

REEL LIFE

26 COVER STORY

PUGET SOUND COHO

Photo By Hillary Holman
In Loving Memory of
Northwest Fishing's
"Bait Boy", Paul Hamilton

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EDITOR'S CORNER:

If you're anywhere near saltwater and fish for salmon you know the pinks have had an impressive run this year. As I type this, anglers throughout Puget Sound are hauling in easy limits from boat and shore. Following the pinks are of course coho, and all over the PNW anglers should have a great 2023 season in salt and then river action. Pay close attention to various local river closures.

We also touch on some chinook opportunities you may not be aware of. Looking to the future, John Kruse shares efforts to reintroduce chinook above the Grand Coulee dam. Imagine the possibilities of that fishery! Consider my article on Fort Peck chinook to give you an idea of what a large reservoir chinook fishery could look like in Lake Roosevelt.

On a sad note, we at NWF lost a dear friend and angling enthusiast. "Bait Boy" Paul Hamilton passed away, leaving a huge void in many people's lives. His positivity and friendship will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched. He's no doubt reeling in fish and whooping it up in heaven. God bless you Paul, thanks for all the memories!

Mike Carey - mikec@nwffishing.net @Michael Carey Northwest Fishing



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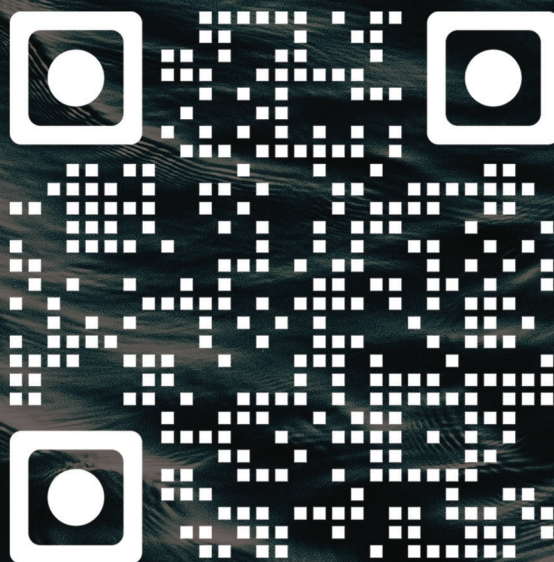
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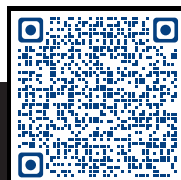
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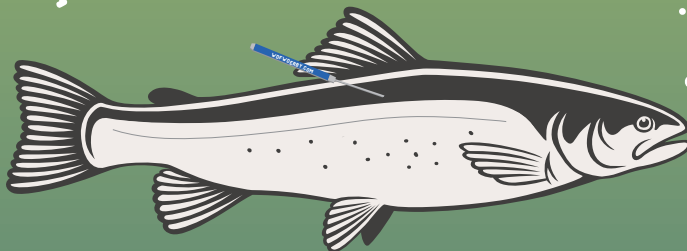
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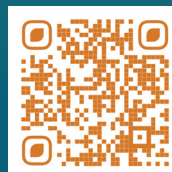
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IN MEMORY OF PAUL HAMILTON



BY TOBY WYATT

The first time I met Paul Hamilton was a brisk October morning on the Snake River at Heller Bar; he showed up with Rob Holman from Northwest Fishing for a combo Chinook salmon and Steelhead trip. This was the first of many shows we filmed together over the years.

One skill I have developed over my 32-year guiding career is reading people. I can watch a person as they approach the boat and it's amazing what you can decipher in 1 minute. On this morning, Rob approaches with his crew and immediately I notice this larger man with a smile, cowboy hat and a mouth full of chew. By his appearance alone I knew this was my type of dude. Paul hopped on the boat with a spring, he was fairly agile, I could tell for a bigger man he was athletic. Sure enough, within an hour I knew his life story. He was a college wrestler and we shared good friends, many who had wrestled with him.

He lived in Hillyard which is a suburb of Spokane and sold insurance for Allstate. He loved Hillyard and loved selling insurance and he was very good at it. He was the type of guy you liked and trusted.

