

# REEL LIFE

COVER STORY

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# EDITOR'S CORNER:

October is here and the rivers are filling with coho salmon! Pinks are pretty well spawned and gone – except for a few vampire fish swimming around. The morning fog on the river burns off to reveal beautiful fall days as Coho jump all around the boat. A cast of a spoon to the shoreline and my rod doubles over with the frantic tug of a solid fish. Bright silver flashes as I work this fish back to our waiting net. Memories such as these fill my soul and quicken my pulse every fall. As anglers we all have those favorite fisheries and seasons. For me, fall is at the top of my list. What's your favorite season? In this issue Jason Brooks details how to twitch for these awesome coho. Meanwhile, on the lake front the holdover trout fishing will be picking up and Hannah Pennebaker shares her strategies catching fall trout on flies. This plus more great fishing articles – enjoy!

Mike Carey - [mike@northwestfishingreports.com](mailto:mike@northwestfishingreports.com)



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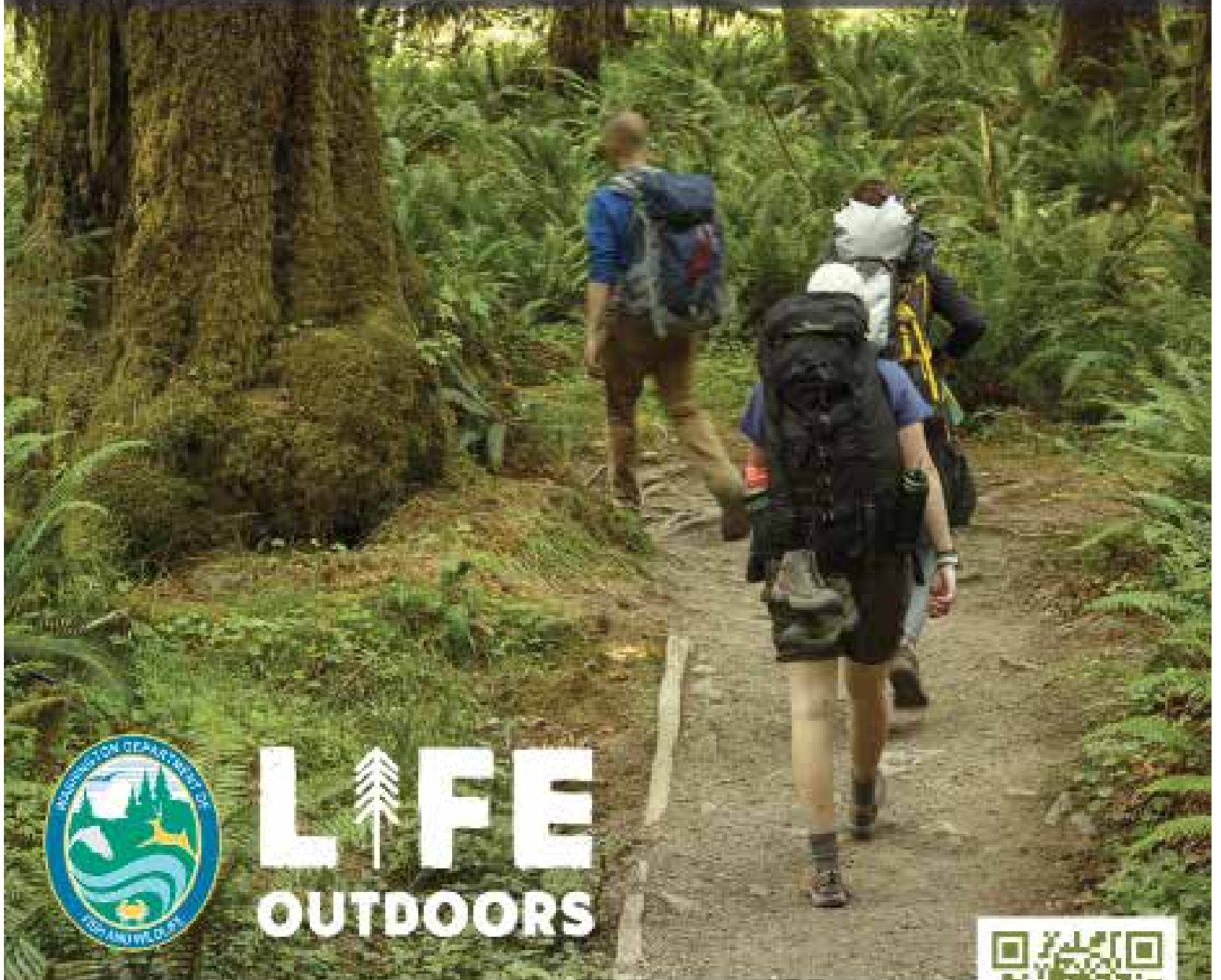
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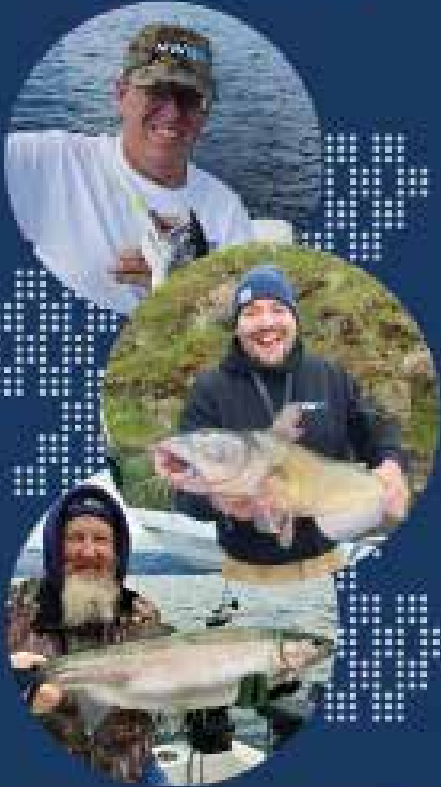


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By: Mike Carey

This past month's hot action reports from our members focused on pink salmon. With a healthy run of fish returning to Puget Sound waters it was a blast to read reports as the fish made their way from the salt to the rivers. As of this writing, the fish will be mostly in the rivers and the males developing their distinctive hump. Unless you find a brighter fish with some sea lice still on it the table fare will be continuing to decline. That said, there will still be a few "good for the smoker" fish to be had. Meanwhile, the upriver brights (chinook on the Columbia) will be the fish to target so be sure to check into our website for the latest member reports – and do share your own successes. We all gain when we share information!



