwater Coho  
Forecast

*Jason Brooks*

**22**

Loop Hikes For  
Backcountry Trout

*Gary Lewis*

**30**

Breathing New Life  
Into Your Old  
Aluminum Boat

*Hannah Pennebaker*

**16**

Limited time, Cost of  
Fuel and The Bubble!

*Randy Castello*

**26**

Workers Tavern

*Hillary Holman*

**34**

Grande Bass At  
Mexico's Lake El Salto

*John Kruse*



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# NORTHWEST REEL LIFE

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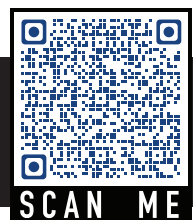
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# PERCH FISHING FAMILY FUN

NO  
BOATS  
REQUIRED!



By Paul Lewis

Summer is in full swing, meaning it is the most bountiful time to hit the water for our area's most desired catches: salmon! We have Chinook salmon all along the coast, resident coho salmon in the heart of Seattle (with big coho soon to follow), and the Columbia River is teeming with all sorts of salmon, including delicious sockeye and trophy kings. More opportunities will be coming shortly! With all this silver in our waterways, many of us focus in only on salmon and overlook some of the state's other summer opportunities, including panfish!



Yes, it is salmon time, and it may seem a bit crazy to have little green fish on the mind, but it is hard to find a better way to spend a couple hours with the family than by the lakeside, casting an ultralight rod in the water, looking for a little tug. The fish may be small, but they are bountiful along most lakeshores in the summer. When the goal is to go out and just catch a few fish, or introduce someone to the sport, perch fishing is an excellent choice. When I was knee-high to a grasshopper, my mom introduced me to fishing by heading to the dock with a can of worms. We sat for an hour and caught more perch than we could count. There is nothing better than instant success when introducing someone to the sport, and that is something perch practically guarantees. So, follow along with this article, find a couple hours during the day to pack a picnic and grab the family, then get ready to enjoy some time at the lake.

As stated above, perch are found in most lakes (with the exclusion of some alpine areas) in our state. Perch live in schools and are ferocious carnivores that will strike at just about anything they can fit in their mouth. In the summer, perch stay close to shallow structure, especially weed lines, as their camouflage blends them into the green grass and milfoil. Often, it is possible to see the fish with a pair of

polarized sunglasses, and where there is one, there is always more. Because of where they reside, finding a presentation that keeps your bait out of the weeds, but as close as possible to them, is a must. They only average 6-7 inches long, but for their size they fight like demons, making them especially fun for young anglers.

To get set up for your perch adventure, start by grabbing a couple light setups with 4-8lb test. Perch are not



very line shy, but lighter line allows for easier casting and knot tying, and it will allow the presentation to sit best in the water. There are practically infinite ways to catch a perch, but the easiest is a small (size 6-10) single point hook and nightcrawlers. Above the hook, toss a couple of split-shots and a small bobber: the bobber will allow the presentation to float right above the weeds. Take a little piece of worm, thread it on the hook, cast above the weeds, and wait for that bobber to start bouncing!

If weeds are hard to find, try dropping close to dock pilings or other submerged structure. Once one bites, it'll start a feeding frenzy, sending all the perch in the area towards the scent of your bait. Everyone in the family will be hooked into perch in practically no time! If bobber fishing isn't your style, casting a nightcrawler on a slow retrieve also works excellently, and in deeper spots, fishing a drop-shot rig along weed lines is also an excellent choice. When looking to avoid bait, small spinners, spoons, plastics, and even flies will work very well. One thing I do when fishing with the family is set the younger anglers up with worms, then cast hard baits to entice the most ferocious perch.

Perch fishing in the summer is as easy as that! Light line, light rod, picnic lunch, worms, small hooks/bobbers, and a little lake access; within no time, you'll be chest deep in green gold! It is important to remember that perch are part of the spiny-ray family and have sharp dorsal fins and gill plates. When giving to kids to handle, make sure they do so carefully and safely.

Aside from being great fun, perch are some of the finest table-fare in the state. They are boney creatures, so filleting (although the yield is small), makes for delicious,

boneless enjoyment. Many places have no limit on perch, and those that do have a generous limit of 25-50 fish in most cases. During the summer, putting the fish in an ice bath before processing will ensure nice, firm, and white meat that is perfect for tacos, fish and chips, salads, and more. Since they are so bountiful, keeping enough for a meal and releasing the rest is great practice. They stay the freshest when alive and are easy to target all summer long.

In conclusion, yes, salmon should be on the mind this time of year, but we all know life can get in the way of big-time fishing adventures. A quick trip to the lake with the family is a great way to scratch the fishing itch for a little bit while showing children and new anglers the great sport. The payoff is delicious, the fun is top-notch! So, grab some soda pop, a sandwich, and a bag of chips or two, find a dock or bank, and get ready for some great fishing and even better memories.

A collage of four images: a two-story house, a lake with a yellow outline, a fishing net with a fish, and a porch with a red chair. A large red 'SOLD' stamp is overlaid on the collage.

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# SALTWATER COHO FORECAST



By Jason Brooks



WATCH NOW!

**There is something special about coho fishing in the salt water.** Most anglers think of deep diving, hard fighting chinook, but with quotas being filled early, this year the chinook fishery has been unpredictable. The coho fishing is yet to come, and it looks like a great year. The fast-swimming topwater salmon of the Pacific, coho tend to have an aggressive bite and will jump and skip along the top of the water, giving the angler a heart racing show. Barbless hooks are required, and keeping an acrobatic coho on the line is one of the most challenging angling opportunities offered in the Pacific Northwest.

Looking to this fall, there is good reason to get excited for the upcoming fisheries. Coho, often called “silvers” for their bright silver scales that tend to stay nickel well into the freshwater rivers, are due back in big numbers this fall. Looking at the overall forecast for Washington waters, there are

2,118,361 fish due back, compared to last year, when 2,446,748 returned. So far, this year the chinook bite has been way above the model predictions, as has the sockeye bite, which came in nearly 3 times the model prediction, with over a half million fish making it back to Washington waters. If you can use both of those as indicators, as well as the great resident coho fishing in Marine Area 10 back in June and July, then we can hope for some fantastic coho fishing this fall.

The true shining star for ocean coho will be Marine Area 2, better known as Westport. Here you will find Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay bound fish, mixed with the 997,200 Columbia River bound fish. Westport is slated to be open through September 30th or until the 62,120 hatchery coho quota is met, whichever is first. Depending on the weather and wind, the Westport Bar can be very dangerous and keep anglers off the water. This can help extend the season into September, but if you find a day with calm



seas, then head to the coast and fish Marine Area 2.

For Puget Sound anglers, the predicted return of silvers is 619,948, with the southern end of Puget Sound seeing the bulk of the fish at 220,164. This means the fisheries between Seattle and Olympia will be good places to intercept fish bound for rivers and net pens in Marine Area 13 and 11. Don't overlook the other Puget Sound fisheries that will have a season, such as Marina Area 9, where most of the 619,000 plus coho will be traveling through to get to their natal rivers. The Everett coho derby is set for September 24th and 25th this year and it is timed for the "prime time" silver salmon fishery. Mid to late September is the best time to be on the water, but fish will show up in early August. Some of the larger ocean fish will push in with the tides in late August and stage in Puget Sound, feeding on the herring, squid, and anchovies- so don't think you have to wait until September unless the WDFW rules say so. Be sure to check the emergency rules as well, as our chinook fisheries can dictate some closures, which we saw in June and July with the Marina Area 11 closures and Neah Bay restrictions.

