

REEL LIFE



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the first printed version of the Northwest Reel Life magazine! This has been an amazing evolution for us here at NWFR and we're excited to reach another segment of the angling community with this magazine coming to you at hundreds of outlets throughout Washington. The print version will have the same great writers and articles as the online version. If you haven't subscribed online, we encourage you to take a moment and sign up at www.nwfrtv.com. You'll find the same informative articles plus links to videos, NWFR gear, and much more.

This month we continue to focus on salmon as the runs return to the Columbia, Puget Sound, and beyond. John Kruse reports on a new state record Tiger Trout caught on Loon Lake (and it may even turn out to be a world record fish). Not too shabby for a nightcrawler on a hook. It's a great time to be an angler in the Pacific Northwest!

Mike Carey - mike@northwestfishingreports.com



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HOT REPORTS FROM NORTHWESTFISHINGREPORTS.COM

By: Mike Carey

I always enjoy going back and finding the reports from our NWFR members that really stand out. So much amazing information freely shared – it's what NWFR is all about! I hope these reports will inspire you to join NWFR and share your fishing adventures. It's all about giving back to the community of anglers in the Pacific Northwest. Joining is easy, just click on "Login" link on the upper right corner of our website at northwestfishingreports.com.



Flowing Lake is example of one of many great smaller lakes in Washington

FLOWING LAKE

This is one of those smaller lakes that can easily get overlooked – Washington is blessed with a lot of them. Hot rainbow action for NWFR member clarkbre and his kids. It's awesome to see kids getting out and fishing. The future of our sport is our kids! [CLICK HERE](#)



Shad action on the Columbia

SHAD FISHING

Have you ever fished for shad? If not, you're missing out. The action can be crazy and these fish put up a great fight. In this report from NWFR member nerka nailer details what worked for him - a 1/16th oz green and chartreuse dart. There's also a video to watch on NWFR so check it out. The run is tapering down but there's still time...[CLICK HERE](#)

It's been a good season overall for resident coho in Puget Sound. We've gotten numerous good reports from our members. Resident coho are a fun fish to target while waiting for their bigger cousins to arrive. The NWFR member reports will give you some great information if you're new to this fishery.



Riffe Lake Coho

RIFFE LAKE

Despite the low water levels anglers are getting out on this popular SW Washington reservoir and finding good action for land-locked coho and triploid trout. And yes, we know there are no kokanee in Riffe Lake. A shiny coho is a nice substitute though! [CLICK HERE](#)



Rseas gets on some nice Chinook action!

SALTWATER CHINOOK

Here's a saltwater action report for area 11 from NWFR's own rseas. His reports are always full of detailed information that will help you get on the fish. To quote Randy "The Marine Area 11 opener was awesome with a side of awesome!". That works for me...[CLICK HERE](#)

Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Tips and Techniques



Alder Lake mixed bag of Kokanee and trout

ALDER LAKE

Another neglected destination in the greater south Puget Sound region, this report from Widgeonmangh includes a cool video. The hot depth was 37 feet on downriggers, NTO Scent Spinners 2.0 in the pink ice and blue ice were the top producers. This member reports great action and "they ate so well"! [CLICK HERE](#)



Detroit Reservoir trout action has been hot!

DETROIT RESERVOIR

I had a blast fishing with Rob Holman and my son James on this Oregon reservoir. It has some quality rainbow trout. We had trouble finding the kokanee though. No matter, you'll be kept busy catching all those rainbows – and they cut great! [CLICK HERE](#)

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*Loon Lake Kokanee
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A TIGER TROUT FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

*Caylun Peterson with his
record Tiger Trout
– Courtesy Caylun Peterson*



by John Kruse

*Records aren't always broken in
front of a roaring crowd in a stadium.*

Sometimes, they are broken casting the simplest of offerings off a dock on a summer morning. That's exactly what happened on June 26th at Loon Lake in Stevens County, Washington.

Loon Lake is a large body of water, covering some 1086 acres. Located 26 miles north of Spokane, it's known for giving up a previous state record lake trout in the 1960's and for being a very good place to catch quality size kokanee salmon. Warmwater species such as perch, bass and sunfish are also

found here and in recent years, tiger trout have been stocked as well. Tiger trout are a relatively new fish to Washington State, a sterile hybrid that's a cross between a female eastern brook trout and a male German brown trout. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been stocking them

in select lakes around the state for 20 years.

With easy access off of U.S. Highway 395 and a couple of well-established resorts, Loon Lake is a popular place to fish for Spokane area residents to include Caylun Peterson, who hails from the Lilac City and has been fishing here on a regular basis every summer since he was a child.

On the early morning of June 26th Caylun was staying at his parent's lake cabin with his family when his daughter woke him up and asked to go fishing. The two went out to the dock and Caylun cast a big nightcrawler on a hook with no weight on the line and let it slowly sink to the bottom. About 15 minutes after Caylun did he got a bite and set the hook. At first the trout swam towards him but then it turned and started to run and Peterson knew he had a very big fish on the line. In fact, Caylun started getting worried he was going to run out of line on his reel and yelled for his wife to get the Sea-Doo ready so they could follow the fish. Before that became necessary though the fish tired and stopped its lone line-taking run. Eventually, Peterson was able to reel the fish in.

When Peterson first got the big tiger trout in hand his first instinct was to release it, thinking if it grew

another year and he could catch it again he might have a record on his hands. However, the fish was bleeding badly and about that time his mother and a neighbor came outside. Seeing the huge tiger trout Peterson had caught, they both told him they thought the current tiger trout record was around 18 pounds and he may have beaten that record.

It turns out they were right. The previous Washington record tiger trout was caught in 2015 out of Bonaparte Lake by Kelly Flaherty from Priest River, Idaho. That trout weighed 18.49 pounds. Peterson's trout, weighed on a certified scale in Deer Park, beat the previous record by exactly six pounds with a weight of 24.49 pounds.

Not only did Peterson's trout break the Washington State record, but it looks

Peterson's trout is now officially the Washington State record tiger trout. He will have to fill out paperwork for the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and submit it for his fish to be certified as the new world record tiger trout.

to be an unofficial world record fish as well. The current world record tiger trout, weighing 20 pounds and 13 ounces, was caught by Pete Friedland out of Lake Michigan back in 1978.

Caylun took his trout to the WDFW Eastern Regional Office where it was examined by a fisheries biologist and other staff members on Monday the 28th.

As for fishing advice? Caylun said he has caught big tiger trout before out of Loon Lake, weighing up to 12 pounds, prior to this catch of a lifetime. Peterson says in his experience,

"They tend to bite first thing in the morning and right before sunset". Peterson is also a big believer in his method of using bait with no weight which slowly sinks to the bottom. As for what he was using besides that? Nothing fancy. Just an older Shakespeare Ugly Stik fishing rod and Okuma spinning reel.

It's the sort of story that makes you believe you too might just reel in a record the next time you are casting a line off the dock, out of the boat or from shore at your local lake. After all, if a regular guy who loves to fish like Caylun Peterson can catch a record, maybe anglers like you and I can too.