Scan for Reports



**JoshH having a blast catching pinks from his kayak.**

### Skagit River Pinks

Skagit River Pinks – This report from JoshH is all about those pinks! The Skagit is a great pink salmon pink and Josh goes into the information in this great report. Included is a nice video. Josh fishes out of a kayak, which looks like a lot of fun and is certainly very effective. [Read Here](#)



**The NWFR film crew had a blast catching limits of chrome pink salmon.**

### Snohomish River Pinks – OK

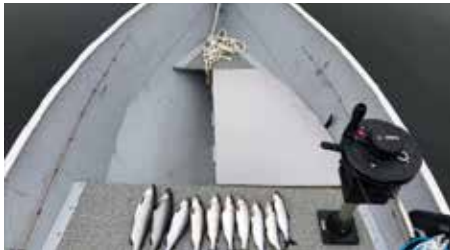
I had to include myself as our group had such a blast catching pinks on the Snohomish with guide Brianna Bruce of Livin' Life Adventures Guide Service (206-714-2112). Brianna had us on fish non-stop all morning and let me tell you it was a hoot! Lots of fish in the Snohomish system and there should be a few left!



**Crazy schools of pinks made for an exciting day.**

### Green River Coho

A great report and informative video can be found in this report from member brianmonticello. Lots of good tips from Brian and some fun video action!



**A nice limit of good eating kokanee.**

### Secret Lake Kokanee

sometimes our members post "secret reports" where they don't give the location they fished. Some think it's just bragging, but I enjoy these reports. I appreciate our members sharing their adventures however they want to. A nice limit of kokanees for NWFR member mgramhamjo in this report.



**Adam got this nice red rock crab off of Point Defiance.**

### Point Defiance Crab

Let's end this month's hot reports with something different for you to consider, crab. Longtime NWFR member Toni and her son had a fun day catching keeper crab at Point Defiance. There's even a "hot spot" to help you zero in on a good spot to try.



**Fishindan with a beautiful Sekiu coho.**

### Sekiu Sivers

Seiku coho fishing can be amazing (I know, we were there recently with Donn Morse of Old Goat lures, but that's another fishing story...), anyway, this report from fishindan pretty much sums up the Sekiu salmon experience – lots of fish, lots of released wilds, and throw in some fun bottomfish action. It's all good!



*Here's wishing you some great fishing in October. Be sure to share your reports on [northwestfishingreports.com](http://northwestfishingreports.com). See you on the water!*

*-Mike Carey*



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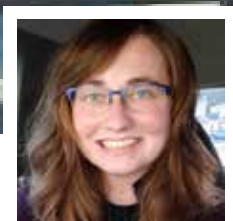






# TROLLING FLIES FOR FALL TROUT

*Trolling flies produce!*



by Hanna Pennebaker

*It's the heat of the summer, and crappie fishing couldn't be hotter!*

As the days get shorter and the air gets crisper, the lull of the summer trout bite starts to wear off and they begin biting again. Trout leave the depths of their summer hideouts and become more active, responding to the cooler water. I always look forward to the fall trout fishery here on the western side of the state. The fish are more aggressive, so it's a great time to put away the dough bait and try out some new techniques. The fish fight noticeably harder in the fall than in the summer, when they are lazier and trying to conserve energy. It's also a great excuse to keep taking the boat out

when the salmon have all moved from the Sound into rivers. During the fall, WDFW continues stocking rainbows, sometimes even jumbos or triploids. There are hundreds of WDFW trout derby prizes still left unclaimed, too. So don't



***You can catch holdovers with trolling flies when other methods don't produce***

give up on trout fishing for the year just yet, there are plenty more big trout to be had!

Sometimes typical trolling techniques just aren't effective on fall trout. The fish have been seeing the same wedding rings and plugs all year, and they aren't fooled. These fish are survivors; they lasted the entire spring and summer without becoming someone's dinner. This is where trying

something new can make all the difference between coming home with a limit of trout for your frying pan, and getting skunked. Let's talk about trolling flies. You might think that flies are only for fly rods and rivers. The thought of flies conjures up the image of the fly fisherman in waders in your local creek, perfecting his or her casts. Well, it turns out that flies can also be used for trolling, just like spinners, spoons, and plugs. In the fall, rainbows are looking for big meals to put on

weight before winter. Flies resembling baitfish are irresistible to hungry trout. Fall is the best time of year to use trolling flies. Freshly stocked trout might not be as responsive to them, but a fall trout has learned to forage for more natural foods and will respond better to a trolling fly. I've also noticed that bigger trout tend to bite trolling flies! My first trolling fly trout was an 18 inch holdover from Spanaway Lake. I couldn't believe the fight it gave me, or how good it tasted on the smoker. Let's delve into how to rig and use these special lures.

Rigging trolling flies is fairly simple. You want to give your fly some action so that it wiggles and dodges to attract fish. You can accomplish this by using a dodger or a Wiggle Fin action disc. Sometimes the fish will be drawn in by a flashy, colorful dodger. Other times, they prefer a smaller, more natural presentation, and will bite a fly paired with an action disc more readily. It's good to have both options on your boat.

Tie your trolling fly on an 8-10 inch leader, regardless of which attractor you use. Flies have no action of their own, so the shorter leader will give them more fish attracting movement. The action disc will simply slide over your leader. You can adjust the distance between the fly and action disc with a bobber stopper. The closer action disc is to

the fly, the more action it will have. Tie your leader to your main line, and you're ready to fish!

As far as tackle goes, your usual kokanee or trout trolling rods will work just fine. I use 8'6 light action rods with size 100 line counter reels. Your pole should have enough backbone to withstand your chosen technique, whether that is leaded line, planer boards, downriggers, or sliding weights. I typically use 2 poles on downriggers so that I know exactly what depth I'm fishing at. For the other 2 poles, I will either stack them on my downriggers or put them on planer boards. The planer board bite is always satisfying! They tend to be more effective later in the fall when the trout are on the surface. Keep an eye on your fish finder to see how deep the fish are cruising.

There are many different types of trolling flies. It's a good idea to bring several different patterns and colors to find what the fish are keying onto that day. Some are designed to mimic minnows, others resemble rainbow trout fry! Trolling flies are made out of a variety of different materials, including mylar, arctic fox fur, and buck tail. Try out different designs and see what works best for you. Mylar can bring a fish attracting shine, while arctic fox fur has a unique pulse in the water. Chartreuse and other brightly colored flies work well in murky water where

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*A good variety of trolling flies is nice to have.*

the trout don't have as much visibility. Naturally colored flies work best in clear water.