The Straits is where it is at for a lot of coho anglers. Last September, we made the long drive up to Sekiu for the last weekend of silver season and the fishing was incredible. We learned to fish shallow in the water column but in very deep water. Starting at the 550-foot line and fishing from the topwater to about 30-feet deep, we hooked coho after coho. This is a clipped fish only retention area, and a lot of these fish are headed for Canadian rivers where they don't clip all of their fish. Both Puget Sound and Canadian bound fish will be going through the Straits and it is a melting pot of average hatchery sized fish in the 6 to 8-pound

range, and some seriously large 12 to 16-pound giant coho. Be ready to fight an unexpected chinook as well, which must be released unharmed. This is a fishery where you will be thankful that

you must use barbless hooks. Learn how to use a de-hooking device, so you don't have to reach over the boat with a pair of pliers.

When fishing the straits, most anglers look at the tides, keeping an eye out for large swells and big swings. You should also look at the wind forecast, as wind waves can create a chop, and strong winds being funneled through the straits can create a small craft advisory. The tides might be calm, but wind can keep you from being on the water.

When it comes to finding Puget Sound fish, you can work the deep water and keep the gear shallow just like in the straits, but don't overlook points and kelp beds as well. As the fish start to near their natal rivers, they tend to move away from the deep shipping lanes and start using the shoreline. Points offer great places to intercept saltwater coho, as the baitfish tend to be pushed around points during strong tides.

Since this is a topwater fishery, you don't need downriggers. A dipsy diver or even just







a mooching weight to a spoon works well. The most common lure is the Coho Killer, which mimics a small baitfish such as a needlefish. You can downsize your dodgers and flasher to 8-inch models as well. Be sure to smear a good amount of scent on the lure and flasher as these are feeding fish and when they come up to investigate what is going on and get hit with a face full of scent, they attack the lure. The best scents are Pro-Cures Bait Sauces in herring and anchovy as this is a main food source for coho. Don't overlook squid skirts with UV inserts as well. My "go to" ocean coho set up is a Bechhold and Son's Flasher in white/chartreuse, with a Gold Star OAL12R Purple Haze squid skirt, over a Luhr Jensen Flash Fly UV insert. I use 27 inches of 40-pound Izorline XXX leader, with two Gamakatsu Big River 2/0 hooks tied so that they are touching each other in opposite directions. Then, I fill the squid skirt with Pro-Cure Bait Sauce in herring scent. The rig is clipped into the downrigger clip that is 5-feet above the downrigger ball. Attached to the downrigger ball is a Mack's Lure Scent Flash triangle flasher and filled with Pro-Cure water soluble herring scent on a Mack's Lure scent pad. This attractor adds some flash and produces a very large

scent cone out of the Scent Flash triangle flasher. Just above it is the Bechhold and Son's flasher that looks like a feeding coho that just missed a bait. I am creating my own school of feeding coho, and it seems to really draw the fish to my gear.

For those that want a real challenge, try flyfishing for coho in the saltwater. Tube flies with lots of UV sparkle flash and a fast-sinking line will get you into the fish. Either cast out towards the kelp line or troll along the points where you will find the fish. Be sure to use a stout fly rod, starting with an 8-weight. If you have one, a fly rod in the 12-weight range it would be wise to use, as chinook will still be around and feeding in the same waters.

Saltwater coho can be one of the best fisheries of the year. It is often overlooked, as many other anglers head to local rivers to chase fall chinook, leaving the salt opportunities for silvers all to yourself. The feisty coho are fun to catch in the salt, and they are one of the best eating fish as well. With this year's runs being another banner year, don't forego the salt in late August and well into September.





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# LIMITED TIME, COST OF FUEL, & THE BUBBLE



By Randy Castello



WATCH NOW!

**Now that crabbing is open in MA 8-2, does a salmon and crab feed sound good? If so, a quick trip to target chinook at the Tulalip Terminal Area Fishery, otherwise known as "The Bubble," should be on your list. The Bubble? Yes, a great idea, and a solid choice! Fishing the Bubble doesn't require an all-day time commitment or much fuel. It is a short run from Everett and fishes best in the early morning, so you can fish it and then head back home to mow the lawn before anybody knows you were gone.**

As a bonus, drop a crab pot or two on the way out! A limit of Dungeness crab is pretty much guaranteed. If you do decide to chase crusty bottom dwellers while fishing the Bubble, I strongly suggest using the cheap folding traps- and don't be too attached to them. The mouth of the Snohomish is great crabbing and many boats participate in the fishery each year. Unfortunately, several pots disappear or get picked from on any given day. Maybe some people don't recognize their own floats, get confused, and grab the wrong pots. The same people may not even know that picking a pot that is not theirs is illegal and very un-sportsmanlike. Either way, just be aware that you will not be hovering around your pots, and stuff happens. Use cheap pots, and if they disappear or come up with the door open (with nothing but chicken bones in the bait cage), don't let it ruin your morning. Instead, turn it into a fish story: "a huge octopus busted open the trap door and released all my crab!" Anyway, back to the Bubble. Plan to arrive early: typically, the fish go suicidal at first light. It's not uncommon to start the day out with an immediate double. Basically, get your gear down, and before you pour your coffee, it's go-time. These fish are typically 12-18 pounds, with an occasional 20 plus to keep things interesting. It is not a technical fishery. An 11" flasher, a spoon, and some sort of fish scent is all that is needed.

My Bubble game plan is to start by the marker at the southern entrance to the Tulalip Bay (Mission Point), then work the 60-90' line up to the point just north of Hermosa Point, do a 180 and head south, sticking to 90-120' of water, then repeat. Typically, I chase meter marks at 40-60' while trolling at 2.8-3.0 mph. Most of our Bubble fish are caught first thing in the morning with the gear running at around 50'. Keep your eyes glued to the meter, you'll be fishing for suspended fish and should be adjusting your downriggers to intercept the meter marks.

I rig my chinook gear on 42" of 30# fluorocarbon leader. I have found that the 11" lighted flashers have a solid advantage in the Bubble fishery, but standard flashers still catch a lot of fish. Bring an assortment of spoons, but Cookies and Cream is a day in, day out producer. Regarding scents, there are many to choose from and everybody has their favorite. For the Bubble fishery, Smelly Jelly Pro Guide Formula UV Anchovy is hands down the most productive scent on my boat. If you have a



crimper, you could try making a longer set of downrigger releases. Although I have a few guesses, I'm not sure why they seem to increase our overall hook up ratio. If anything, the longer releases make for an awesome takedown.

The Bubble fishery tends to hold up well into mid-August and, if it remains open, holds some very nice fish into September. The Bubble is a bit of a combat fishery. There may be both tribal net fishermen and crabbers, as well as other recreational fishermen. Be alert and courteous while enjoying your time at the Bubble. I know that seeing an active net fishery can be frustrating, but remember that these fish originated at the Tulalip hatchery. While most of our north sound salmon fisheries are closed, the Bubble produces quality fish from the opener on. Having this fishery available is a gift. This year it has been especially productive, and it should hold up that way throughout the season.

Here are a few closing thoughts and tidbits of advice. Number one, try to be on-station early. By "early", I'm talking "running the downriggers down in the in the dark" early. That said, be safe on your way out to the Bubble. If you're not comfortable running in the dark, just launch early and then wait for just enough light to be comfortable. The other thing to note here is the ongoing tribal crab fishery. If you do decide to run in the dark, post a watch that is solely responsible for spotting crab pot floats. The run between

the mouth of the Snohomish River to the Bubble will likely be carpet bombed with crab pot floats.

Familiarize yourself with the WDFW Tulalip Terminal Area Salmon Fishery definition. There is plenty of area to fish but there are hard boundaries that are enforced.

I carry 2 nets for most fisheries, and when fishing the Bubble, having 2 nets is especially important. That crack of dawn bite can be intense, with doubles common and a triple possible. Although you can scoop and roll a fish out of the net quickly, having the second net ready to go is great insurance.