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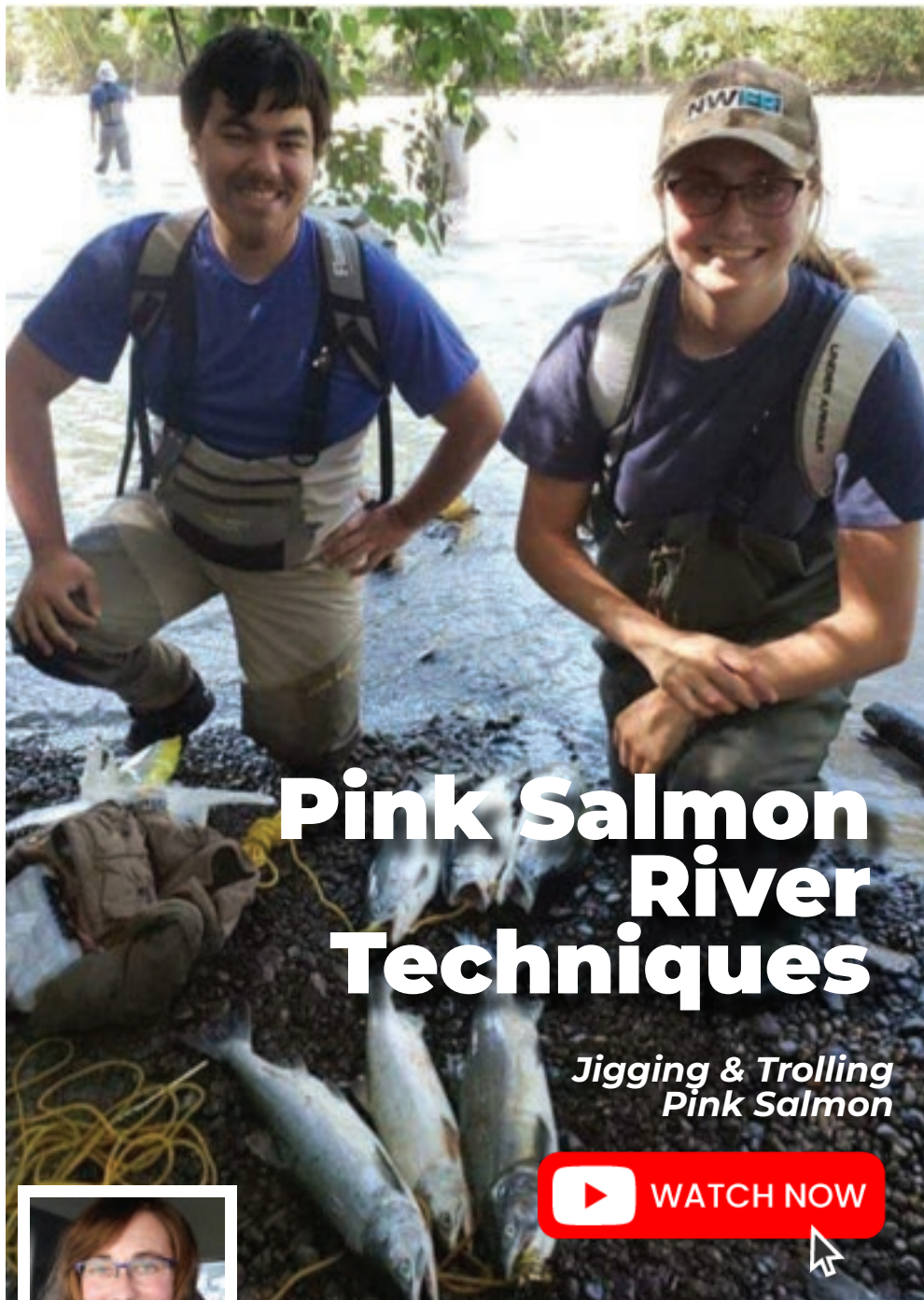
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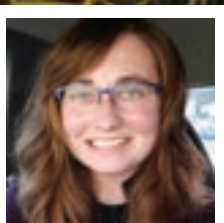
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Pink Salmon River Techniques

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Limits of Pink Salmon for these happy anglers.

by Hanna Pennebaker

In last month's article, we discussed what sets pink salmon apart from other salmon, and how to catch them from saltwater beaches and piers. Beginning in August, pinks leave the saltwater and begin pushing into the rivers to complete their journey and start spawning. Their chrome scales start taking on color and their sleek bodies start developing the signature hump on their backs that earn them their nickname "humpies". Along with these morphological changes, they also stop eating when they enter freshwater. They no longer need to keep building up fat to sustain

themselves on their long journey. You might wonder how to catch a fish that isn't eating. Luckily, river salmon still retain the instinct to snap at lures that annoy them. They become even more temperamental in freshwater as they near spawning. There's a good chance that they will chase down a lure that comes into their territory. There are several different techniques you can use to catch pinks in the river. It's a good idea to be well versed in multiple methods so you can try different lures if one just isn't working that day. Pinks are the easiest fish to catch in the rivers because they are extremely plentiful. They are the first salmon that many kids and experienced fishermen alike catch. They only run every odd year, so take this opportunity and fill up your stringer this year! All you need are a pair of good waders, a 8 to 10 feet medium action rod, and a 3000 to 4000 size reel. The main techniques for catching pinks fall into 2 categories: drifting, and hardware fishing with spoons, twitching jigs, or spinners.

Drift Fishing

By far the most common way to catch pinks, drifting involves bouncing a small corky and yarn along the bottom until a fish grabs it. When they enter the river, salmon will gobble up other salmon eggs in order to reduce competition for their offspring and ensure their own success. Most

sports stores sell a variety of colors and shapes of corkies. For clear rivers, I recommend more natural salmon egg colored corkies. However, for murky rivers like the Puyallup, brightly colored corkies work best since visibility is so low. It's a good idea to have a variety of sizes and colors on hand to try different combinations. For the yarn, you can either tie it just above the hook or tuck it inside an egg loop knot. Make sure to trim the ends of the yarn so it doesn't extend past the bottom of your hook. You'll want to put some weight on your line to make your corky stay close to the bottom, where the pinks usually are. Pencil lead weight is a common choice because you can trim it to exactly the right amount of weight for your drift. You want your weight to be ticking along the bottom every few seconds, not dragging or floating. I use a 3 to 4 foot leader and attach my weight just above the swivel. Cast 45 degrees upstream, then let your corky drift downstream, following it with your rod tip. Reel in once your rod tip is facing 45 degrees downstream, then cast again. One of the trickiest parts of drifting is differentiating a bite from a snag. I've definitely yanked back to get my hook out of a snag, only for the snag to start running down the river! One word of caution though, be careful of how many times you set the hook during a drift. There is an anti-snagging rule that states you can only set

the hook once per cast, and I've seen game wardens enforce this. The best advice I can give is that snags usually feel abrupt and firm, and bites feel more rubbery and soft. Put in your time and learn the feeling, and you'll be an expert in detecting the difference in no time!

Fishing Hardware



Some examples of spoons, spinners, and a drifting rig.

Although drifting is the most common technique for catching pinks in most Western Washington rivers, it's a good idea to learn how to use twitching jigs, spoons, and spinners. In heavily pressured systems, fish see dozens, if not hundreds, of corkies all day. A different lure can set you apart and really put some fish on the bank. Twitching jigs have really caught on in popularity over the past few years. They are the go to technique for coho in rivers, but pink salmon will go after a jig too! As with drifting, there is a bit of a skill curve with twitching jigs. Anglers need to learn which weight is suitable for the river conditions. Jigs most often come in 3/8, 1/2, and 1 oz sizes. In deep holes, 1oz jigs work best because they get down to the strike zone quickly. However, a 1oz jig would quickly get snagged in a shallower run. Rigging them is simple. Some anglers prefer just tying them straight to their mainline, others will use a swivel and a leader. For pinks, either method will work. Cast out just upstream of where you think the fish are holding, let your jig sink, and then begin jigging. I recommend trying a variety of depths and techniques until you find what works. Twitching jigs is all in the wrist. I usually let it sink, flick my wrist up about 8 inches, reel in the slack until the line is taut, and then repeat. Spinners and spoons can also be extremely productive for catching pinks. Most sporting goods stores sell a good variety of them, but keep in mind that most of them come

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A nice specimen caught on the Puyallup River.

with treble hooks, which are illegal in this state. It's worth buying a good set of siwash (open eye) hooks, 1/0 or 2/0, to replace the treble hooks with. 3/8 oz to 5/8 oz spinners and spoons usually work well for rivers around here. For spoons, cast upstream 45 degrees, let your spoon sink to the desired depth, and slowly reel in. You'll know your retrieve speed is right when you feel the spoon thumping in the water. This drives fish crazy! You'll also be able to feel the spinner creating vibrations in the water while you retrieve. Even though

salmon stop eating when they enter freshwater, they can't resist a good spinner or spoon in front of them. You can use the same rod all 3 of these techniques and get away with it, or you can opt for a specialized twitching rod. These are short rods with a lot of backbone for handling large fish, but a soft tip to detect strikes. The short length allows you to really pop the twitching jig with your wrist. They also work well for casting spinners and spoons, too.