As far as speed goes, keep it slow in early fall and speed up in late fall. Trout are all about water temperature and will be more willing to chase down a speedier offering when the water gets colder. I keep it between 1.6 and 2.2 MPH most days. Trolling flies can be used at any speed, but some dodgers work better at certain speeds, so it's a good idea to watch the action of your presentation before sending it down. You want your dodger to

swing back and forth like a wounded bait fish, not spin in circles.

A final word of advice I'll give you is to make sure to dry your trolling flies between each trip and keep them clean. Try not to pinch the fibers in your tackle box or bend them. Avoid using oil based scents as well. You want a clean, dry trolling fly for optimal action and presentation in the water. They are a bit more difficult to take care of than soft plastics and hard jigs, but it's well worth the effort.

Fall can be one of the most productive and rewarding times to target rainbow trout. Check your rules and



regulations before heading out- not all lakes are year round, so some might have seasonal closures. The trout have had all year to feed and grow large. We all know that trout become less active in the summer months and harder to catch. With cooling temperatures and water, you'll have no problem catching your limit of hungry, active fish. Go out and try trolling flies on your local lake this fall; we hope to see you out there!



# Westport Boat Basin Crab and Coho

*A September-October Family Adventure?*



by Randy Castello

Why not crab and or coho off a dock? It turns out that there is a solid coho fishery available to the shore based angling family in and around the Westport boat basin. With a little common sense and eye for safety it is even wheelchair accessible. If the thought of hooking a 4-20 pound salmon off of a dock doesn't give you goosebumps, add an opportunity to bring home some fresh dungeness crab and you'll be booking a trip to the coast. Both Westport and Tokeland, about 20 minutes south of Westport offer a dock based fishery for Dungeness crabs.

Although though I suspect that locally it is a well-known fishery, not many people consider a trip to Westport in the fall to catch coho off a dock. Guess what? A productive coho fishery is available around the Westport boat basin riprap and off the marina floats mid-September through late October. A little history may be in order but first in researching this article I interviewed numerous people and most people were pretty tight lipped. Shoot, one guy standing there with a rod/reel combo that had a blue and black twitching jig tied on the business end of things wasn't sure if there even was a coho fishery in the boat basin. I talked with numerous business owners and received information from the Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce. I can assure you that there is a Coho fishery in the Westport boat basin.

As I understand it for the last 45 years or so, each spring the Kiwanis Club raises and releases 200,000-350,000 coho smolt into the basin. The smolt or fry are provided by the WDFW and are raised in net pens located in the Westport boat basin. 2-4 years later the adult coho return to the boat basin beginning around the second week of September. The run holds up until the end of October with the last week in September through the first week in October being red hot fishing. The Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce holds a Boat Basin Fishing Derby that runs (2021) Wednesday 9/15-Sunday 10/21. Additionally, October 1st and 2nd the chamber is hosting derby within



a derby, the “Boat Basin Generational Salmon Derby” this year. The derby is a family derby and intended to showcase the coho opportunity in the Westport Boat Basin. Details and the derby rules can be found at QR code above.

During my scouting trip I fished less than an hour and hooked 2 coho that were around 3-4 pounds each. I did not put either

on the dock, I hooked them from the top of a dock ramp and had almost no chance of landing them. 2 fish in an hour doesn't sound like a hot fishery but remember it is a couple weeks early and I had spent most of the time talking to people about the fishery and checking out the different locations in the boat basin to fish for them. This is a unique fishery. While many people throw big spinners and twitching jigs, I believe that it is more of a finesse fishery. Smaller

profile twitching jigs, a weighted mini squid or spinners may have an edge. I also think that an anchovy, a small glob of cured eggs or salted herring strip under a steelhead float would be a killer for this fishery. If you go with twitching jigs or a weighted mini squid try to fish the top 5' of water with short twitches. Basically cast, let your lure sink for a second or so and then lift your rod tip less than a foot and sharply lower the rod tip a bit, wind the crank a couple turns and repeat until the lure has run out of water. Don't be afraid to work your gear right to your feet, the first fish I hooked hit my mini squid right at the rocks.

If fishing bait and a float, rig a drift fishing float as a sliding rig with a stopper knot or rubber bumper. Rig as follows; main line through a stopper, small bead, bobber, small bead, 1/8th ounce egg sinker, small bead and then tie on a small swivel. Make a 3-4' drift fishing leader using a # 2 or 4 Octopus hook and 15# mono or fluorocarbon and tie it to the other side of the swivel. Add your bait of choice, cast and pick up the slack line. Carefully watch your bobber for any movement mending the slack as it drifts. If the bobber goes down don't swing but lift until you feel pressure and then use the reel to set the hook. You probably don't need to run out and buy a new setup. Your steelhead gear or any 7 1/2-9' setup that

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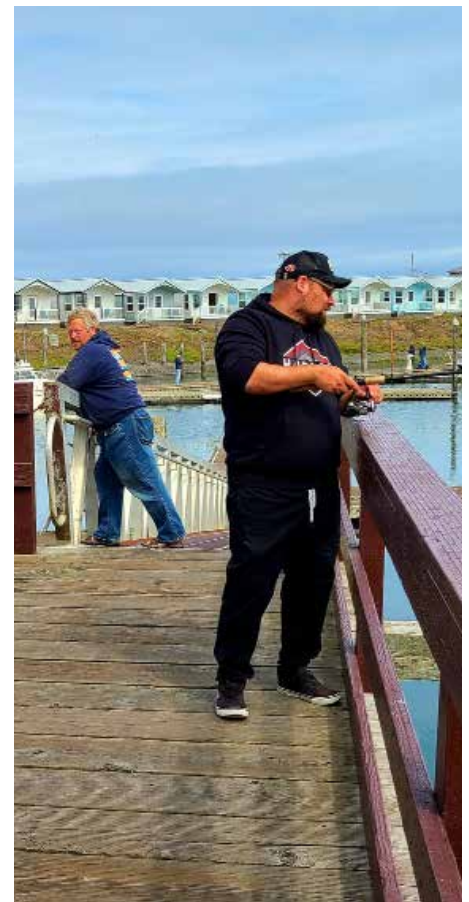


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you can cast will work. Because your finned friend could be 20 pounds a rod with a backbone would be helpful. Your reel should be spooled with 30-40 pound braid and either a 20 pound mono or fluorocarbon top shot or direct to your terminal tackle. Your fish could and probably will swim around pilings, under the docks or around other fisherman's line and something with a little abrasion resistance makes

sense.