HAMILTON

"BAIT BOY", "THE HILLYARD COWBOY"

He was very good on the camera. It's hard to find someone good on camera. Most people see the camera and immediately clam up, so when we are filming a show it's nice to have a personality like Paul. Paul was a go-to person for some entertainment and good camera conversation. Over the years we spent a lot of time fishing and filming together. I joked with Paul and called Paul the CEO of Northwest Fishing. Paul and I got a kick out of this as everyone knows Rob holds that title (haha). Paul dubbed himself the "Baitboy" and

really loved the title. My last trip with Paul was to Drano Lake and the Wind River. Paul showed up with T-shirts with his image holding a salmon titled "Baitboy". I laughed and gladly wore it! Paul had brought some personal friends on this trip; they were longtime buddies. These two days were filled with stories and fish catching. I'm glad to have known Paul, he was a character and enhanced any environment he attended. I will wear his shirt loud and proud just like Paul.

Editors Note: Baitboy T-shirts are available at: www.northwestfishing.net with all proceeds going to a newly established Paul Hamilton Memorial Fund to benefit youth in his community.



PAUL HAMILTON "BAIT BOY" T-SHIRT
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**ALL proceeds go to an established Paul Hamilton Memorial Fund to benefit youth in his community*



Imagine waking up in a place where you could keep five chinook a day, use two rods, barbed hooks, and have a legit chance at multiple twenty-pound plus fish. On top of that, no punch cards, or shortened seasons. Sounds too good to be true? Some pipe dream in a faraway land that time forgot? Well, I'm here to tell you there exists just such a place. It's been happening for years now and is closer than you may think.

I'm speaking of a place you'd not likely think of when it comes to chinook salmon.

That place is Montana, and the location is Fort Peck Reservoir.

My son Matt and I recently got to fulfill a Bucket List dream we'd been talking about for years, namely the Fort Peck Chinook Fishery. We were joined by NWF co-host Rob Holman, and Shelby Ross of Ross Outdoor Adventures. Shelby may be a walleye guide, but he was down for a trip to Fort Peck. And I sent Rob a steady stream of recent angler catches, feeding his enthusiasm. They made the ten-hour drive from Spokane, while Matt and I had a relatively easy five-hour drive from Great Falls to this reservoir in the northeast corner of Montana.

The trip goes fast because in Montana you can drive fast, 75-80 miles an hour, and there's little traffic to contend with. Just keep an eye out for stray deer and antelope, and the occasional suicidal pheasant.

We met at the Cottonwood Inn and Suites in Glasgow, which turned out to be a great place to stay as a base camp for fishing Ft Peck. 18 minutes from the boat launch, Cottonwood Inn and Suites has all the amenities an angler could want, including free charging stations to recharge trolling batteries.

It also has RV camping for those with RVs.

Ft Peck's 3.8 mile long dam was completed in 1937, backing up the Missouri River for an amazing 134 miles in length and 220 feet at its deepest spot. With over 1,500 miles of shoreline, it is longer than the California coastline and bigger than Puget Sound. At 18.7 million acre-feet, it's the 5th largest man-made lake in the United States. The surrounding countryside is high prairie and borders nearly the entire Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

Dozens of species of fish inhabit the lake, and it is a world-class body of water for walleye, bass, pike, and lake trout. The chinook were introduced in 1983, but what really caused a boom for the fisheries of Fort Peck was the 1984 introduction of cisco to the reservoir. This species of bait fish, also known as lake herring, rapidly reproduced, and they provide the reservoir with an ample source of food for the various sport fish in the lake. It also is no small reason the chinook have grown so well, with the state record at an impressive 32.05 lbs with a girth of 27.5 inches and a length of 38.25 inches, caught by Greg Haug of Bismark, ND in 2020.

To top it all off, the State of Montana has a massive hatchery at Fort Peck where they raise and release walleye, pike, and salmon – with a capacity to raise and release over 500,000 chinook, it makes for a very healthy population of fish to target.

Launching at the crack of dawn is always a special time of day. We idled out to the main reservoir with the sun cracking the eastern sky, beautiful shades of orange, yellow, and red painting

the sky. A brief five-minute run and we began the process of deploying our gear. My boat has two downriggers, and with no tides or wind to deal with I was comfortable stacking them, setting the deep rods at 60 and 90 feet, and stackers 10 feet above. Not more than five minutes after all rods were out, the port deep rod got bitten 60 feet deep. As the line came taunt the drag

began to scream – our first Fort Peck chinook was on! Standing next to the rigger, I grabbed the rod and felt the pull of a solid fish. I had brought my knuckle buster reels to Montana and was glad I did! There is no better fight than a big chinook on a knuckle buster. Add to that break-away flashers and this chinook was giving me everything I could handle and then some.