No matter which technique you choose, always remember to check your rules and regulations

before heading out. Most rivers have an anti-snagging rule, and require barbless hooks. Twitching jigs often come barbed, but all you have to do is pinch the barb down with pliers until it no longer catches on your finger. Come out to your local river and give pink salmon fishing a try!

These hard fighting fish are absolutely delicious on the smoker or grill. They are a great introductory salmon for beginner anglers and kids alike. We hope to see you out on the river this season!

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Puget Sound Coho Education



by Mike Carey

“Fish Fish Fish”! The port downrigger rod plunged down as the line released from the clip. Almost immediately the rod violently pulsated over and the line clicker on the reel screamed, announcing another solid coho on the other end of the line. My friend Robbie made a mad dash for the rod, slipping as he grabbed it. “Careful Robbie, don’t fall out of the boat!” Robbie is a true angler – any fish is a good fish to him, and this was a good fish. He took control of the rod and called out “nice fish!”, the excitement causing his voice to go up an octave. Slowing the boat down to allow Robbie to play the fish, he worked the bucking coho slowly back to the boat. Several screaming runs later I slipped the net under a beautiful chrome twelve pound hook nose Area 10 coho. September fishing in Puget Sound for coho – and it doesn’t get much better than this!

It has been my good fortune to be blessed with this and more coho memories. Since moving to the Seattle area in 1989 I have learned the fish and fishery and over time I have come to have some success (and my share of skunks). Regardless of the results at day’s end, my Coho Education grew with each season’s passing. For me and Puget Sound anglers August through October is a special time with the promise of another year’s return of one the Pacific

Northwest’s most beloved fish, the pacific coho salmon.

My Coho Education started in West Seattle where my wife JoAnn and I bought our first home. My first “boat” was an eight foot sport raft with an 8 horse power motor and a 5 gallon tank of gas. A simple set up but it got me on the water as I began my coho education. Back then it was either mooching, jigging, or trolling with a Deep Six. I slowly learned my craft, and with each fish I caught, and the days I caught nothing, I learned my lessons. Returning to the launch and seeing the successes other anglers had, I would gaze enviously at their catches. “Beautiful fish, do you mind my asking what you caught it on?” Most times the angler was more than happy to share information, sometimes not. Over time I learned, by the grace of anglers willing to share tips, by books, and magazines. The crisp late summer-early fall days, smell of saltwater in the air, anticipation of a successful fishing outing - coho fever had me firmly in its grip.

From the sport raft I graduated to my first “real” boat, a sixteen foot Fiberform runabout with an eighty horse motor. Suddenly I had the ability to venture farther out and in rougher waters. I now had a boat that I could take friends and family out fishing. New locations became my favorite spots to fish – West Point, Four-mile Rock, Shilshole, Jefferson Head and Blake Island, all new areas to explore and learn. With a real fishing boat came more toys to learn and utilize in my coho education. Downriggers – manual – became my newest

tool to learn and utilize. I soon joined the “trolling motor cut my cable club” and learned all about hard running tides and not making tight inside turns. Losing expensive downrigger balls was a painful, but seemingly necessary lesson. The high point of fishing out of this boat for coho was fishing off of the San Juans Cattle Point with two of my brothers and getting into some quality coho with only a couple boats around us, and a pod of Orca whales to keep us company. Talk about God’s Country! I loved my fiberform and caught my fair share of coho, but soon enough it was time for the next upgrade. With two boys in our family, it was time to move up to something bigger and safer. When I saw the “for sale” notice on an eighteen foot Sierra Seaswirl Cuddy Cabin I knew it was the perfect boat for my growing family. And it turned out to be the perfect coho slaying machine as well. No longer were September windy days to force me to return early to the dock. Our new boat sliced through chop and waves in comfort. I now had all of Puget Sound at my call – the crown jewel – Possession Bar – became my favorite destination for fall coho.

For those of you not familiar with “The Bar”, Possession Bar is the crossroads of Puget Sound. Coho stream in and over the bar, feeding on the large schools of baitfish that get caught in its eddies and currents. For a coho it’s like going to a buffet with all your favorite foods. Back in the early to mid-nineties the bar was also choked with boats (which it isn’t anymore). You really needed to understand tides, current, wind, and trolling etiquette to



avoid some on the water collisions. I saw a few of those, and many near-misses in September. It was an epic time to fish for coho and many a chrome bright silver made its way across my boat’s gunnel. I continued to learn and evolve my coho skills each season. One thing I earned is to never think you’ve learned everything you know about a fish and always be open to new tricks and techniques. Talking to other anglers in line to launch your boat is a great way to glean new information and make you a better angler. Not everyone will be open to sharing info, but many are. Rather than ask for specific spots I think it is more productive to learn techniques. Along with asking questions I believe in sharing information you have learned as well. Our sport depends on recruiting new anglers to the fold. Helping to make other anglers successful increases license revenues which means more money dedicated to habitat restoration and hatchery production. (We hope). When we help each other, we help ourselves and hopefully will have a fishery for future generations of anglers in Puget Sound.

As I now fish out of what will likely be my last boat upgrade (a twenty foot Thunderjet) I look back on my evolution as a coho angler with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I have been blessed to share fishing with friends and family and helped provide some wonderful memories for them. Along the way I have learned and refined my skills. There are many anglers out there far more skilled and knowledgeable than I and that’s OK. We all strive to be the best we can be, right? Even those at the top of their games are always learning and working to improve their skills (or they should be). As you travel on your journey of Coho Education remember it is the journey, not the destination. May your Coho Education be a good one full of lasting memories and friendships gained – and lots of fish!



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Fishing Home Waters 3,000 Miles Away

A beautiful stream reminded me of fishing in Washington

by Paul Lewis

As fishermen, we are blessed with opportunities to chase fish around the world. These places are all unique, with different and exotic species, tactics and styles that are the most effective to hook the target species. Working in the sports industry takes me far away from home for months out of the year. As much as I love exploring new fisheries, sometimes a fix of fishing water that reminds me of home is necessary to fill the void of missing my home rivers, lakes, and the great Puget Sound. When you fish the great Pacific Northwest waters almost every day either as a guide (like me) or as a hardcore angler when you are in Washington, you truly get spoiled by the quality, species, and scenery that encapsulate our area.

Work has had me stationed in South Carolina for the past few months, and after chasing Red Drum, Speckled Seatrout, and flounder on the gorgeous 95-degree days in the low country as much as I could, the mountains were practically screaming my name. So, it was time to break out the ultra-light rods, 1000 size reels, and head for the gorgeous Smoky Mountains to chase cold-water fish around again. From my location, it is nearly a 5-hour drive to the riverbank, and although it had to be a day trip, every mile made me feel closer to home.