A few thoughts on this fishery; wear polarized glasses as these fish cruise around the basin swimming just under the surface. Polarized glasses will help you target your casts. Bring some form of drop net or possibly a long handle net. If you bring the little ones make sure they are wearing properly fitting PFDs and keep a close eye on them. There could be



a crowd on the dock and accidents happen in the blink of an eye. The 2021 regulations are as follows: Minimum size is 12" with a daily limit of 6 fish. No more than 4 adults may be retained. Release chinook. There is a night closure and the anti-snagging rules apply. Only single point barbless hooks may be used. The Catch Record Card Code is 2-2W. Ok, the ice chest is plugged with fresh coho so now what? Try your hand at catching a few dungeness crabs! But first a tidbit of wisdom may be in order; when the coho fishing is hot in the Westport basin there could be hooked fish going everywhere. If you're trying to run crab traps while you are fishing it could spell disaster and rub your fellow angler the wrong direction. Although





there are many places in the Westport boat basin to crab, during the basin coho season I suggest making the short drive to Tokeland/Willapa Bay and crab off their public pier. You can't miss it; take SR 105 south to Tokeland Road. Turn right and the pier is at the end of the road. The pier may also be a better place to crab with little ones, it has good railings the entire perimeter of the pier. Although you can use crab pots, I suggest using one of the snap-trap type crab catchers or crab rings. The snap traps can be rigged on heavy rod or just a cord tied to the dock. The regulations are a bit different than Puget Sound. Generally, the fishery is open 7 days a week year-round. You can

use 2 gear units per person. If you are planning to haul pots to the coast, check the regulations before you go. Pots are only allowed during a limited season where it is open year-round for other gear. The daily limit is 6 hard shell male dungeness crabs with a 6" minimum size limit. Check the regulations for red rock crab rules. Chicken quarters or fresh coho carcasses are always good crab bait but if there are a lot of pinnipeds (fur-bags) in the area use just the chicken. With the possibility of loading your ice chest with fresh coho and crab, don't waste any time! Clear your calendar and make a reservation for a couple days in the Twin Harbors area. Good luck and if



you're successful Merino's Seafood sells shaved ice by the bucket full.



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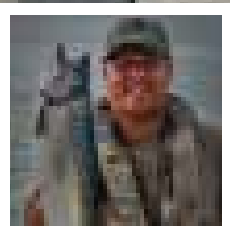
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SCAN TO WATCH

# Idaho's Clearwater River Steelhead Paradise

*This lucky angler has a beautiful  
B run Clearwater Steelhead*



by Kyle Jones

It's October, and to me that only means one thing, steelhead on Idaho's Clearwater River! The Clearwater River is the flagship steelhead fishery in Idaho and its B-Run steelhead are its shining star. Averaging 12-15 pounds, and with fish in the 18-20 pound range not uncommon it's easy to see why I consider the Clearwater to be the crown jewel of Columbia Basin steelhead rivers. During October and November there is no place I would rather be. Idaho's Clearwater River is located in North Central Idaho. The Clearwater drains the vast, wet, mountains that stretch from the border with Washington all the way to the Montana State line. Flowing east to west, much of it along highway 12, through the towns of Kooskia, Kamiah, Orofino, and finally Lewiston the Clearwater beckons

anglers with its great access and beautiful waters.

Steelhead anglers from all over the country travel here each fall to chase these incredible fish. With its great access and varied water types the Clearwater is the type of river where everyone can find great areas to fish. The Columbia

River basin, which the Clearwater is part of, has two distinct runs of steelhead.

The A run which begins to enter the Columbia in June are mostly made up of 4-8 pound fish that have only spent 1 year in the ocean. These fish are heading to locations throughout the basin, and the Snake and Salmon River steelhead returns are largely made up of these early timed fish. The B Run begins to enter the Columbia in August and continue to cross Bonneville Dam through November. B Runs spend two years in the ocean, and it's these larger B Run fish that are the reason the Clearwater is so special. The Clearwater is the main destination for these fish and come October I will be waiting.

There are two distinct "seasons" on the Clearwater. July 1 - October 15th the river is only open to catch and release steelhead fishing. This catch and release season is a great time for anglers that prefer to fish away from the crowds to experience the area. While steelhead can be encountered throughout the duration of the season, the period from the last week of September to October 14th is the absolute best for the opportunity to catch high numbers of B Runs without the added pressure of keep season. This part of the catch and release season is my absolute favorite time of year on the Clearwater. The

weather is still warm, there are lots of fish, the pressure is light, and the action is fantastic!

Catch and keep steelhead season opens on October 15th. This is the much anticipated opening day, and the aluminum boat hatch is out in full force. Opening day and the week following is often very busy, as anglers have waited for the opportunity to catch and harvest these awesome fish. The fishing is usually good, and this is the prime time to harvest Clearwater steelhead, as their meat quality is still excellent.

During the fall I mostly utilize two techniques to put customers on fish. Back trolling plugs, and side drifting bait are my preferred methods. Both side drifting, and back trolling allow me to put my gear in front of large numbers of fish. River conditions are the primary variable when deciding which technique will be used for the day. When the water is low and clear I will generally be looking to back troll, and when the water is up and just starting to drop after a rain I often will break out the eggs and get my side drift on. My plug of choice is without a doubt the 3.5 Maglip from Yakima Bait. These lures just absolutely do it all. They will dive well in current, and also let me fish the super slow often "frog" type water that our Clearwater fish seem to love. It's these slow pockets that often produce some of the best action. For side drifting in the

fall nothing beats a small cluster of cured roe on a pair of number 4 hooks. Add a small amount of yarn to this setup and you are in business. Keep baits about the size of a quarter and good things will happen. I can't think of a better feeling than when a hot steelhead picks up your egg cluster and explodes out of the water when he feels the sting of your hook set.