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Clearing the port side stacker rod, I worked the fish ever closer as frantic runs became shorter and less frequent. Finally, a chrome bright football slab of a chinook appeared. Easing the fish to the net, Rob scooped the fish up and into the boat. Wow, what a pig! It was obvious that these freshwater chinook are feeding good. Plump, and all fins intact, we admired a fish a thousand miles away from its native element. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks certainly created an amazing fishery out in the middle of the prairie.

After bleeding the fish, it fit (barely) in my cooler. Lines back down we continued our troll, noting more boats joining us. As the morning progressed the fleet of boats probably numbered a couple dozen. Spread out over an area of maybe ten by ten miles, overcrowding was not a concern for this fishery!

With high hopes for more fish, we explored the general fishing area. Marks were common at 60-90 feet, and we also noted fish marks on the bottom at 160 feet. Dropping a rigger ball down and bouncing the bottom, it wasn't too long before I confirmed my assumption – lake trout. Shelby brought the nice 6-pound fish to the boat

and in the cooler he went. Since everything we had read and been told indicated the chinook were suspended, we went back to mid-depth with the deep rigger.

The action died off and we came in around 1pm, cleaning our fish at a first-rate cleaning station at the Fort Peck Marina. I stopped in and visited with the owner and guide at the Marina, Scott Collinsworth. Scott is very active on the Montana Salmon Facebook group and willingly shares information on techniques to catch these fish. He indicated the bite had slowed down from the previous week (no doubt a low-pressure front didn't help) and catch rates were about a fish per boat. That's still pretty impressive for big 15-25 pound fish (ours was 16 pounds). Even more impressive was another guide boat that came back with nine big chinook! That's what daydreams are made of.

We retired to the Cottonwood Inn where Rob hit the casino and I hit the bed for an afternoon nap. Cleaning up the boat and re-rigging gear, the day ended with a nice meal at the The Woods, the Inn's dinner. A nice variety of dishes were available, as well as craft Montana beers on draft and a full-service bar, all at affordable Montana prices.

Our next morning was a cookie-cutter day, as we again started fishing with the sun breaking the horizon. Again, the port rod exploded and Rob grabbed the rod, battling an even nicer fish. As he brought the fish to the net and I scooped it up, I was amazed at the weight in the net – this fish was very close to hitting 20 pounds, another fat, healthy chinook.

A word on gear – when we moved to Montana I kept my salmon gear, knowing that someday it would come in handy for fishing Fort Peck. We certainly went through a lot of lure combinations, most of which I have no doubt would work great if the bite was on. Most anglers fish with flashers, salmon flies, herring, spoons, and a few other salmon-oriented choices.

The two big differences I observed from Puget Sound chinook were more fishing at suspended depths and trolling slightly slower. Most anglers trolled at 1.8 -2.2 mph. We started out faster, 2.5-2.9. So, while we did catch a couple fish at this faster troll, by the end of the trip we had slowed down, matching the fleet. I suspect those that enjoy mooching would find these fish to be very co-operative with this technique (note to self, bring mooching gear next year!).

Our second day ended much like the first, with Matt catching a small laker and also a beautiful walleye. We also lost a nice chinook that came unbuttoned.

Interestingly, the weekend saw less anglers on the water, opposite of what you'd see in the Puget Sound fisheries.

A couple other observations – the boat ramp etiquette was outstanding. The Marina has a two-lane ramp with a dock. Most anglers launching and retrieving would power their boats on/off trailers, making for fast and smooth lines. Second, we only saw a couple tubers on the water. Pretty much every boat we saw were anglers. There's a distinct advantage to being far away from population centers!

Although our trip ended with "just" two salmon, I considered it to be a huge success. I learned about the area, the launch, where to stay, and techniques to use. I'm already contemplating next year's trip and the chance at some multi-fish days!

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RETURN TO RIFFE LAKE

BY HANNAH PENNEBAKER



While there are so many lakes with amazing fishing opportunities in Washington State that I love, Riffe Lake may just be my favorite. Located just 60 miles south of Tacoma, Riffe Lake is a 13-mile long reservoir that's famous for its landlocked salmon fishing. Tacoma Power not only raises and lowers the water levels of this lake, but they also stock it with thousands of coho salmon every year. They also throw in some steelhead and chinook as well, which you may hook into while targeting the coho. Once they meet their quota of fish, they put the excess fish in Riffe Lake to give sportsmen an opportunity to target them there. It's usually well worth the drive, Riffe Lake is a consistently good fishery. I cut my teeth learning how to troll on this lake. The fish are eager biters and they fight hard. Landlocked coho taste amazing on the grill and the smoker. I like to make coho candy- I put them in a quick dry brine and then sprinkle some brown sugar and maple syrup on them before smoking them. They also fit perfectly on cedar planks, great for summer barbeques! Riffe Lake is a very forgiving fishery for new anglers and kids. The action is

typically hot and fast. Let's go over how to have a successful day at Riffe Lake!