In South Carolina, there are only a few places where habitable waters exist for trout, and my journey took me to the Georgia border in the far West corner of the state, where I was finally able to float a setup on the Chattooga River (for you movie buffs, this is where the film *Deliverance* was shot!). The

South Carolina DNR does an excellent job keeping these waters stocked with beautiful rainbows and brook trout, as well as a healthy population of wild brown trout. When I travel for work, I always bring a tackle box of ultralight setups with floats, small spinners/spoons and plastics, some salmon eggs, and scent to chase fish in the local rivers. After looking at the water for a while and chatting with a couple of local anglers, it became clear the preferred setup was small spinners or floating bait off the bottom and either plunking or slowly drifting with the current. The locals said fishing had been a little slow with storms moving through, but the water was still clear enough to fish. One thing I noticed about their setups was

their line size, which was probably 8lb test. The area I was fishing had a decent amount of angler traffic, which indicated that the fish may have been a little more wary as they will have seen lots of bait pass their way. Since I was just given great local knowledge and invited to fish a while with the couple of locals on the riverbank, I started my day with the exact setup they recommended, bouncing a small natural colored grub down the current into pools that I could see held fish.

After my first few casts, I noticed the trout would initially show interest, then after a quick look they would turn away immediately. A couple more casts, and at this point they were completely ignoring the bait. So, it was time to switch tactics. With the local anglers still around, I did not want to blatantly go against the advice they had just kindly given to an outsider, so I snuck back to my tackle bag and made a little soak solution containing some bait oils I brought with me and started drowning some salmon eggs and vibrant colored Trout Magnets (small plastic grubs) in it, then went back to fishing with my new buddies. 15 more minutes passed, and they concluded these fish had lockjaw and were not worth targeting. They were kind enough to invite me along, but since I could see fish, I decided to stick

Native brown trout – gorgeous!



it out a little longer (and wait for them to leave so I could try my methods). Like many of you, I am a stubborn son of a gun when it comes to fishing. If I see fish I know will bite, I will sit on those slimy suckers until their secret is unlocked! After saying a fast thanks and goodbye, they headed to their next spot, and I changed my gear as soon as they were out of sight. As stated earlier, these fish were used to seeing setups very regularly. So, I switched to a reel loaded up with 10lb braid, a micro slip-float, and a mosquito hook with 2lb leader to trick the line-shy fish. The goal was to have a float presentation to offer a much more natural bait just drifting down the current, then a salmon egg or brightly colored jig that smelled delicious and was unique to their regular offerings. On my first cast, it was on! I landed a gorgeous little rainbow on the float, and after a few pictures he was released on his way.

Nearly every cast after that was a bobber-down, and the micro-steelhead float setup was killing it! After catching my fill in that hole, I moved down-river to some more fishy looking water, and the same setup made for a day that was filled with more fish than I could count. As my trip was winding down (I had to drive the 5 hours back down to the low country, so the trip was a short one) I ran back into the same folks that helped me at the beginning of my adventure. After comparing notes, they said they had a few fish, but nothing explosive to talk about. So, I cut my setup off and handed it over to them with a spool of 2lb test as a thank you for their advice. As I walked away, they hooked up on two gorgeous fish and gave me a holler to show them off. It was certainly a warming feeling to see their fish and smiles as they learned a new tactic and had instant success. As we all know, fishing is about the community and when we can help the anglers around us experience the joy of hammering on fish, we always should. Especially after they were nice enough to talk to a complete outsider marching on their home turf!

Finding waters that bring back memories of our favorite areas brings on an incomparable feeling of warmth and joy. This



I had abundant action on this stream.

feeling is even higher when we can reach into our angling knowledge and unlock the key to fish that are pressured or not in a biting mood with techniques that are not common on the waters being fished or that we brought with us from the other side of the country. These may not have been big summer run kings or steelhead taking a big bobber down and peeling drag, but I was just as excited catching these little trout as I am when chasing kings and steel. Fishing is about the experience and taking all of it in. In situations like this, size doesn't always matter, especially in a place as beautiful as the Smokies.

When you travel, I highly recommend attempting to find waters where you can try your tactics success.

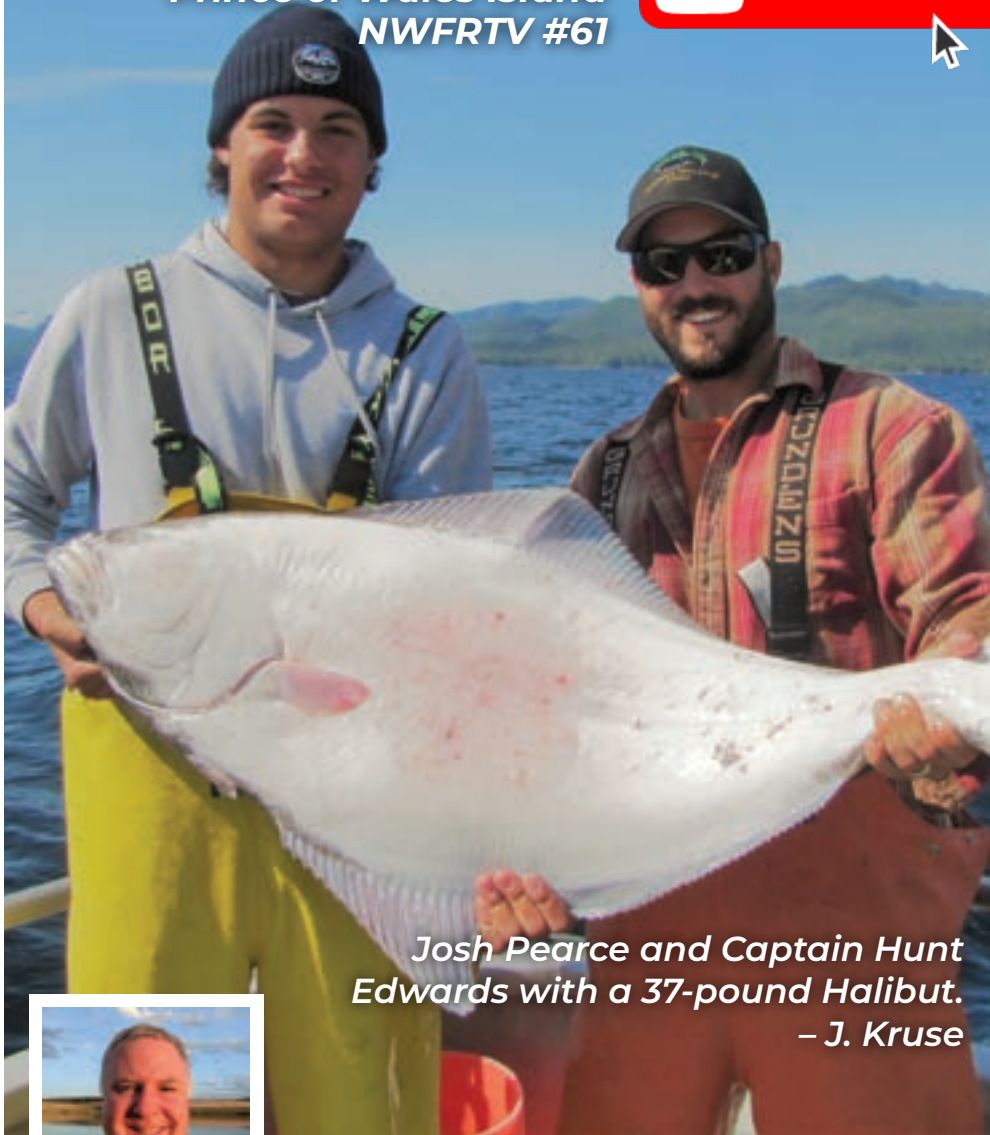
I have even brought my steelhead setups to the saltwater creeks in the Charleston area and nailed fish when the regular setups aren't working. There is just no comparison to the feeling of diving deep into your fishing knowledge and bringing a tactic to a new area, or even species!

Tight lines all!

NORTH TO ALASKA!