Who knows why, but the area around the Bubble must be a breeding ground for lion's mane jellyfish. You will encounter them while fishing the Bubble. They are an inconvenience, but, if you're prepared, you'll be back in business on no time. Carry a roll of paper towels and a spray bottle of white vinegar diluted with saltwater. You'll recognize an encounter with a jellyfish pretty fast. Either your rod or downrigger cable will slowly load up, then snap back to normal. When it happens, check your gear. A salmon will not be interested in a flasher and spoon covered with venomous goo. With time being so important, typically I have a clean rig ready to snap on and drop back down while I clean the fouled gear. A dry paper towel does wonders to help clean the jellyfish tentacles and goo off your gear. The vinegar helps to deactivate the jellyfish

venom. Clean, rinse, and re-scent your gear and you're back in business. Depending on your sensitivity, don't touch your eyes or more private areas after handling jellyfish gear. Good practice is to spray your hands with the diluted vinegar, rub them together, and rinse them off as soon as possible.

One last tip, the waters around Hat Island and the south end of Camano Island frequently host gray whales, minke whales, and orcas. Take the time to loop around the west side of Hat Island on your way in and be on the lookout for spouts. With the cost of fuel these days, fishing the Bubble is a cost-effective way to get your chinook fix, due to its close proximity to the ramp. Add a possible limit of crab and maybe a little whale watching, and a trip to the Bubble should be on your must do list.



# My Top 8 Summer Bass Patterns



WATCH NOW!



by Rick Lawrence

**CRANKBAIT**

**DROP SHOT**

**BLADED JIG**

**TOPWATER FROG**

**SPOOK/POPPER**

**SWIMBAIT**

**WEIGHTLESS SALTED WORM**

**NED RIG**

Bass fishing in the summer is one of the best times to catch fish. The bass are incredibly active right now and can be caught in a variety of ways. The warmer water speeds up their metabolism, so they are constantly on the prowl. The key to catching bass in the summer is to look for cool water with low light conditions. Bass want to stay cool and out of the sun, for the most part, so that they can find an easy meal during the hot summer months.

I find bass in the summer are most active in the morning and evening. Sometimes, I can even catch them in the middle of the night. Fish like to be where the water is cooler, so at mid-day I will be fishing deeper than at the end of the day or early morning. If you're in the shallows, look for shade. The key is to mix it up and not give up. With that said, here is a top 8 list of the best summertime bass fishing lures I have found. In this list, you will find the advantages and disadvantages to each of these techniques. The key to success is recognizing what the conditions call for and picking the presentations that will work best for the situation.

## 1 – NED RIG

The Ned rig is one of the best summer bass fishing patterns because you can fish it at any depth. Plus, the bass eat it really well. I find the “Turd worm”, (AKA Ned rig) will help you explore any depth bass could be with confidence. This pattern works well in all types of structures, from grass to rock. The Ned rig works best in more open

water situations, such as when you are exploring and trying to find bass. The key to fishing this bait is to make sure you let it fall all the way to the bottom. Once the bait is on the bottom, twitch your rod tip to make it dance along. I find the key for the most bites is to maintain contact with the bottom, but sometimes the lift and drop method can be deadly for smallmouth.



## 2 – WEIGHTLESS SALTED WORM

The weightless, heavily salted stickbait fished Tex-posed on a EWG worm hook is one of the best baits I have found for triggering lots of bites from big summertime bass. I use my signature bait, the Sink-N-Fool, but Senkos and Senko clones work well also. This type of bait is a mouthful for a bass, which is especially useful when they want to eat bigger meals to keep up with their summer diet needs.

A weightless, heavily salted bait is a great pattern to use when the bass are sitting in thick, shallow grass or other type of rough structure in the summer. It will slide through anything. The soft stick bait has a really natural fall, so it won't spook the fish like other bigger baits will. Just cast it into a spot you think a bass will be in, let the bait fall all the way to the bottom, and let it sit there for a second or two. Around 90% of the bass will hit this bait while it is falling or just after it hits the bottom.

## 3 – DROP SHOT

I like to use a drop shot in the summertime to get down to those

deeper bass. The natural presentation of a drop shot and the speed for getting a finesse bait down deep makes this rig one of the best summer-time set ups for bass fishing.

A drop shot works best down deep or when you need to keep your bait above the thick vegetation. A 3/16oz. drop weight is a great all-around size to work in a variety of situations. I like to use a small, nose rigged swimbait, or small worm rigged wacky style.

## 4 – TOPWATER FROG

I love to use topwater buzz frogs in the summertime around thick grass and vegetation. This presentation works best when you have cover that creates a shade canopy for the bass. They will lay under those canopies and wait for creatures to come by. A frog worked over the top of those canopies can produce some amazing strikes.

In the summer, a topwater frog tends to work best in low light conditions such early morning or late evening, but if the cover is good enough, you can still catch them in the middle of the day. Work your frog over those scum mats that form in the summer. Use braided line and a heavy

*My Top*

8

**SUMMER  
BASS  
FISHING  
PATTERNS**





rod to be able to hook the bass well and haul them out of the slop.

## 5 – SPOOK/POPPER

Fishing a topwater walk the dog or popper style bait in the summer is one of the most exciting ways to catch bass. I love the walk the dog and popper type bait for several reasons. Mainly, it draws strikes from bass that might be deeper. The other reason is that your hook-ups are much higher with all those treble hooks on the lure.

Here are a couple keys to fishing a spook or popper to produce the best results: walk them parallel to the bank. The further you cast it, the better. Use them in open water situations, on flats, and especially in clear water.

## 6 – SWIMBAIT

A good swimbait works wonders for catching bass in the summer. I like to use

a swimbait as a search lure to find where the fish are. You can cover a lot of shore line and get it swimming down deep to find those summer bass. Bass love to eat baitfish in the summer, so this makes a swimbait a perfect choice to catch them in the mid-summer months. I like to fish these on some type of weedless hook for the most success. A keel weighted, screw lock EWG hook, sized correctly for the bait, is all you need to catch fish on a swimbait.

## 7 – CRANKBAIT

Bass fishing with a crankbait will produce good results in the summer. I've found that you need to look for bass to catch on crankbaits during the mid-summer months. Crankbaits work best when you bump them off of cover or bounce them along a rocky bottom. Try a crankbait in windy conditions or low light situations to be able to cover water and get them to bite. In the summer, the bigger the

An advertisement for Austin's Northwest Adventures. The background is a dark, textured image of a forest. In the foreground, a man in a red cap and sunglasses holds a large, shiny salmon. Behind him, a group of five people in outdoor gear are smiling. To the right, a large net is filled with many small fish. Text is overlaid on the image in various fonts and colors.

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wobble the bait has, the better the results. You can catch some really big fish throwing large, deep-diving crankbaits.

## 8 – BLADED JIG

You can use a chatter bait (AKA bladed jig) all summer to catch bass. I like to run some kind of trailer on all my bladed jigs. You will get a lot more bites with a trailer and it makes for a more realistic presentation. I fish them the most with a small paddle tail swimbait for a trailer. I just swim the bait along or let it bounce along the bottom. I let the jig sink to the bottom, then pull it sharply up to give it a quick, hard vibration before letting it sink again.

I hope you can use some of these techniques to put a few more bass into your boat this summer.



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# LOOP HIKES FOR BACKCOUNTRY TROUT

HOW TO PLOT A CIRCUIT TREK FOR  
HIGH LAKES CUTTHROATS, BROOKIES, AND RAINBOWS

BY GARY LEWIS



WATCH NOW!

We stood on a ridge, looking over at a snow-capped peak. Jacob took off his boot and shook out a pebble. John scratched his head, “if I’d have known we were going to be doing this, I’d have brought my map.”

I was disappointed: we’d been planning to hike into a lake that is known for big brown trout, but the road was blocked. We had changed our plans, heading into a little lake John had seen while hunting a few years ago. “It should be right here,” he said, pointing at the canyon before us. “Or over there,” pointing into the canyon to our right. John led off again.