As it was said earlier one of the best things about the Clearwater is the insane amount of access to the river. Highway 12 runs along the river for almost its entire length from Orofino to Kooskia. There are countless pullouts and parking spots and an immense number of holes to be fished from the bank. We are also incredibly lucky to have nice concrete boat ramps scattered about every 10 miles on the river. Our ability to access this incredible resource is one of the reasons so many people find this place special. If you're looking to visit the Clearwater area there are many hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and just plain great people that absolutely appreciate your business. Lewiston, Orofino, Kamiah, and Kooskia all have places to stay that will put you just minutes away from fantastic Steelhead Fishing. Idaho's Clearwater has become a top destination for countless people and I have no doubt that once you experience this incredible place you will be planning your next trip before you even leave.



# BE BEAR AWARE

*A big black bear in the North Cascades  
National Park Complex – J. Kruse*



by John Kruse

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As we enter early fall the forests are calling but it's very important to be bear aware this time of year because both black bears and grizzly bears are very active, fattening up for the winter ahead.

We have only had 14 reported bear attacks and one fatality in Washington State but with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimating a population of 20,000 to 25,000 black bears and grizzly bears gaining a foothold in the northeastern part of the state, bear attacks are a possibility.



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So, what's an outdoors enthusiast to do if they want to stay safe in bear country? The big word to remember is "Deterrence". Here's a few tips from several western fish and wildlife experts and agencies that may prove helpful in that regard:

## MAKE SOME NOISE

Travel in groups, talk to each other, and even clap from time to time. Bears generally don't want to be near humans and if they hear you coming will usually retreat before you even see them. As for those bear bells you see sold in gift shops? The jury is still out on whether those work or not though there are a few funny jokes about those jingly little bells being more of an attractant than deterrent when found in bear scat.

## LISTEN

It's an old Army patrol trick that works well in bear country. Stop every few hundred yards, be quiet, and listen. Bears can be noisy foraging for food and you may hear one or more of them some distance away if you do this, allowing you to avoid a bear encounter. In a similar vein, don't have those ear buds in bee-bopping to music as you shuffle down the trail. You may never hear that bear that's just a few yards away if you do.

## KNOW WHERE THE BEARS WILL BE

At this time of year, both black bears and grizzly bears are focused on getting as many calories into their bodies as possible. That's why bears will gravitate towards berry patches (especially huckleberry patches), stream beds where spawning fish are present, or towards dead animals the bears may (or may not have) killed. Be hyper-aware of bears if you are in any of these areas.

## CARCASS REMOVAL

Sometimes that dead animal is one you killed, especially if you are a deer or elk hunter. Bears have a keen sense of smell and will be attracted to that carcass sooner than later. If you have the ability to pack that animal out the same day you kill it do so and if you are with someone else, make sure they are standing guard while you field dress and quarter that animal. If you have to leave parts of the animal overnight hang them from a tree where bears can't get at them and be very cautious of bears when you come back the next day to pack that remaining meat out.

## BEAR SPRAY AND FIREARMS

Bear spray is an essential, non-lethal tool to have in bear country whether you

are a hiker, hunter, bicyclist or berry picker. A 2008 study by Dr. Tom Smith at Brigham Young University and several colleagues found bear spray was 92 percent effective in deterring bear attacks from brown, black and polar bears in Alaska between 1985 and 2006. The same study also found 98 percent of people who carried bear spray that got into close encounters with bears came away uninjured.

Having bear spray is one thing, but knowing how to use it and keeping it readily accessible are the two keys to success. The same goes for firearms. They work too but they are a lethal means of stopping a bear attack and if you don't have the right caliber of ammunition and perfect shot placement you might not have the stopping power to prevent a mauling during a bear attack.

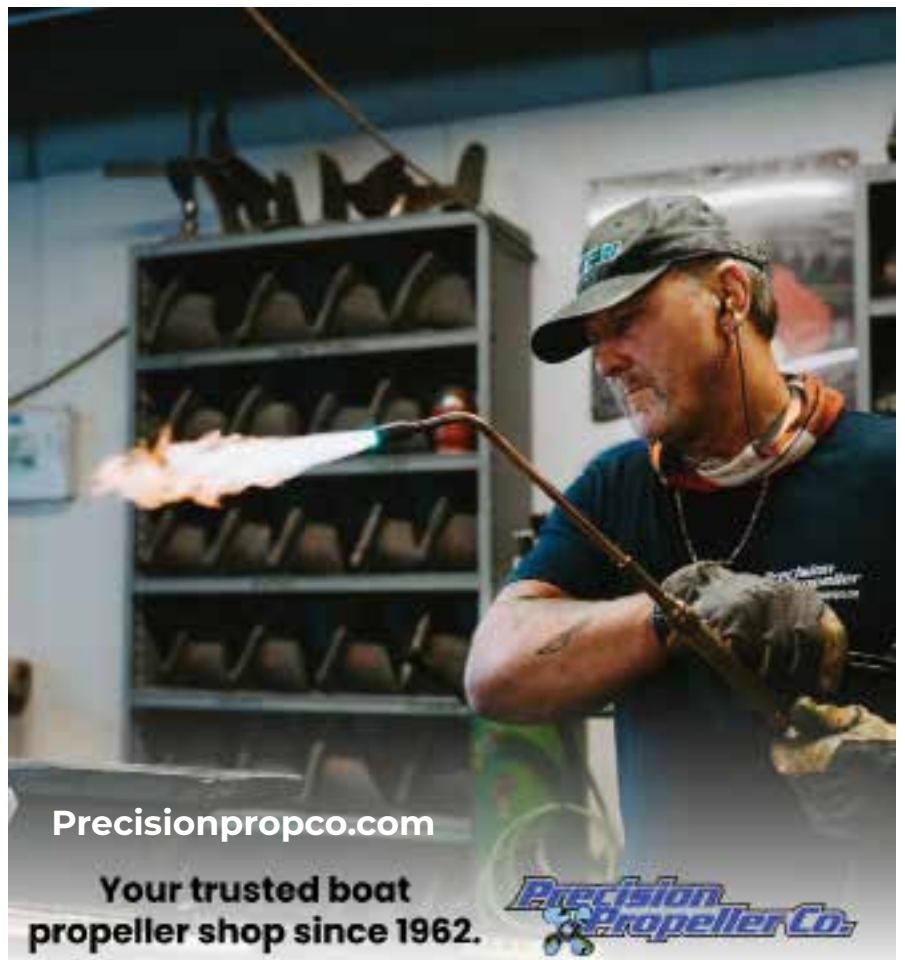
Having said all of this, don't let the fear of a bear attack keep you from our forests this fall. Just walk into them educated and prepared and you'll likely have a wonderful time without any negative encounters with bears.