*Alaska Charter Fishing at
Prince of Wales Island
NWFRTV #61*

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*Josh Pearce and Captain Hunt
Edwards with a 37-pound Halibut.*

– J. Kruse



by John Kruse

The Washington Outdoors Report heads north to Alaska this week to report on the great adventure my daughter Faith and I enjoyed at Sportsman's Cove Lodge on Prince of Wales Island. The journey started at SeaTac airport where a quick two-hour flight brought us to Ketchikan. After lunch in town, we boarded a de Havilland Otter floatplane and enjoyed a 20-minute flight over the Inside Passage to the lodge. The facility is located in a remote cove and features comfortable accommodations, a large dining room, a small pub, laundry facilities and the docks where the fishing boats are docked and where the fish are processed, vacuum packed and frozen for your journey home.

After a dinner of soy-glazed salmon we headed to the docks where our Captain made sure we had the correct sized rain gear and gave us an orientation to the 37-foot Delta fishing boat our group of six would be fishing out of with him and his deckhand for the next several days. The boat has a comfortable cabin, a marine head, and the ability to completely walk around (and fish around) the boat.



Mornings at the lodge always start off by making your lunch from a variety of sandwich fixings before eating a hot breakfast that changes daily. By 6:30 AM you are on your boat and the fleet of five charter boats heads out for the day. Faith and I were on board the Mystic Lady, captained by Hunt Edwards, a Florida charter boat captain who had been working at Sportsman's Cove for ten seasons. Our deckhand, Jim, was a friendly young man from Kentucky and had the strongest work ethic I have ever seen. Our group of six anglers consisted of Gary Parks and Ward Erickson, two friends from Port Angeles who decided to enjoy an Alaskan fishing adventure together. Also, on board with Faith and I was Mike Kirchner who like me, was bringing his 18-year-old (Pearce) from Colorado to Alaska for a memorable family fishing trip.

The fishing was very, very good. Our mornings were spent fishing off the bottom for halibut and true cod and once we had our limit (of one quality halibut per angler) we would head towards an area where the salmon were schooling in good numbers.

Most of the salmon were pink salmon but there were also coho (silvers), bright chum salmon and a few Chinook (kings) as well. Our method of fishing was an old school one called mooching. We each had a cut plug herring with three to four feet of leader tied to a six-ounce weight and would drop it down and reel it back up rapidly in a controlled pattern. Many times, the salmon would follow the bait all the way to the boat at which point you dropped your bait back down 30 feet or so, reeled up again, and quite often the salmon would then take it. With every day a 40+ salmon catching day on the boat we had lots of excitement on the water. Around 3 PM the fleet comes back to the docks where photos are taken of the day's catch and appetizers await. Dinner is then served at 6 PM, followed by an awards ceremony where the anglers catching the big fish of the day from a variety of different species gets a coffee cup with their name and the weight and species of the fish on it to memorialize the occasion. You'll want to bring your camera and binoculars



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*Leaving the docks at Sportsman's Cove Lodge
– J. Kruse*

too because wildlife is abundant. During our visit we saw bald eagles, humpback whales, Orca whales, sea lions and black bears.

The whole experience was fun and wonderful. Part of the reason for this, in addition to the great fishing and food, is the fantastic customer service. This is established through careful hiring practices and also through the fact that there are 32 staff members on hand to take care of the 30 anglers who occupy

the lodge for any given 3 to 4-day stay during the summer.

On the final day you actually get to fish again for most of the day before taking a floatplane back to Ketchikan. Most stay one more night in town, which gives you the opportunity to explore Alaska's First City, a very popular destination for cruise ships.

The return rate to Sportsman's Cove Lodge is very high and with the pent-up demand of this season they are sold out

for this year. Fortunately, an additional four-day trip has just been added at the very end of the season, arriving on September 8th and departing on the 13th. This is typically the time of year when the biggest coho salmon of the year are landed.

If you want to book this trip (or book a trip for the 2022 season) you can do so by going to www.alaskasbestlodge.com or by calling 1-800-962-7889.



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“Their milkshakes are legendary. I hear their cinnamon rolls are a must take item to go.”

HEARTY FOOD AND LEGENDARY MILKSHAKES

Good Eats in the NW - Clarks Restaurant

by Hillary Holman

Hey Everybody! It's me, Hillary. As many of you know, I travel the roads with Northwest Fishing Reports looking for places that make this place home. Let me guide you to some of the hidden gems I have found along the way.

Salmon season is here! Hwy 101 is calling out from this nostalgic restaurant known as Clarks. It is nestled in at mile marker 76. Along this famous scenic Hwy you will definitely be struck with hunger between the long stretches of Giant Douglas Fir trees and this is the perfect place to stop. These giants tend to shield your cell service, so mapping out your route is essential in finding this fantastic place to eat.

I found Clarks nestled between Hoquiam and Ilwaco in Cosmopolis, Washington. Driving up I immediately noticed the unique old fashioned ice cream sign that let us to an old building stone and wood. On the right side of the building sits a lovely vegetable garden, stock full of tasty vegis to eat. There are unique picnic tables out front to sit and enjoy the homemade ice-cream they make here. As I entered this beautiful handcrafted building I was transported back in time. A time when grandma stoked the fire

before she put the biscuits in. The smell old fashioned cooking greeted me at the door.

The Patty Melt

Personally, I have been on a quest to find the best patty melt this side of the Rocky Mountains. And this place delivers! The patty melt speaks volumes. At Clarks the Rye bread is true to tradition flavored with caraway seeds and toasted to perfection. A simple Dijon mustard was carefully smeared to the edge of the bread. The patty was homemade and seasoned right. The grilled onions are something my mother would

be proud of. I added grilled mushrooms and was not disappointed. The cheese was melted perfectly. I could taste the care put into this sandwich.

The B&G

My husband ordered the Biscuits and Gravy. This is hardy food territory and Clarks served up a Titan of a B&G. Now, I have never seen a biscuit look more delicious in my life. On appearance, it looks a bit like a giant piece of fluffy shortbread, smothered in smooth creamy white gravy with big chunks of meat mixed in. The sausages served alongside were a welcomed size and flavor. The young lady who served us was cheerful and personally set out to keep my coffee cup full.

This was just what Rob and I needed after a long fishing trip off the Washington coast. This eatery fuels hard work and the soul. They put together a good balance of fat, carbohydrates and protein needed for long days outside. It's no wonder why Clarks restaurant has repeatedly been voted one of the Best Of Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay year after year.

The Scuttlebutt

This is a favorite spot by so many. Mario from Grays Harbor Unders in Hoquiam agrees, "When you go to Clarks it is a known destination. The food is always good. When you leave you are more than satisfied and know full well that you will be back again. You look forward to it."



Set among Giants of trees and winding curves of the 101, this place is a must try destination!

Where: Clarks Restaurant

Coordinates: Latitude-46.878164 Longitude--123.64539

Region: SW Washington (Lower Left) **Hwy:** 101

Mile Marker: 76

731 US Highway 101, Cosmopolis, WA 98537
(360) 538-1487

An advertisement for Mack's Lures. At the top, there is a logo for Mack's Lures featuring a fish and the text "Mack's Lures". Below the logo, the text reads "HOME OF THE WEDDING RING® & SMILE BLADE®". The central image shows a fishing lure with a white skirt, blue and white beads, and a red body. Below the lure, the text says "Fishing's best kept secret". At the bottom, there is a white rounded rectangle containing the text "Shop online at www.mackslure.com". The background is a solid orange color with white wavy lines.