“Here it is.” We’d missed the trail and walked right by the lake without seeing it. We could see it now; an emerald jewel, shining through the pines.

Beside the water, we inflated our float tubes and my raft. Like so many backcountry waters, this one had too much shoreside timber to fish it from the bank.

A small lake with a sandy bottom, this one measured no deeper than 20 feet at any point.

I rigged my four-weight rod with an intermediate slow sinking line and a red beadhead leech with a pheasant tail on a dropper.

A breeze began to blow a chop on the surface, pushing my raft along. I picked up my fly rod and began to twitch the line with short, three-inch tugs. Fish on!

Keeping its head down, the trout shook, then ran, burning line off the reel. The backing knot slipped through my fingers before I could turn him.

Finally, I cradled the hook-jawed, hump-backed rainbow in the water. I slipped the fly out, measuring him with the rod before he kicked away and vanished into the depths. He topped out at twenty inches. I would never have guessed I could catch a fish that big in a high country lake.

The Cascades, the Ochocos, and the Blue mountains contain hundreds of lakes, many of which do not see more than a handful of fishermen in a summer.



cutthroats and rainbows – and the fish that survive winter can be fry-size by the next July.

I provided four printed routes, sent them by mail, and when I returned from my trip, I heard Sam and Taj were getting out of the woods and wanted to meet up for coffee. Taj had the time of his life. The father and son duo spent their whole vacation in the woods, sleeping under the stars, fishing mornings and evenings, hiking when the sun was up, cooking freeze-dried dinners, and slapping mosquitoes. I was proud of them.

## PLANNING A LOOP HIKE

Mountain trout are uncomplicated; the trails are easy to follow, and packs don't have to be heavy. Routes can vary according to skill level and time.

After a little research on the web, I came to the conclusion the old ways are better than the new ways. Use Google Earth if necessary, but buy a real map, and get a real compass. A GPS unit is optional, but adds flexibility in finding unfished water.

Get a hiking book. There is a higher level of reliability in the old hiking books that

## AN UNUSUAL REQUEST

Three years ago, a guy called with an unusual request. Sam was from California, and his son Taj was turning 13 that summer and wanted to hike for trout for ten days. Would I lay out a few two- and three-day loop hikes for them, he asked.

I flipped to the back of the Fishing Central Oregon book – to the white pages where people seldom think to turn, and the little-known backcountry lakes.

Up near Mt. Jefferson, on the Warm Springs Reservation, a string of small lakes is accessible to non-tribal members with the proper permit. In the shadow of Diamond Peak, a couple of chains of small, still waters can be found near Crescent Lake, and more near Odell Lake. Up by Lava Lake and Cultus, several trailheads lead up and away. The Olallie Lake area is full of waters teeming with trout. Lay out a map, find a place to park, and plot a hike that will lead from one lake to the next to the next.

The backcountry Cascades lakes are seeded by helicopter or pack train every other year. Most are stocked with fingerlings – brookies,





## LOOP HIKES FOR BACKCOUNTRY



can be found in new and used bookstores hereabouts, and the Forest Service maintains lists of the lakes and the fish available. Don't trust what people on the Internet say about the lakes they have been to.

Compare information from different sources and take notes. Heed the author's advice about weather, what to bring, and what to leave behind.

Once the route is settled on, share the plan with two different people at home. If fishermen don't return at the appointed time, rescuers can know where to start a search.

Plan to bring a light spinning rod with 4-pound test line, casting bubbles, wet flies, and dry flies. A good alternate would be a 9-foot, 4-weight fly rod with a floating line. Pack them both.

Stuff a sleeping bag and pad in the backpack. Don't forget mosquito repellent. For shorter trips, plan no-cook meals. Pack a stove and freeze-dried meals for overnights. Dress in layers. Keep a change of clothes because thunderstorms and rain

or snow can whip up in minutes, no matter what the forecast says.

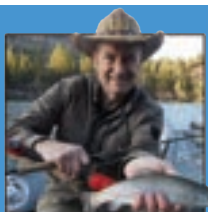
Later, Sam reflected on the trip and how they had fished several routes in ten days in Central Oregon.

"We got to see so much. To break it up in three or four different trips allowed us to evaluate our gear and know what to leave behind on the next route."

They used the float-and-fly method of fishing with a spinning rod. And they used global positioning. Taj's best trout stretched the tape to over 20 inches.

With the map in front of them, the pair found a lake they could hike to by using GPS and cutting straight across a swamp – a spectacular place off the beaten track with feeding trout.

"That was one of our first experiences doing off-trail hiking," Sam said. "And using GPS, which was how we got to that lake, and where Taj caught that monster fish."




### 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.



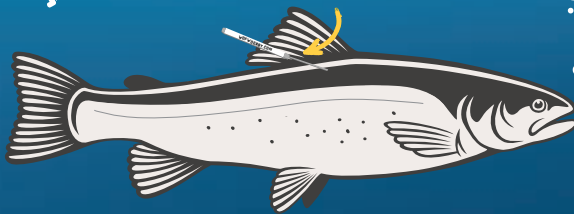
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# WORKERS TAVERN

ASTORIA OREGON

\*Under the Bridge



BY  
Hillary Holman  
@NWGoodEats

It's August and it is time to fish, sleep, eat and repeat for many of us. For those of you headed down to the mouth of the mighty Columbia, let me tell you about a little place called Workers Tavern.

I found this joint after fishing 7 days straight and driving 1000 miles up and down and back again on Pacific HWY 101 with Mike and Rob. We needed some R and R to keep up the pace for the home stretch.

After a day of fishing salmon and crabbing out of West Mooring Basin in Astoria, I ran in to a deck hand working the dock. His rain gear looked about as tired as mine. I asked him where folks go to eat around here. His furrowed brow instantly raised, and he gave a little chuckle. He pointed to the other side of the street just south of the Astoria Bridge and said, "You need to go on over to Workers. That's where we all go when we're done working. I wouldn't go anywhere else." This place was literally right under the bridge and not even a block away from our hotel. I gave him a nod and off I ran to look for the guys. This gal was headed to the Workers.

It took 5 minutes to wash my face and take off my boots and away Rob and I went, down the main drag of Astoria to find this infamous place. We took off from our hotel on foot and found Workers Tavern quickly. You can't miss it If you are on foot. If you are driving, you may get distracted by the monolithic bridge you are driving under, so be careful, find a place to park and walk your way under the bridge.

The door looks as though it may have come off a 1500's Portuguese pirate ship. It's been there for generations. Treasure adorns the walls. Literally, thousands of \$1 bills that have been signed and hung from travelers and workers alike. The Buddy Board at the door is a list of drinks that exists from locals who have earned their names upon the drinks here. The history is extraordinary. Walking up to the bar to order, eyes gazing up from the bar gave us a smile and a nod. We were all here for the same reason. Good food, good company and some rest. I ordered the Tuna Burger with Stew, Rob ordered the Ribeye and some hush puppies.



We got our order in and headed down the dollar adorned hallway to the back patio. What a great surprise! The salty sea air filled a lovely and lively outdoor space with an eclectic mix of patrons enjoying the evening. There were fire pits and dart boards. The locals were shaking mason jars wrapped in washcloths. What were they doing? Were they making butter in a new old-fashioned kind of way? How odd but fun! Actually, they all had ordered the Yucca a signature Workers cocktail. The trick is, a Yucca must be shaken for 2 solid minutes until the washcloth releases from the ice on the glass, then it is ready to drink. Be careful friends, these are delicious and dangerous. The stew was ridiculously good! The Tuna Burger hit the spot. Only love, time and care create food like this. Rob's steak was well seasoned, cooked perfectly, and very satisfying after a long day on the water. Two Yuccas later, and with a full belly, we stumbled back over to the Astoria Riverwalk Inn for a long night's sleep.