*\*Editor's Note – this information applies especially to those of us that enjoy fall hikes into Alpine Lakes. The fish we handle become the smells that attract bears. Be safe out there! - Mike*



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# Kokanee Krack



by Bob Loomis

Kokanee is a favorite in my house and this is one of the best ways to prepare it. Enjoy!

## Ingredients

- 6 Kokanee – (2-3 lb's)
- 1 C Flour
- 3 eggs
- 3 C Panko
- ¼ C Harrod's Cookhouse Lemon & Dill Seasoning
- Harrods Fin & Field Sauce



Scan below to learn how to make Harrods Fin & Field Sauce

## Directions

Skin Kokanee and cut each in half, (3-4" pc's). (If you don't know how, watch Harrod Outdoors Youtube on "How to skin Kokanee",

Place Flour in bowl and add ½ of your Lemon & Dill Seasoning

Place Panko in bowl and add remaining Lemon & Dill Seasoning

Crack eggs and whip until thoroughly mixed

Coat fish pc's in flour, shake off excess

Coat in beaten egg , roll it around well (allow excess to drain off)

Dredge in Panko making sure everything is coated well

Place on tray to let sit for a few minutes

Deep fry at 350 in peanut oil until golden brown, (2.5 – 4 minutes depending on your heat) pull out and put onto paper towels.

Pull off and serve.

Scan QR Code for Instructions







by Hillary Holman

# A TRIP TO SPICE TOWN

Hey Everybody! This month I am taking you to Spice Town. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and folks are firing up their smokers and looking for great recipes. Harrod's Cookhouse Spices are ready-made blends that reflect the flavors of the NW that my family and I love. Harrod's is a main stay in my home and is a quick easy go to for us.

This past week, I brought some of Harrod's Spices out to Ed Iman's

Fish Camp where fishing industry professionals meet once a year to fish with professional guides and talk shop. I asked Josh Hopkins from Stryker Fishing Rods in Eugene Oregon to prepare something for us. He had some mini lamb steaks from Kw Farms in Oregon. He chose the NW Steak Seasoning to go along with the lamb. Professional Fisherman are the toughest critics in the field when it comes to salmon so I thought I'd put them to work and give me their feedback on the blends.

Professional Fishing Guide Aaron Peterson said, "That might be some of the best lamb I have ever tasted!" Professional Fisherman Joey Zachariasen hollered out, "Dude that is redunkulous!" Professional Fishing Guide Brianna Bruce, also on the Cover of last months edition of NW Reel Life said, "I would eat lamb at every Holiday if it tasted like that!" Josh from Stryker Rods also agreed. John Farquarson from the Dalles area hasn't ever really been a Lamb fan, but with this peppery blend, he really enjoyed it. Josh smoked up pork ribs alongside the lamb with some Fin and Field blend and got outstanding reviews.

I reached out to Owner Richy Harrod and had him answer a few questions.

## Where are you based out of?

"We are located in Leavenworth, WA."

## How did Harrod's come to be?

"The Harrod's Cookhouse brand came about as part of The Northwest Outdoorsmen TV show which features a 1 minute recipe segment in every episode. We have cooked fish and wild game as a family for several generations so it was a natural fit to share our recipes and ultimately our seasonings with our followers."



## How long have you been around?

Harrod Outdoors LLC started in 2009 and the Harrod's Cookhouse brand started in 2011. The company is owned by my wife and I.

## Where can they find you?

"We have a Harrod's Cookhouse page on Facebook. We have lots of recipes on our website ([harrodoutdoors.com](http://harrodoutdoors.com)). Most of these include our seasonings and many have a link to a

1 minute recipe segment. We actually produced 9 full episodes of Harrod's Cookhouse Field to Table which aired on the Pursuit Channel. These episodes and all of the 1 minute recipe segments can be found on our Harrod Outdoors YouTube Channel. You can find all our seasonings in several stores now or by the first part of October. The General Store in Spokane, Griggs in the Tri Cities, Wallowa County Grain Growers in Enterprise, Bob's Sporting Goods in Longview, and Stan's Merry Mart in Wenatchee. Of course, all our seasonings and BBQ Sauce on our website."

## Who develops the recipes?

"Vicki and I develop the majority of them, but they come from family members or close friends. The recipes for the seasonings themselves were developed by Vicki and Me. They were tested by family and friends until we got the right flavor we were after".

## How would you use the Sunrise blend? Steak Blend? Fin and Field Lemon and Dill?

"Each seasoning was tested with fish and game meat specifically. I have a write up that describes each one online at [www.harrodoutdoors.com](http://www.harrodoutdoors.com). Let's start with our Lemon & Dill Seasoning, which Bob Loomis actually helped me with. This seasoning is great with any fish and particularly for deep fried fish. Northwest Steak Seasoning is great on grilled venison, elk, or any other big game meat, and beef. You can also mix it into hamburger. Game Bird & Chicken is good with any upland bird meat. Some people really like it on pork. Sunrise to Sunset All Purpose Seasoning is seriously good on anything! I put it on my eggs every morning. It's great on roasted vegetables. Our Fin and Field Seasoning comes in a bottle or in a small package called Fin and Field Sauce. It's great on fajitas, shrimp, our fish. As a sauce, you mix one package with





**Josh rinsed the pork and lightly coated the steaks and let them sit about an hour. He cooked the lamb at 350 Degrees on the small smoker for about 15 min for a medium well. Flipping them at 7 min.**

2 cups mayonnaise, 1/2 cup chopped pickled jalapeños, and 1/2 cup of the jalapeño juice. The sauce is great on fish tacos, sandwiches, our whatever else folks like.”

In all honesty, Harrods Fin and Field Blend is far superior to my own Kansas City Rub I made for years. For those of you not familiar with this blend, it is often used on ribs or chicken as a dry rub. It is made sugar, paprika, cumin, garlic powder and cayenne. Harrods is delicious. It saves me time, tastes better than any Kansas City Rub recipe I've found and is a must have. Buy 2 bottles, you will need it! I toss my chicken wings in a dusting of Fin and Field after the fryer for Sunday Football Wings. They are ridiculous! If



you follow the directions of the sauce packet it makes the most incredible sauce for fish tacos.

Trust myself and the professionals in the fishing industry; we stand by Harrods Cookhouse seasoning.

Give it a try. You may find a new favorite!