SALMON BURGERS



*Spice up your usual
summer barbeque*

by Jason Brooks

Summer is grilling season. Most will flip a few burgers, hot dogs, or pork ribs on the barbecue. A few years ago I found that a thin salmon fillet fit onto a burger bun and made for one heck of a great summer sandwich. The best cut to use is the fillet near the tail as there are no pin or rib bones. The thin fillet can be marinated easily and cooks quickly. While the standard beef burgers might take some time a salmon burger can be cooked in about six to eight minutes after pre-heating the grill. I prefer to leave the skin on until while it cooks. It easily separates once the fish is cooked before assembling the burger. Here is a quick and delicious Northwest salmon burger for the backyard barbecue.

SALMON BURGER RECIPE

Ingredients

Salmon Fillet's
(tail sections best)

One cup Yoshida's Teriyaki Sauce per fillet

Olive Oil

Johnny's Alaskan Salmon Seasoning

Lettuce

Onion

Tomato's

Pretzel Buns

Directions

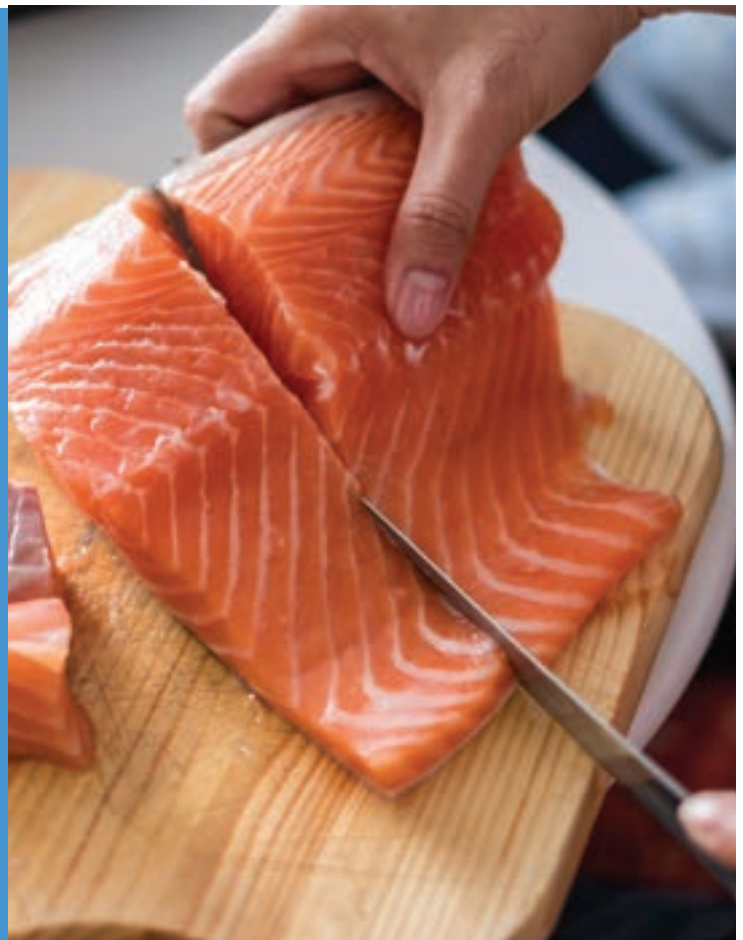
Marinate the fillet's in the teriyaki sauce for at least one hour in a glass dish. Pre-heat the grill to 350 degrees. While waiting for the grill to pre-heat cut the lettuce, Onion and Tomato's for your burger.

Once the grill is heated coat the racks with olive oil or brush the fillets with olive oil. Place the fillet's flesh side down to sear for approximately one minute. Then flip over, season with Johnny's Alaskan Salmon seasoning and bake on the grill, skin side down, until the fish begins to separate or until desired temperature.

Then assemble the burger with your favorite fixings on the pretzel buns.

NOT SO FISHY FACTS

Astaxanthin is an antioxidant found in salmon that may benefit heart, brain, nervous system, and skin health. Eating salmon on a regular basis may also help protect against heart disease.





Best Topwater Lures of all Time

by Rick Lawrence

Here is my top ten list of the best topwater lures of all time. Some are old standards, some have only been popular a few years, and some you may have never heard of before, until now. The list will go from what I think is good, up to what I consider the best top water lure of all time.

10. Jitterbug

When a Jitterbug is retrieved correctly it will wobble from side to side. It is a pretty simple lure to use. You can vary your retrieve speed to try mixing things up, but the best retrieve to use when fishing Jitterbugs is the stop and go technique. Cast your Jitterbug and let it sit for a few seconds. Then, begin your retrieve. Retrieve it for a few seconds, and stop. You can stop for a few seconds or upwards of ten seconds before retrieving again. Oftentimes when fishing Bass or Northern Pike, they will wait for it to stop before striking. This is what makes the stop and go technique so effective. Another useful tip when fishing Jitterbugs and most other topwater lures is not to set your hook immediately when you feel a strike. If you set your hook too soon you will miss a majority of the fish. Wait for the fish to take the bait underwater and turn with it after the strike, then set your hook.

Best place to fish it is, Calm nights, Shallow water, 1-5 feet deep, bass cruise the shallows at night and jitter bugs are deadly. Solid black is the ticket for fishing these at night.

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9. Floating Rapala

The best part of this bait it is so easy but yet effective. This bait can just about do it all. It can be twitched, popped, or spit. Twitching it is usually the most effective topwater presentation. It is a very subtle topwater when twitched. Twitch your rod softly with your rod tip pointing up. The bait will dive under the water slightly. It barely makes any noise, using it on flat water is a must when twitching since otherwise fish will have a hard time seeing it. If the fish won't respond to twitching, try a more aggressive presentation. Twitching the rod fast and repeatedly will make the bait pop and spit. Point the rod tip up and twitch it over and over. It takes a while to get the rhythm but it is incredible how big of a bubble the bait will make or how high the water will spit. Sometimes the bass will just nip at the Rapala and not take it. When they do this twitch it under water and give it a few reels.

I fish it around about all kinds of cover, ranging from weeds to rock. The first thing is, you don't fish it in the cover, but around it. Fish it anywhere

you would fish topwater bait. It is basically a finesse topwater. You can expect more bass, sometimes not as big but definitely more. I fish this bait when water temps climb higher than 60 degrees in the spring and down to about 60 degrees in the fall. I throw them in low light conditions like early mornings or on a warm rainy dark day.

8. The Buzzbait

When fishing the buzzbait, start with your rod tip high and start reeling as soon as it hits the water. This will keep the buzzbait on the top of the water, and then slowly lower your rod tip as the bait gets closer. Most of the time a slow steady retrieve works best, but sometimes popping the rod tip to make the bait spit a lot of water will work good as well.

A buzzbait will work just about anywhere, over sunken weeds or cover, over shallow flats, and perfect for going parallel with the bank. I like to throw them in the evening until well after dark.

7. Shimano Triple Impact Wake Bait



This is one of the lures I will be talking about that you probably have never heard of before. This is a loud clacking wake bait with a prop tail, which has a huge side to side wagging action. With this bait all you need to do is throw it near cover and do a slow steady retrieve. The bait will call fish from quite far away to come hammer it.

I like to fish these in fairly open water as they will come find the bait. Fishing it over a deep rock piles for smallies in low light conditions works great, as does casting it to shallow water along an overhanging grass bank.

6. Zara Super Spook Jr.

The key to fishing this lure is patience. If you have never used a top water lure before, or caught a fish on a top water lure, you are missing out on some incredible heart-pounding action. Many anglers, both experienced and beginners tend to set the hook right when they see a splash from a fish attacking

the lure, but you have to wait just a second to get a good hook up. Before you can set the hook, you need to know how to fish this lure. A medium-heavy action baitcasting rod and reel work best with this style lure, but I have use spinning reels before.