If you are in Astoria, and you are working, this is the place for you. Put a buck on the wall and kick your feet up. Enjoy the friendly workers who frequent here. Enjoy the grumpy workers who frequent here. I think you'll enjoy the food, drinks, and atmosphere as much as we did! It a good time. Cheers to you Goonie Town for having one of the Pacific Northwest's gem dive bars right under your bridge.

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## I can remember the exact place and time it happened...

My wife and I were fishing Lake Wenatchee for sockeye in our brand new Thunderjet. The fishing had been good but the dogs were letting us know that they needed a shore break. I scanned the shoreline and found what looked like the perfect spot to ground the bow and let the dogs hop out. I eased the boat on to shore and gave a little throttle to nudge us solidly in place. Then I heard it. Grind grind, chip chip chip. I knew immediately that it was shallower than I thought and my brand new prop had gotten its first official ding. Darn it! I had been so careful up to that point. The damage wasn't severe, but it was depressing seeing that shiny new prop scrapped and chipped up. I imagine there are more than a few of us that have had this experience, or something similar to it. A chipped and bent prop is a normal part of boat ownership, I think. That said, chipped and bent props can cause some significant issues to your boat and motor performance. A damaged prop can keep your motor from its optimal RPM to horsepower ratio and cause cavitation. That prop can also send unwanted vibrations up

through the whole motor, causing seals to breakdown and leak oil out and let water in causing further damage. In short, nothing much good can come from a damaged prop.

With that in mind, on my winter "to do" list was to visit a prop shop and learn more about getting my prop fixed and also seeing if the factory supplied prop was the right prop for my boat. I visited Precision Propeller Company in Spokane and spoke with owner Darren Prouty to get some answers. Darren is second generation prop expert, having started working in his dad's shop at age eight. With over thirty years in the propeller business, he knows his craft.

Darren looked at my prop and noted the chips and told me that it would be a fairly easy fix, something his shop does on a regular basis with a one week turn around. However, he noted that the prop I brought in was more suited to a Mercury 115 HP motor versus the 150 HP motor I had. With that bit of surprising news, we had a discussion on the advantages of upgrading a prop for my boat and motor.

Darren talked about the difference between an aluminum prop and a stainless steel



prop. He noted that aluminum props were thicker and more prone to cavitation issues. Stainless steel props are thinner, creating less drag. Aluminum props over time no longer measure the same pitch or diameter. The prop is the “governor” on the engine and it regulates RPMs. A full boat can cause issues that may not be seen on an empty, “out of the factory”, boat. Problems like coming up on plane easily can be the end result of a less than optimal prop. Aluminum props are also softer and wear much easier vs. stainless steel. Stainless props, being harder, have a “breakaway” inner sleeve so if you hit something, the sleeve is designed to break before your motor gear shaft does. Darren noted that I should see significant performance improvement with a stainless steel prop. He said that, in general, he didn’t have a favorite stainless steel prop brand. In his experience, the quality across brands is quite good. One nice thing that Darren offers his customers is to test run their new stainless steel props and report back with RPM to HP results. If the prop isn’t right, he’ll make the right adjustments so you do have the right prop. That’s a great company guarantee.

So, to summarize the main advantages of a stainless steel prop, you get a couple more MPH at a given RPM, faster acceleration to plane, and better durability. These are all very compelling reasons to upgrade your prop. One downside, besides the price, or maybe because of the price, is that stainless steel props are more prone to theft. Stainless steel props will run you about 2/3rds more in cost than aluminum. No one ever said boat ownership was without its risks.

After Darren’s explanation of props, I decided to get a stainless steel prop for my boat. I’m excited to see how the boat performs and will be sure to let you know in future reports the results. In the meanwhile, what about my damaged prop? Well, I do

a lot of overnight trips in isolated areas and sleep in my boat. If I’m any distance from civilization or other anglers, I don’t want to have to rely on my kicker to bring me home if a break a prop. So I’m getting my aluminum prop repaired, and will have it in the boat for emergency prop replacement. It just makes good sense in my book to have a spare prop. Darren also produces a very nifty prop wrench which is designed to provide the proper torque to tighten your prop nut at just the right pressure, around 60-75 pounds of pressure. The wrench also has a locking and lifting device all on one wrench. Put it in the bag!

You can talk with Darren at Precision Propeller in Spokane and he’ll be happy to talk with you about your boat and prop options. He can also send your prop in for repairs or order props and Darren can ship it to you.

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# BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO YOUR OLD ALUMINUM BOAT



by Hannah Pennebaker  
@hannahNWF  
on Facebook & Instagram



It's the middle of summer, and the middle of the boating season for many of us as well. Boats take us to our favorite fishing spots and open up opportunities to find new ones. Aluminum boats in particular are a Pacific Northwest staple. They are tough and hardy fishing machines, capable of pounding the mighty shores of the Puget Sound for salmon, and sneaking into shallow waters in search of trophy bass. Although boats provide us with many fun filled summer days, even the most durable and well-crafted aluminum boat is going to eventually need some TLC. One of the most important repairs and investments you can make is in a new floor. Over time, boat floors get pounded and water logged, either from leaks or just from use. This doesn't have to spell the end for your boat, however. Replacing your boat floor is quite the project, but it can breathe new life into your old aluminum boat and make it last for many more seasons of summer fun. Last year, we upgraded from a fourteen-foot Sears Gamefisher to a sixteen-foot Smokercraft Alaskan Pro. The boat was turn-key ready, and served us well over the season. Many kokanee, crappie, and salmon were bonked on the deck. After a while, we noticed the bilge pump turning on more

and more frequently. Upon closer inspection, we noticed that the floor and foam were soaked due to leaking (and missing) rivets! We weren't ready to give up on our new boat quite yet. The hull and transom were still solid, and we knew there were many more years of service left in it. Ultimately, over the course of the off-season, we decided to replace the flooring. It took more time and effort than we expected, but now we have a solid boat with a brand-new floor, ready for many more years of fishy adventures! Follow along as I guide you through the process, so that you can give your old aluminum boat a facelift!

Removing your old flooring and foam is the first step in this process, and probably the most grueling. Soaked foam will corrode and pit your hull while rotting your floor, destroying your boat from the inside out. Removing it is quite the process, though. It's best to chip away at it each day- you can divide it into sections and pace yourself. You'll want a circular saw and some pry bars to remove the boat floor and get at the foam. Rotten, wet plywood will be the easiest place to start. Pry up some boards to start with, and then saw the rest out. A word of caution when using the saw; make sure to



find out where the stringers (metal support structures) are, and avoid cutting them. Protect your eyes, hands, and ears by wearing all proper PPE. For removing the foam, you can use a pressure washer, a shovel, or a knife. Removing all that soaking wet foam will take hundreds of pounds of weight out of your boat, improving your gas mileage and top speed considerably. You can cut the foam out with your knife, scoop it out with your shovel, or spray it out with your pressure washer. We ended up using a combination of the three methods in order to get every last bit of foam out. Getting all that old floor and foam out of your boat is a great step towards protecting and renewing your boat.