NW Good Eats  
Hillary Holman  
@thereelgal #nwgoodeats

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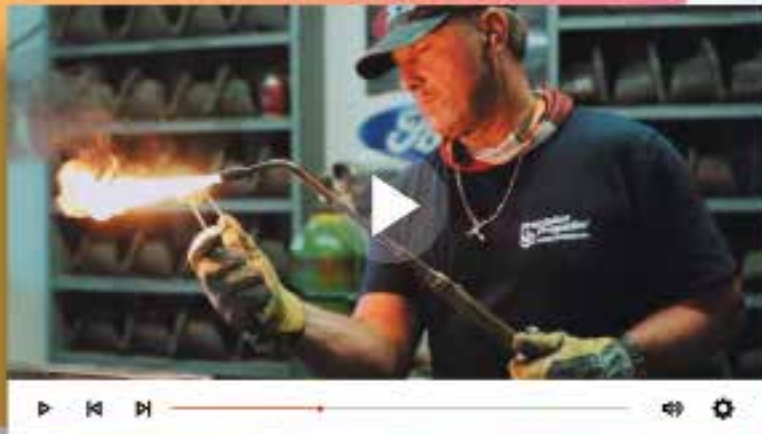


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# THE TWITCHING HOUR

*Properly twitched jigs will end up in the mouth!*



by Jason Brooks

---

October starts with cool mornings that often provides a haunting fog over the river and ends with Halloween. The month celebrates the harvest and for some reason the “scary” holiday that celebrates the dead. But for me, instead of witches when I see carved pumpkins I think of the twitching. Yes, October is the month of the “twitching hour”. You can head to any local river with just one rod and a handful of twitching jigs and catch fish. There are a few ways to use this technique so let’s go over them and instead of pumpkin spice latte’s and witches we can think of chrome coho and twitches.

First is the rod set up. The twitching rod is much more like a bass rod than a salmon rod, and in fact you can find specific bass rods just for twitching, or as bass anglers call it, pitching jigs. Salmon rod manufacturers took these rods and modified them a bit as most bass anglers pitch their jigs using a level wind reel or low baitcaster with a pitching switch on them that allowed them to quickly open the bail and toss the jig, as well as control the drag. The problem

with this for salmon anglers is that we cast our jigs and not really “pitch” them as bass anglers often fish within a few feet of the boat near cover. When fishing a river the cover-like log jams and root wads-can be several feet or further away. Then there is the technique of drift twitching, which we will cover in a bit.

So for the salmon angler the twitching rod is often a spinning rod that had larger eyes near the reel seat allowing for the larger arbor reels to cast easily. Both the bass and salmon



*The author with a chrome bright coho.*

rods are around 7 ½ feet as this is a comfortable length to cast all day long and twitch. If you use a longer rod you are likely to over-twitch the jig meaning pulling it too high up and not letting it drop down to the fish. Plus, longer rods quickly wear out your wrist which is constantly flicking and holding the weight of the rod. The specifically designed twitching rod is well balanced with the reel and easy to twitch or flick and it won't over-accentuate the jig. The reel is usually a size 30 spinning reel and a good mainline is needed. Almost all "twitchers" use braided line as it has no stretch and is strong. Some will use a 5-foot "bumper" of mono to help hide the line and make it easier to break off the jig if it gets caught up in the structure but it is not necessary. If the braid you have is a high visibility color you can use a black sharpie pen and color the last 5 feet but coho don't seem to mind the bright colored line much. Braided line is strong and thin and 30-pound test is perfect for twitching. Anything lighter than that will easily wrap around your rod tip and if you hook a fish or a log it will snap the tip right off of the rod. Heavier braid can be a pain to break off and you

will often hook into logs and stumps and lose jigs so it's better to be able to break the line than to pull yourself right out of the drift boat. Don't ask how I know this is possible, but I have learned to keep a set of extra clothes in a dry bag when floating rivers. The jigs themselves are also specific to twitching. Unlike when you float jigs for steelhead or chums, where the jig is suspended under a float and tipped with bait or the flutter of the marabou draws the fish in, the twitching jig is fished alone. This means you need to be able to cast it without additional weight and it needs to sink in the current, plus create action when twitched to entice the bite. The most common weight is 3/8 ounce and a 2/0 hook. This jig is very versatile for the various conditions of our fall rivers. In some back eddy's and sloughs a ¼ ounce jig will work and in fast runs the ½ ounce jig is preferred. But if you don't want to take a lot of gear to the river then a pocketful of 3/8 ounce jigs will suit you just fine. When you look at the many jigs on the market it can be a bit confusing. One thing to remember is coho are vicious fish and if you use a marabou jig that is made for floating under a bobber then it won't last long when you cast it and twitch it. Coho will smash the jigs but you also are fishing structure so it will get tore up pretty good. Most commercial twitching jigs are a combination of materials including a strip of bunny fur with the leather making it tough, and marabou or a synthetic fur of some type.



***Properly twitched jigs will end up in the mouth!***

One very tough jig and is my most preferred is the Rock Dancer by Mack's Lure. This jig was actually designed for walleye and bass fishing and is made of bucktail which is very durable and strong. The jig has a chenille collar on it that is actually a scent collar. Put all the sticky Pro-Cure bait sauce you want on this chenille collar and it won't ruin the action of the jig. The head of the Rock Dancer has large painted eye's that glow. Perfect for the low light on a cloudy day in the Pacific Northwest and it seems those eyes tend to entice the bite when a coho rushes at the jig. Some anglers will make their own jigs by using a Gamakatsu jig head and a rubber squid skirt or otherwise known as a hootchie. Simply slide it over the jig head and poke the eye of the hook out and you have a jig. One really good thing

about this jig is the ability to fill the cavity with Pro-Cure bait sauces. When it comes to scents and bait some anglers will tip the jigs with a piece of cured prawn but because you are twitching the jig the bait often comes off pretty quick. Instead use one of the many scent products on the market. Pro-Cure bait sauce in shrimp is one of the most popular because it stays on the jig but if you are using a jig with marabou or a strip of bunny fur then it is best to use one of the water soluble products and again, Pro-Cure makes them in a simple to use spray bottle and they have UV enhancers, again perfect for those cloudy fall days. Colors of jigs can make a big difference. A friend of mine who tied his own custom jigs really liked a black body with a blaze orange head. It seemed to work well towards the end of the month and

we would joke how the coho were celebrating Halloween. Other popular colors are all black, black and purple, all purple and black with cerise. I often wondered why coho strike twitched jigs so much and thought maybe it is the dancing action or mimicking a wounded baitfish. Then one day while fishing we caught a couple of coho at the same time. With no time to mess around the first fish was scooped up in the net and dumped onto the bottom of the boat. The second fish was then netted and landed and it was then that I noticed the first fish had puked up a bunch of leeches. All black and about the size of my jig. I know we often think salmon stop eating when they hit the freshwater but this fish's belly had leeches in it, and a quick cleaning of the second