A stiff rod is best to help you get a good “pop” in the line, so I would definitely stay at or above a medium-heavy action rod. As for line, I like to use 30-50 lb. braid on a baitcasting, and 20 lb. braid on a spinning combo. Of course, with most top water lures you want use monofilament line instead of braid, as mono actually floats. However, I have used braided line with quite a bit of success...more like a lot of success. The reason I use braid is because it doesn't have any stretch so you get a better action from the lure. The hard part is getting the cadence right to get the bait to walk. That distinctive zigzag walk-the-dog like action is created by keeping your rod tip low and popping the bait on a slack line. It takes a little practice to get this down but once you do you will be rewarded with some incredible heart pounding action.

For Smallmouth I like to fish it over rocky flats or river current lines. For Largemouth submerged weedbeds and weed lines are a great choice.

5. Spro Rat



Summer is prime time to catch topwater fish. If you like to throw walking baits, poppers, wakebaits, or whopper ploppers with success, then its time to try a rat. Big rat baits catch BIG fish! If you've ever wanted to know when to use them, and how to catch more “rat” fish, here is the simple way to fish the new SPRO BBZ-1 Rat 40. Do not over think this bait. Fish it with a nice a steady retrieve and only good things will happen.

Fish these over grass flats, in pockets between toolies, over a hump, over a point or parallel to the bank. Just let it sit for a second then bring it in nice a steady and hang on.

4. HeadBanger Spitfire 4.5

This is a fairly new bait on the market that will become a classic I'm sure. It is kind of a cross between a Jitterbug and a floating jointed Rapala and it is another bait that works well with a stop and go retrieve. The Headbanger Spitfire is a unique topwater bait that can really trigger a feeding frenzy from nearby bass. The jointed body has a realistic baitfish profile, and the lure swims with a natural action that fish can't ignore. A free-swinging transparent lip adds to the Spitfire's enticing

side-to-side movement, plus it helps create a wild commotion on the surface. The non-repetitive movement is created by the loosely attached guide lip. Because of the lips' different shape and specific balance, it constantly changes the lure's direction. The result is a lure that moves with irregularities naturally resembling that of a real living prey. This is the perfect bait to throw near cover or over vegetation.

3. Zoom Horney Toad



The Horney toad is a great search bait, just cast it out a reel it fairly fast over and throw cover. I love to throw this bait into some of the heaviest cover I can find so I fish these on heavy braid with a frog rod. Rigged on a heavy EWG hook with a little bend in the bait so the belly sticks out and the legs kick like crazy. One thing I really like about this bait is if you do miss a fish topwater you can kill the bait and let it sink and 90% of the time they will come back and eat it. The only thing I don't like about this lure is perch and sunfish love to bite the legs off it.

2. Rebel Pop R



The Pop R is one of my favorite Smallmouth baits of all time just. I use a med/hvy spinning rod with 30 lb. braid. I let it drift with the current around any cover in a river and make a loud pop every 5 to 15 seconds. Throw it near lay down trees and standing timber for L.M. Typically it is a smaller than walkers, poppers can also play the short game with brief, targeted casts to structure. A concave face pushes water and air on every twitch for a bold display that pulls deep fish topside. How to Fish It, Use a sharp, downward rod motion on a slack line to grab air and create maximum pop without too much forward movement. Contrary to walkers, a fluoro leader can help here by pulling the popper down for a deeper blooping sound.

1. Whopper Plopper

The original chopper bait was designed for targeting Muskie's, however thanks to its success on other predatory fish several new sizes have been released to meet the needs of bass anglers that want to target Smallmouth and Largemouth. Now the brand new 110 size is the missing puzzle piece for those

situations where the 90 is too small but the 130 is too big. Deadly for an array of predatory fish the 110 provides the ultimate complementing size to the 90 perfect for that one, two punch when out on the water. They have also come out with a short fat version the 75 as well. The Whopper Plopper family has become a new stable in the arsenals of many anglers worldwide.



The Whopper Plopper provides tremendous topwater disruption that draws bone crushing strikes from below. Throwing off a similar sputtering action as a buzzbait with the ability to be fished slower or on a stop and go retrieve the Whopper Plopper allows an angler to stay in the strike zone for a longer period of time. Crawl it super slow so the tail barely makes a bubble trail or burn it back to the boat and watch the ripple of chasing bass right before the strike. The Whopper Plopper casts with ease and stays upright through the retrieve at any speed and the unique sound the bait makes it a bait that you can't mistake for anything else. Plus the newly designed weed resistance convex tail reduces debris from building up thereby keeping the bait kicking the whole way back. Whether targeting Bass, Muskie, or Pike the Whopper Plopper is a win, win.

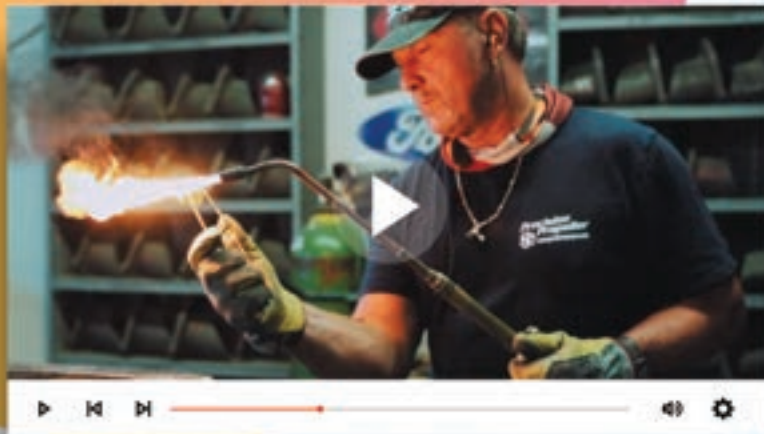
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Dodger's and Flashers

Scent Flash Gear Tips



Flashers and thin blade spoons are a deadly combo

Using the right attractor, the right way, for the right fishery

by Jason Brooks

Standing in the flasher and dodger aisle at your local sporting goods store can cause some confusion if you don't know which ones to use and how to use them. Flashers, in-line and standard, sizes, colors, lighted and UV finishes make it hard to know which ones to buy. Then there are dodgers and are used in a different way than flashers. It can all be so confusing but if you know how they work and when to use them they will help you catch more fish.

Dodgers versus flashers, and what does this really mean? Both are used to cause a "flash" in the water that attracts salmon. Salmon are schooling feeders, meaning they know that when they see a flash of a salmon aggressively chasing prey that there is food in the area and come to investigate. Both the dodger and the flasher mimic this flash of a feeding salmon. However, they do it in different ways, some will also impart action on a lure while others don't.

The dodger does what its name implies and "dodges" back and forth. A flash of light is given off of the reflective surface but it also causes the bait or lure to jerk suddenly back and forth giving it an appearance of a bait trying to evade the predator. When using a dodger, it is best to realize that the leader length and stiffness is part of the presentation. An example is Sockeye fishing. This past summer I was fishing the famed "Brewster pool" for Sockeye and used a 8-inch Mack's Lure "Double D" dodger with an 8-inch leader to a small clear pink UV hoochie skirt. The leader was twenty-five-

pound monofilament, not because the fish were large; in fact Sockeye are one the smallest of the five Pacific salmon species. The stiff leader was needed to impart action onto the hoochie skirt. It looked like a small shrimp being chased by another Sockeye, which is also why it was important to use the 8-inch dodger and not a larger one. The Double D is also unique because it has offset holes and when trolled it will "kick out" to one side and increase your spread of lures as you troll.

When using a dodger be sure to use the right lure. A spoon or a hoochie skirt (also known as a squid skirt) are most popular as they can have action be imparted onto them and be effective. A cut plug herring or an anchovy with a

hood is best used with a flasher as they have their own action by design and the dodger can interfere with the natural presentation you are trying to mimic of a swimming baitfish.