Now that all that old, wet foam and plywood is out of your boat, you'll need to decide what material to use for your new flooring. There are many different options available, and your choice will depend on a few factors. You'll need to consider the weight, cost, and durability of your flooring. Marine grade plywood is the cheapest option, but also one of the heaviest. Most boat manufacturers use marine grade plywood, but the major downside is that it isn't the most long lasting or durable option. Composite floors are becoming an increasingly popular option in new and refurbished boats alike. They are more expensive than plywood floors, but they are significantly lighter, stronger, and tougher. Coosa board, honeycomb board, and HDPE



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are all great options. Shipping costs can add to the price of your flooring, however. Marine plywood is more readily available than composite and metal flooring, which means you likely won't have to pay hundreds of dollars in shipping costs. We decided to go with Coosa board because there was a dealer in Seattle, so we did not have to pay shipping costs. The heaviest and most expensive option is aluminum or steel floors. Metal floors will require little upkeep, look great, and can simply be sprayed off at the end of the day. It all depends on whether you're more comfortable working with metal or composite/wood. We have more carpentry tools than metal-working tools, so this also factored into our decision for a composite floor. In deciding between composite, metal, or plywood flooring, you will want to think about your long-term plan for your boat. How long will you keep it? Are you going to want to upgrade soon? If you only want to get a few more years out of your boat before upgrading, marine grade plywood is a great short-term option. But if you want to keep your boat for years to come, composite floors are the way to go. They are more expensive in the short-term, but they will save you money, time, and effort in the long run because they last so much longer. Composite floors don't get water logged like plywood does, but they are susceptible to UV damage and can be slick, so they must be either painted or

wrapped. Overall, when selecting your boat flooring, take time to think about your long-term goals for the boat and whether you're going to prioritize affordability, durability, or weight.

Now that you've selected your flooring, the next step is to decide if you want to wrap it or paint it. Most aluminum boat manufacturers choose to use vinyl. This creates a neat, clean, and slip resistant layer that also protects the wood underneath. Composite and plywood floors must be either wrapped or painted, but metal floors are okay on their own. There are several types of non-slip paint you can use. Look for textured paint, or paint with sand in it. Boat floors can get slippery with fish blood and water, so it's a good idea to make sure your floor is as non-slip as possible. Alternatively, you can wrap your boat in vinyl flooring or carpet. Carpet is a great option for bass boats, as you can easily shape it to fit casting decks in the front and back. Vinyl works well for v-hulls and is quite non-slip, even in rain. A less common solution is to install EVA panels or rubber mats. Rubber mats are easy to throw in, clean, and remove, but they won't protect the underside of your flooring from water leaks, and they're quite heavy. EVA panels can look great, but their long-term durability is questionable and they are more expensive. We decided to wrap our Coosa board in vinyl because it's easily replaceable and looks great. There are many different options available, so make sure to weigh cost and durability in your decision.

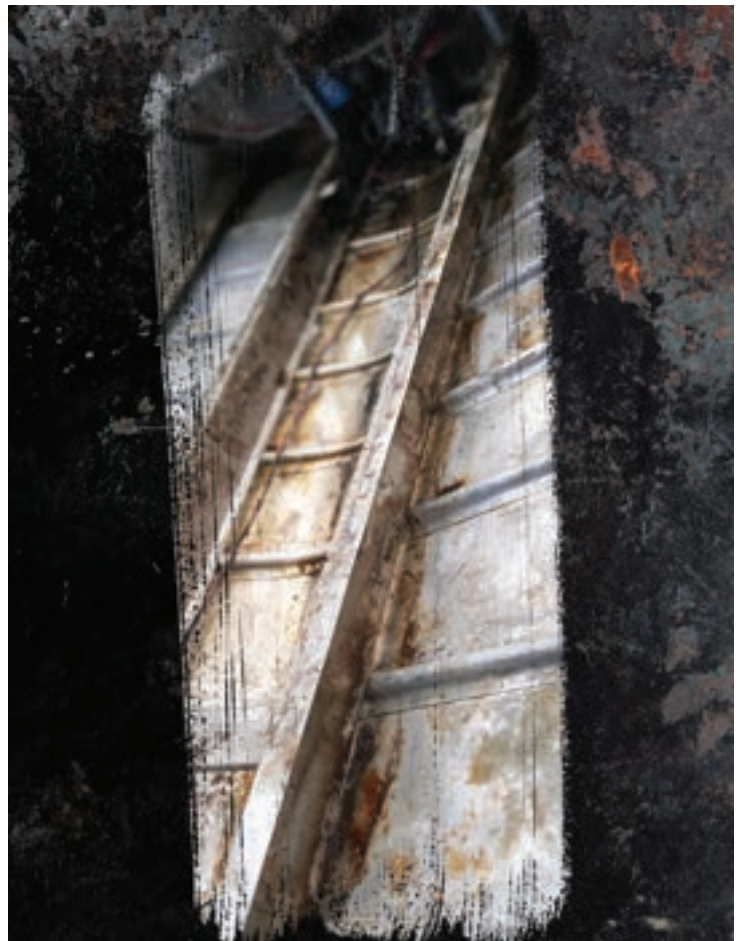
One important step in boat floor repair is deciding what kind of flotation foam you'll use, if you use any at all. Federal law requires boat manufacturers to put flotation foam in any boat under twenty feet long. In the unlikely event that your boat capsizes, flotation foam will at least ensure that your boat floats and doesn't sink. Most manufacturers use pour foam, as it is easy to use and will expand to fit all the nooks and crannies underneath boat floors. It is quite





messy, however, and if you ever need to access your floor to repair a crack or a leaky rivet, it is time consuming and tedious to remove. Alternatively, you can use sheets of foam or styrofoam and cut them to size with a saw or knife. They will be much easier to remove, but you won't be able to fit quite as much foam into the nooks and crannies of your boat.

Taking the time to install a new floor in your aluminum boat is a great way to increase its longevity and value. You'll be able to inspect and repair the hull for missing rivets or cracks, making your boat safer as well. If you have a leaky floor or water-logged foam, don't give up on your boat quite yet! You can customize every aspect of your new floor and truly make your boat your own. Whether you decide between metal, marine grade plywood, or composite, you'll end up with a beautiful new floor that will be fishable for years to come.



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**Here in the Pacific Northwest, a six-pound bass is considered the fish of a lifetime by many anglers, but they get much bigger than that. Arguably the best place to go to catch a trophy bass is Angler's Inn at Lake El Salto in Mexico. Lake El Salto is a man-made reservoir in the Mexican State of Sinaloa that was dammed in 1990 to provide irrigation and flood control to the surrounding area. Situated in the shadow of the Sierra Madre mountains, the 27,000-acre reservoir was planted with fast growing Florida-strain largemouth bass as well as tilapia, which are an important forage fish for the bass, and also provide a commercial harvest for local fishermen.**

Billy Chapman Jr. saw the potential for a world class trophy bass fishery in this oasis within the Mexican desert and founded Angler's Inn. The all-inclusive resort sits on the south side of the lake and includes comfortable accommodations, an inviting open-air bar and dining area, a small tackle shop, and a spa. The resort prides itself on customer service, and it is indeed outstanding. The rooms are kept very clean, daily laundry service is provided, and you are never without a drink in your hand. There were several couples in our group who enjoyed the services at the spa and raved about the excellent massage therapist who works there. As for the food- it's incredible! Meals were a mix of Mexican and American fare. One night was Ribeye Steak Night and not only were the steaks cooked to perfection, they were huge! Breakfast every morning included made to order eggs and omelets along with fresh fruit, and the hot lunches were also delicious.

The resort provided a luxurious base camp but it was the fishing that brought everyone here. I was in a group hosted by Mike Whitlow,

the Western Representative for Angler's Inn International. I've gotten to Mike know well over the years through the sportsmen's show circuit. There were some 19 anglers in our group, hailing from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Texas, New Jersey, and even Hawaii. The experience level varied from anglers who seldom fish for bass to others who were experienced tournament anglers. Half of the anglers in our group had been here before- some of them, multiple times.

Every morning after breakfast we would be shuttled in a van to the boat launch, where our guides were waiting for us in 18-foot Triton aluminum bass boats powered by 60 HP tiller outboard motors. My guide was Victor Rodriguez, a local resident who told me about growing up here before the reservoir was built. Victor had been working for Angler's Inn International for several years and has had the opportunity to guide several very well-known professional bass anglers, including Denny Brauer, Gerald Swindle, Brandon Palaniuk, Shaw Grigsby, and Mike Iaconelli- all drawn to



Lake El Salto for the promise of huge (Grande) bass.