***Purple and Black is a popular jig color – for good reason!***

fish showed the same thing. Maybe they gobble them up out of instinct but either way they like leaches and is one possible reason why they strike twitched jigs. How to fish jigs is fairly simple, but if you do it wrong you will either end up foul hooking fish or not catching any at all. The most common water to twitch jigs is the holding water, otherwise known as back eddy's and sloughs. These soft and calm waters often find coho resting in large groups and if you cast out the jig and let it sink to the bottom and then start twitching you are likely to

foul hook a fish. Instead, cast and wait a second or two then then start the retrieve. The idea is to cause the jig to "dance" or twitch as you reel it in. Quickly raise the rod tip about a foot and then drop it so the jig rises quickly and then drops back down. Once the line lays on the water crank the reel one or two cranks and twitch again. It is that simple. If you find yourself not getting bites it is likely you are twitching too fast. You need that pause to let the jig sink as this is when the coho will bite it. What happens is that when you twitch the jig upwards it comes into sight of the fish as fish cannot see downwards.

As the jig falls the fish realizes that it will soon be gone and grabs the jig. Most of the time it is a violent bite but sometimes you don't feel anything until you go to twitch again and feel resistance. Be sure to set the hook as a fish grabbed the jig on the drop and just held it in their mouth. The best water for standard twitching is calm water that has structure such as log jams. Think like your bass fishing and cast into the log jams and twitch out of them as the coho are often hiding under those logs and will chase down your jig. Drift twitching is just that, using the current in a seam or along a log jam and twitching the jig. Cast it out and pause to let the jig get to the fish and then simply start twitching. Again, about a foot quickly twitched upwards and then the pause to let the jig settle back down. Here you are fishing a run where the fish are either resting or making their way upriver slowly in a seam or using logs and other debris as current breaks and cover. You don't need to crank on the reel handle as the current pushes the jig downriver and once you get to the end of the drift you reel it in and do it all over again. It is kind of like fishing a spoon or spinner where you let the river do the work, but you do need to impart action on the jig by twitching it. October is carved pumpkins, ghost and goblins. But for me it is not the witching hour but instead the twitching hour. Head to a river with a pocketful of jigs, one rod and catch some fish. It is that simple.



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# Life Outdoors

## The Weekender Report

There is some water and the flows are starting to rise – signs of another change of season. Fall is in the air and hunters are heading out for the year. Bowler hunting opportunities are still readily available from the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and other fisheries, plus you can hunt throughout Washington. And teachers are planning adventures outdoors in the fall region.

### Columbia River salmon

Salmon, including lake trout, remain open for catch-and-release in September. Bowler hunting season closed in late August, but remains open through Sept. 8 for Turkeys, Pheasants and Quail, and all other waterfowl season remains open through close to month's end. Bowler hunting is allowed in salmon. Check the WDFW's Sport-Fishing Rules pamphlet and WDFW's comprehensive website.

### Puget Sound hunting

Fall is in full swing in Puget Sound and along the northwestern Pacific coast. Bowler hunting closed in late August and is expected to remain open close to Sept. 8. Waterfowl, Pheasants, and Quail, through Sept. 22 or until the remaining quota is reached.

### Trawl

WDFW's Trawl Study continues through Dec. 31. We encourage our anglers to participate. Just catch a tagged trout and report it. You can download information on information and reporting on our trout derby website.

### Puget Sound and ocean salmon

Several hatcheries offer anglers opportunities for fall salmon in September. Make sure to check the WDFW's fishing regulations and company regulations before heading out. You can also download the Fish Washington mobile app, which provides up-to-date fishing regulations on your phone.

### Crabbing on Lake Mary

Most areas of Puget Sound will be open to recreational fishing and crabbing on Lake Mary through Sept. 8. The San Juan Islands (Whitman Marine Area 1 Boat) and the Gulf of George (Marine Area 7 Mary) will remain open through Sept. 31. The ocean remains open year-round.

### Wildfire danger remains high

We urge continued caution, slow down and vehicle departure slow. Responsibly by following hunting regulations, reporting violations, never parking over grass, and frequently checking under your feet or vehicle tires for loose or dropping debris. Finally, before heading out on your outdoor adventure, make sure your destination is open and check current fire conditions. We encourage a safe reporting report.



WDFW Weekender Report

Click through for region specific opportunities



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR**

**Dolly Emswiler**  
WSPWA Director



"Fishing, hiking, camping, bird-watching, all aspects of Life Outdoors, are hallmarks of summer. Summer also brings opportunities for renewed commitment to respectful enjoyment and stewardship of your public lands and water resources. This is a great time to be outside and your support is what makes this possible."

**Learn more about  
WSPWA's membership group:**



**WATCH NEXT**

Climate change affects everything in nature: fish, wildlife, habitat, recreation... and, as humans, we need our lands to provide the places and activities we love. Check out our video about climate change, its impact on forests, anglers and recreationists in Washington, and what steps YOU can take as part of the solution.



Climate change and its impact on hunting, angling, and other recreational pursuits

**BE INFORMED!  
NOTICE:**

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
National Estuaries Week** (Sept. 18-23) is a nationwide celebration of estuaries and the many benefits they provide to local communities. Check WSPWA's social media for engaging posts and ideas for what you can do to celebrate estuaries and support these important but vulnerable natural areas in the Pacific Northwest.

**FREE CAR AND EQUIPMENT  
BY APPOINTMENT**

Celebrate Public Lands Day with free vehicle and gear loans on Saturday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at Discovery Pass or Vehicle Pass recipient. Enjoy a day in Washington's great outdoors and remember to #ProtectWhatYouLove!

**September Dates**

- Sept. 16-18 Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Sept. 18-19 Youth-only hunts
- Sept. 18-25 National Estuaries Week
- Sept. 25 Public Lands Free Day

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\*Must be 18 years or older to enter. Anglers must provide their own WDFW saltwater fishing license and salmon catch card. Winner will be announced by Sept. 17th. Deadline for entries is September 15th. Television and fishing subject to weather, WDFW regulations and safety conditions. No other fishing dates offered. Must be willing to sign a television waiver to be eligible.