Speed control is important when using a dodger and keep in mind these are used for a "slow" presentation. Back to the Sockeye fishing; the dodger is best used at less than one mile per hour and for Chinook or Coho up to two miles per hour. There are dodgers designed to be fished at higher speeds such as the "Sling Blade" which is an elongated teardrop design. Going too fast will cause the dodger to spin and not work properly. You need to take into account currents and tides as well, especially if you are going "uphill" or against the current. When tying on the dodger it is not as imperative to use multiple swivels but one at the front and one at the rear will help with line twist when a salmon grabs the bait and the fight is on.



Classic 11" flasher with a spoon



Mack's Double D has a unique design to allow sideways motion

Flashers are a bit different, and even by design there are a few different kinds. Starting with the standard 11-inch flasher. This attractor makes a large circle as it is pulled through the water and by doing so it gives off flash and the appearance of commotion that causes the salmon to come over and investigate what it going on. Many tackle companies are now making flashers with a UV finish that seem to "glow" in dark waters. And ProTroll, a company synonymous with flashers has one that incorporates a water activated flashing light. All of this is to increase flash and bring salmon over to your bait. Flashers are best used with a long leader from 36 to 60 inches depending on bait size and type. A cut-plug herring is probably the most widely used bait behind these flashers but spoons also work as well as anchovies. Again, watch your speed as you need to be going fast enough to cause a complete rotation but too fast will cause severe line twist. To keep that line twist to

a minimum be sure to use quality ball bearing swivels at the front and back of the flasher as well as another bead-chain swivel halfway down your leader.

In-line flashers such as Yakima Bait Company's "Big Al" or those by ProTroll, KoneZone, Short Bus and other companies seem to be an attractor all of their own. With their popularity increasing each year to the point where the states of Oregon and Washington almost banned them during a recent Buoy 10 fishery. This attractor is just that, purely an attractor, as it adds flash but does not impart any action on the lure or bait. This is why they are best used with baits such as cut plug herring, anchovies with hoods, or lures such as spinners, Brad's Superbait or Cut-Plug Superbait or Yakima Bait Companies new SpinFish. Another lure to try behind the in-line flasher is an apex or even a "K" style plug such as Kwikfish, Flatfish or Killerfish. Color seems to be the deciding factor when it comes to the in-line flashers with chartreuse and a hot pink being most popular. Don't overlook gold, silver, or metallic red as they are also great for water that is off color and has low visibility.

When using the in-line flasher be sure to check the edges for any nicks as they can cut your leader or mainline if a twist occurs. Most come with quality ball bearing swivels already attached to both ends and make sure they are working properly. It is also a



Inline flashers are growing in popularity because they work!

Scent Flash Gear Tips



good practice to use a 6 bead-chain swivel halfway down the leader which is also long compared to leaders used with dodgers. Most leaders for in-line flashers are again 36 to 60 inches.

Mack's lure came out with two new flashers last year that have a unique feature. They come apart and you can put scent right inside of them. The first is the triangle UV ScentFlash which is an in-line style flasher that not only adds flash to attract fish but also puts out a huge scent column thanks to the fins and rotating action. The other flasher is the UV Paddle ScentFlash which is a standard 11-inch flasher with a removable fin. This flasher imparts action on your lure or bait and again allows you to use additional scents and make a large trailing scent column to draw salmon to your lure. The removable fin adds stability but I had the chance to use these new flashers a few years ago when still in

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the testing phase. Halfway through our weeklong trip in British Columbia we lost the removable fin, but still caught a lot of fish. The flasher had more of an oval rotation than a circle and sometimes something different is all it takes to entice the bite.

Rigging the dodger, flasher or in-line flasher also differ depending on which one you are using. All three can be easily used on downriggers and pretty much all used the same way. But you can also use the attractors with a sliding weight system if you don't have downriggers or the location where you are fishing isn't a good fit for downriggers such as the lower Columbia river. The biggest difference is that for in-line flasher you can run a sliding weight system with a dropper-which will allow you to drag the weight on the bottom and keep the bait in the "zone"-or a sliding weight without the dropper leader. The slider can bump right up against the in-line flasher

or you can use a secondary leader and have it a foot or two away from the slider.

For standard flasher and dodgers there needs to be a space between the weight and the attractor as both impart action on the lure. A secondary leader is your best option. Have the slider on the mainline and a barrel swivel, then a 36 to 48-inch leader of heavy monofilament to another swivel. Use a duo-loc or McMahon snap to attach the dodger or flasher and then your standard leader to your bait or lure. This will allow your dodger or flasher to work properly without the dropper weight hampering the action. Knowing what the difference is between a dodger and a flasher and even the type of flasher will help you catch more fish. And knowing how to properly use them is the most important part of trolling for salmon. Now you can head to the water and know which one to use, and how to use it.

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Life Outdoors

The Weekender Report

Summer fishing is in full swing throughout the state this month, providing some of the year's best opportunities to reel in fish from lakes and streams, along the coast, and on the Columbia River.

This also the season when some big game hunters will take to the field for black bear, while others scout deer and elk hunting areas in preparation for fall.

Regardless of how you're getting outdoors this month, make sure you're aware of local land closures and restrictions before heading afield.

Columbia River salmon

The always-popular Buoy 10 fishery opens Aug. 1, with anglers able to fish for Chinook and coho salmon through Labor Day. Other portions of the lower river are also open throughout August, but rules vary; be sure you know the regulations for the section of river you're fishing.

Puget Sound crab

Many Puget Sound marine areas remain open for crab on select days throughout August, with the summer season ending on Labor Day. If you're already done for the season, now's the time to think about returning your crab catch record card – summer cards are due by Oct. 1.

Trout

The 2021 Trout Derby continues through Oct. 31! No entrance fee or registration required. Just catch a tagged trout and you win. You can find more information on lakes that still have prizes on our trout derby webpage.

Puget Sound & Ocean salmon

Several marine areas offer anglers opportunities to fish for salmon this month. Make sure to check the 2021-22 fishing regulations and emergency regulations before heading out. You can also download the Fish Washington mobile app, which provides up-to-date fishing regulations on your phone.

#LifeOutdoors

WDFW's new webpage with informative blog posts, recreational opportunities in your area, links to state and federal lands to explore, and more.

**Click for
more**

WDFW Weekender Report

Click through for region specific opportunities



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kelly Susewind
WDFW Director



“Summer brings a lot of joy to outdoors people. We are well into fishing season, kayaks are splitting the early morning waters, children are learning to bike and fly kites, and the camping gear is getting good use as we enter one of the most beautiful times in Washington.”

WDFW Director Kelly Susewind's Full Message

[Click for more](#)

WATCH NOW

Be Whale Wise and help make a difference for endangered Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW). Stay at least 300 yards on either side and at least 400 yards out of the path in front of and behind these whales. Slow down to seven knots within one-half nautical mile of a SRKW. Watch for the Whale Warning Flag. If you see the flag, slow down!



Be Whale Wise

AUGUST NOTICES

WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND CLOSURES

In response to increased fire risk and nationally depleted firefighting resources, all WDFW-managed lands in Eastern Washington, including water access areas within wildlife areas are currently open for day use only (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.). Water access areas that allow camping and are located outside of wildlife areas remain open.

In addition, campfires, target shooting, and some other activities on department-managed lands in Eastern Washington are not allowed. These restrictions help reduce the risk of additional wildfires, especially with a drought in effect.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AND PUGET SOUND

The Puget Sound shoreline is in constant flux, with wind, waves, and other forces shaping and reshaping our bluffs and beaches and moving sediment along the shoreline. It's a natural process that ensures a healthy ecosystem for salmon, shorebirds, and other species. But if you're a waterfront homeowner, you might be concerned about how erosion could damage your property.

August Dates

- Aug. 5-7 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting
- Aug. 25 - Discover Pass "Free Day"
- Aug. 27 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting



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