Victor was a hard-working and patient guide/instructor who taught me several new tricks when it comes to bass fishing. In the morning we would usually start off fishing with topwater baits, looking for big largemouth bass to explode out of the water to hammer the plugs we were retrieving. After that Victor liked to fish soft plastic worms with a shaky head jig to entice bass to bite near the flooded timber and rocks of the reservoir. Around 11 AM, all of the boats would motor back to the launch and we would head back to the resort to enjoy a hot lunch, a cold drink, and a siesta, before getting back into the boats around 3 PM for another four hours of fishing.

The setting for these daily trips was both pastoral and unique. Cattle, many of them with clanging bells around their necks, would graze along the shoreline and the bird life was amazing. These included falcons called crested caracara, green parakeets, cattle egret, great blue heron, pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds, and West Mexican chachalaca, also known as Mexican turkeys. The chachalaca occurred in great numbers in the trees surrounding the lake, and the cacophony of their calls echoing across the water was constant in the morning.

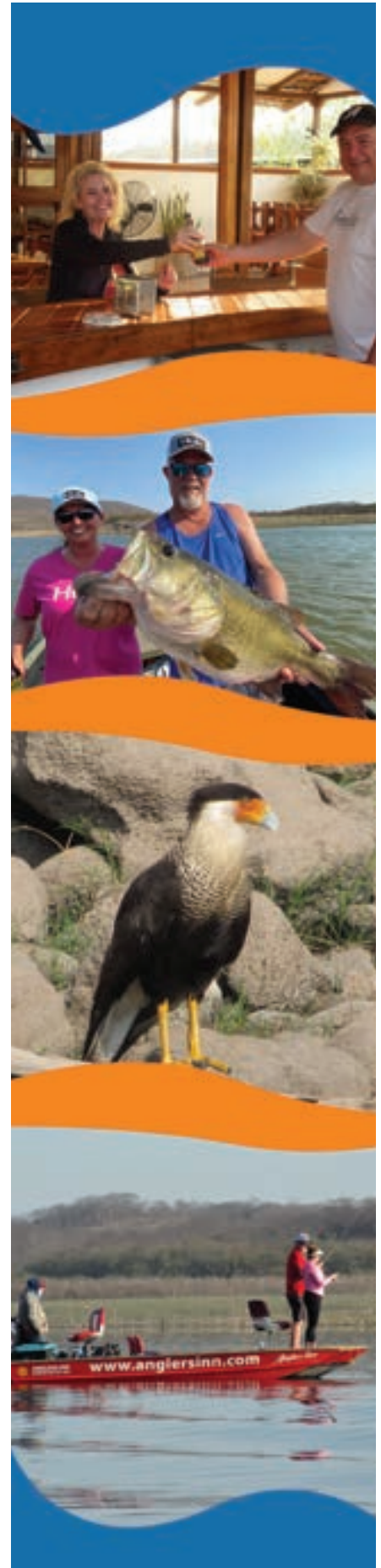
Afternoons on the lake were accompanied by a cool breeze, which felt nice under the warm sun. We would fish points and flats on the lake

with big Texas rigged plastic worms, heavy spinner baits, or lipless crankbaits such as Berkley War Pigs. The key was finding the schools of bass. If you could do that, and trigger them to bite, you could be in for some fast action. I was able to do this several times with the Berkley War Pig lure, catching not only smaller two-pound bass, but also several bass between 4 ½ and six pounds. I also bested my previous personal best bass of 5.4 pounds several times over during this trip. What was my largest bass? An 8.1 pound largemouth that took a Berkley Bullet topwater popper.

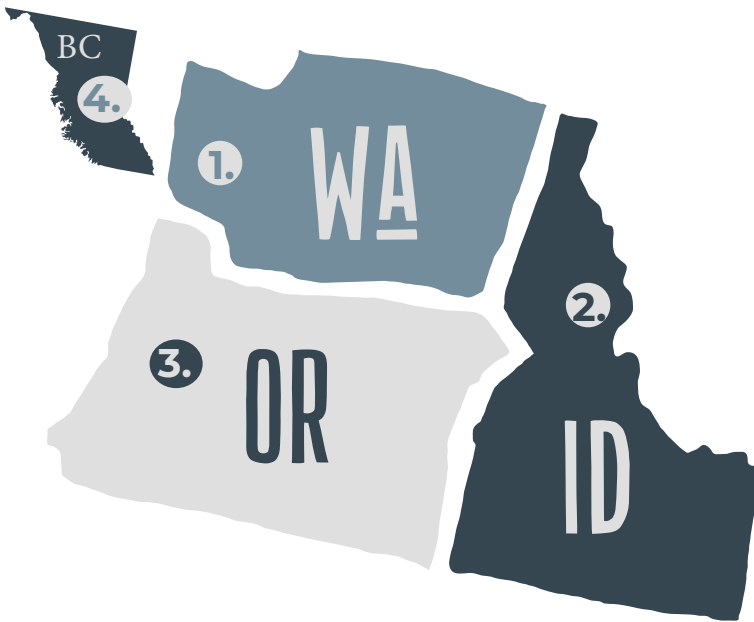
As for the rest of the group, just about everyone caught bass weighing six pounds or better, and six anglers from our group caught bass weighing ten pounds or better. Larry Fugate Jr. caught 10-pound, 8-ounce bass as well as the biggest bass caught by the group: a massive 11-pound, 3 ounce largemouth. Larry's wife Mandi was no slouch either. She beat her previous personal best 3 ½ pound bass with two 9-pound bass.

This is an exceptional opportunity for bass anglers looking to hook into a trophy and have a great time in the process.

You can find out more about booking a trip to Anglers Inn at Lake El Salto at [www.anglersinn.com](http://www.anglersinn.com). Book a hosted trip (which I would highly recommend) by emailing Mike Whitlow at [mike.whitlow@anglersinn.com](mailto:mike.whitlow@anglersinn.com)



# DIRECTORY



## FISH KEY

- SALMON
- TROUT
- WALLEYE
- KOKANEE
- STEELHEAD
- STURGEON
- BASS
- CATFISH
- BURBOT
- MACKINAW
- HALIBUT

## Destinations

1. **Mardon Resort**  
(800) 416-2736  
mardonresort.com  
Potholes Reservoir

1. **Liars Cove**  
(509) 826-1288  
liarscoveresort.com  
Lake Conconully

1. **Coulee Playland**  
(509) 633-2671  
couleeplayland.com  
Banks Lake

## Guides & Charters

1. **Austin's Northwest Adventures**  
(509) 668-0298  
austinsnorthwestadventures.com  
From Buoy 10 to Lake Roosevelt

1. **Chrome Inc.**  
(425) 591-5108  
chromeinc.org  
Southeast Washington and the Olympic Peninsula

1. **D&H Guide Service**  
(509) 759-0098  
wasalmonfishing.com  
Cowlitz and Columbia River Gorge

1. **Darrell & Dads Family Guide Service**  
(509) 687-0709  
darrellanddads.com  
Lake Chelan

2. **Double M Outdoors**  
(503) 956-5489  
doublemoutdoors.com  
Columbia River: Buoy 10 to McNary Dam

1. **Fast Action Guide Service**  
(425) 753-5772  
fastactionfishingseattle.com  
Western Washington

1. **Jones Sportfishing**  
(208) 861-0654  
jonessportfishing.com  
Columbia, Snake, Clearwater Rivers, Southern Idaho

1. **Fish Intimidators**  
(509) 750-6809  
Columbia River
1. **Mitchell Sportfishing**  
(509) 480-5945  
mitchellsportfishing.com

1. **Moons Guide Service**  
(509) 860-6497  
moonsguideservice.com  
Columbia River, Banks Lake, Moses Lake

4. **Reel Obsession**  
(888) 855-7335  
reelobsession.ca  
BC Fishing Lodge

1. **Reel Time Fishing**  
(208) 790-2128  
reeltimefishing.com  
Columbia, Snake, Clearwater Rivers

1. **Rising Son GS**  
(509) 492-8852  
risingsonadventures.wixsite.com/fishing  
Columbia River & Central WA

1. **Ross Outdoor Adventures**  
(509) 750-7763  
rossoutdooradventures.com  
Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake, Banks Lake

1. **SJM Guide Service**  
(509) 435-6486  
sjmguideservice.com  
Columbia River & Lake Roosevelt

2. **Snake Dancer Excursions**  
Hell's Canyon Fishing Adventures

1. **Steel Dreams Guide Service**  
(509) 869-9694  
steeldreamsfishing.com  
Columbia, Snake, Clearwater Rivers

1. **YJ Guide Service**  
(509) 999-0717  
yjguideservice.com  
Lake Roosevelt, Palouse River, Columbia River






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**The General Store Spokane**  
 (509) 444-8005  
[generalstorespokane.com](http://generalstorespokane.com)

## Marine Gear

**Precision Propeller**  
 (509) 489-7765  
[precisionpropco.com](http://precisionpropco.com)

**IFish Solutions**  
 (509) 954-3883  
[ifishsolutions.com](http://ifishsolutions.com)

## Fishing Tackle

**Fish With Gary Tackle Co.**  
 (541) 536-1002  
[fishwithgary.com](http://fishwithgary.com)

**Lip Ripper Lures**  
 (907) 599-0331  
[lipripperlures.com](http://lipripperlures.com)

**Mack's Lure**  
 (509) 667 9202  
[mackslure.com](http://mackslure.com)

**Mauk's Fishing Stuff**  
 (509) 689-3164  
[fishingtacklecovers.com](http://fishingtacklecovers.com)

**Old Goat Lures**  
[oldgoatlures.com](http://oldgoatlures.com)

**Superfly Flies**  
 (208) 610-9280  
[superflyflies.com](http://superflyflies.com)

**Wigglesfin Tackle**  
 (208) 388-8539  
[wigglesfin.com](http://wigglesfin.com)

## Other

**Scuttlebutt**  
 (425) 252-2829  
[scuttlebuttbrewing.com](http://scuttlebuttbrewing.com)

**Tanners Fresh Fish Processing**  
 (866) 209-4882  
[tannersfish.com](http://tannersfish.com)

**Skip Rock Distillers**  
 (360) 862-0272  
[skiprockdistillers.com](http://skiprockdistillers.com)

**Hillary Holman Inland Empire REMAX**  
 (509) 655-9470  
[HillaryHolman.com](http://HillaryHolman.com)

**Brewster King Salmon Derby**  
 August 5, 6, 7  
 More info at  
[Brewstersalmonderby.com](http://Brewstersalmonderby.com)

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Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

**WDFW.WA.GOV**

# Life Outdoors

## The Weekender Report

**August provides some of the year's best fishing and outdoors opportunities.** For details on specific areas open, season details and emergency regulations, please go to the WDFW website: [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

### **Columbia River salmon fishing:**

Chinook and coho fishing opens Aug. 1, drawing thousands of anglers to the popular Buoy 10 fishery near the mouth of the Columbia River. Summer Chinook and sockeye salmon fishing is also underway along the Upper Columbia River and has been good for a larger than expected sockeye return.

### **Summer crab fishing:**

The Puget Sound crab season is open in many inner-marine waterways of Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and northern Hood Canal. Recreational crabbing is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays in all areas of Puget Sound through Labor Day.

### **Salmon fishing in marine areas:**

Many inner-marine areas are open for salmon as well as many docks and piers. On the coast, Ilwaco, Westport, La Push and Neah Bay are open for Chinook and hatchery coho. Some marine areas could close earlier or have pauses in seasons if catch quotas or guidelines are achieved prior to closure dates.

### **River and stream fishing:**

Top prospects are the Cowlitz, Lewis, and other lower Columbia tributaries for steelhead and salmon; Samish and Nooksack for salmon; Wynoochee, Humptulips, Calawah, Skykomish, and Green for summer steelhead; and the Cedar, Snoqualmie above the falls and its tributaries, Yakima and Naches and their tributaries, and many small streams for trout.

### **East of the Cascades fishing:**

Lake Wenatchee could see a sockeye fishery if Tumwater Dam fish counts surpass the escapement goal. Be on the lookout for an emergency rule change should this happen. Banks Lake, Moses Lake, and Potholes Reservoir are good spots for smallmouth and largemouth bass and walleye, and Potholes and Banks are also good for black crappie. Try Lake Chelan for kokanee, lake trout and Chinook.

### **Black bear hunting:**

The fall season begins Aug. 1 through Nov. 15. Hunters in certain Eastern Washington GMUs are reminded that it's possible to encounter some protected grizzly bears, so species identification is critical. If you're hunting in those areas, you must score 80% or higher and carry proof of passing the WDFW test or an equivalent test from another state.

### **In-person hunter education:**

The minimum age is now 18 to take the course. Students under 18 can complete the online course but must attend a field skills evaluation before becoming certified. This change may take some time getting used to, and WDFW is committed to offering as many in-person courses as possible. Sign up for in-person hunter education today.



**WDFW Weekender Report | Click through for region specific opportunities**





## Join the WDFW team:

If you'd enjoy preserving, protecting, and perpetuating our state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities, then check out current job openings or sign up for job alerts. From budget manager to community outreach and education specialist, environmental planners to electricians, fiscal technicians to wildlife biologists, a career with WDFW makes a difference. Join the WDFW team: [wdfw.wa.gov/about/jobs](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/jobs).

## WATCH NOW

To ensure Washington's salmon fisheries are successful long-term, it is vital that anglers do their part to comply with all regulations, especially how to properly release unmarked, sublegal (undersized) and out-of-season fish to improve their survival. Scan QR CODE to watch.



Anglers' guide to releasing salmon properly

## AUGUST NOTICES

### BE FIRE SAFE

Help prevent wildfires by making sure campfires are completely out and keep a bucket of water and shovel handy. Ensure there is no vegetation leaning over your fire pit area and that needles, grass, and brush are far enough away not to ignite. WDFW announced restrictions on campfires, other activities on WDFW wildlife and water access areas in Eastern Washington. State land managers ask visitors to check local fire danger information ([fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/firedanger/](http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/firedanger/)) and take precautions to avoid igniting a wildfire ([www.dnr.wa.gov/WildfirePrevention](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/WildfirePrevention)).

### DON'T BE A LITTERBUG

When everyone does their part, we can keep Washington beautiful and litter free. Make sure to have a container for collecting trash; bring a bag to pack out what you packed in; hold onto trash until you reach a waste receptacle; and safely secure your cargo on the road. When we all look out for each other, it makes a big difference! For details, visit the Washington Department of Ecology website: [ecology.wa.gov/litterfreewa](http://ecology.wa.gov/litterfreewa)

### WILD WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Scavenger hunts are a great way to learn about plants and animals in your region. They help encourage scientific observation and inquiry skills and can help learners become more connected to the plants and wildlife near their home. The Washington Native Plant Society put together scavenger hunts for every region in our state. Additionally, if you live in, or are visiting Thurston County parks and greenspaces, check out Nature Sleuths on your smartphone.

## Important Dates

- Aug. 1 – Marine Area 8-1 open for coho fishing
- Aug. 4-6 – Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting
- Aug. 16 – Puyallup River opens for salmon fishing
- Aug. 26 – Fish and Wildlife Commission Web Conference
- Sept. 10-11 – Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds



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