Trolling is by far the most popular way to fish Riffe Lake. There is some shore access, but the lake is extremely deep and wide, so it's better to fish by boat if you're able. This lake is popular with kayakers and those with small boats. You don't need to run all the way across the lake to catch fish; you can start trolling right after you launch. You can use your kokanee setups- the coho here are about the same size. Coho in Riffe Lake love the color pink! You'll want to use small pink dodgers and pink lures. Some popular lures include Mack's Wedding Rings, Brad's Kokanee Cut Plugs, small spoons, and small hoochie spinners.

Don't forget to tip your lure with a small chunk of shrimp or some corn. The coho are usually willing, aggressive biters. If you get some hits but no fish, reel up and check your bait. You'll want to keep your boat moving just a hair faster than usual kokanee speeds. Do S-turns and vary up your speed to see what the fish are wanting that day. You'll probably lose some fish, they're surprisingly acrobatic and capable of spitting the hook

if there's any slack in the line. This trait also makes them a great way to teach kids how to reel in bigger fish. Before taking your kids out to the Sound to target the big boys, let them practice reeling in these feisty Riffe Lake coho!

During this time of year, the heat will have pushed the coho down in the water column. Salmonids do not tolerate warm water temperatures as well as other species. They will also travel deeper during the heat of the day to escape the sun. During sunset, sunrise, and on cloudy days, you won't have to fish quite as deep. A good fish finder is essential to find out how deep to run your downriggers. Riffe Lake is extremely deep and large. With 13 miles of 200 feet deep water, there's a lot of room for fish to spread out. Keep a close eye on your fish finder, it's easy to get lulled into a false sense of security when trolling in such deep water. The lake shallows up surprisingly quickly, especially near islands. Some days the fish can be 90 feet deep. The fish school up very tightly, so they will be easy to find on your fish finder. Be ready to adjust the settings on your fish finder, especially if you're used to fishing shallow lakes.

You don't need to see all 200+ feet of the lake, adjust your settings so you only see the depth you need. As of this writing, all boat launches except Mossyrock Park are closed due to low water levels. As previously mentioned, Tacoma Power raises and lowers the water levels throughout the year. You can give them a call or check their website to see which boat launches are open. There's a nice fish cleaning station at Mossyrock Park, restrooms, ample parking, and a play area for the kids. You can find restaurants, stores, and other amenities at the nearby town of Mossyrock. Once you've launched, you can start your troll and turn left or right. I've consistently found fish in both directions. Some days, we've limited out all 4 people in an hour, and couldn't even get all 4 rods

back in the water! There are fish all over Riffe Lake. If you're struggling to find willing biters, try targeting points and islands. These fish like drop-offs, just like their saltwater cousins.

There's something for everyone at Riffe Lake. Don't have a boat? No worries, there are several places near the dams that you can shore fish. Cast out a piece of shrimp underneath a bobber, and wait. Just like when you're fishing from a boat, you'll want to adjust the depth you're fishing at to find the fish. Remember that there is a 5 fish limit. You can catch a variety of species at this lake other than coho, including cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead. You can keep any variety of these fish, but you can't exceed the limit.

During this time of year, I would highly recommend keeping anything you catch. Salmonids have a hard time surviving catch and release, especially in this hot weather. Seagulls at this lake tend to follow boats and pick off released fish struggling to swim back down. Another word of warning, check the forecast before heading out. Riffe Lake is famous for those afternoon winds that can blow small vessels off the water. Grab the life vests for the dogs and the little ones just in case. Most importantly, remember to have fun! Riffe Lake is a special fishery. Where else can you consistently bring home limits of land locked salmon? Go catch your limit, let the kids play at the park, and have some ice cream and burgers in Mossyrock before heading home to barbeque your fish!



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WHEN SECONDS COUNT

BY RANDY CASTELLO

Whoo-hoo, this month I drew the coveted Writer's Choice card. I had planned to write a piece on late season Puget Sound chinook. A solid plan in place, but then came along the latest WDFW Fishing Rule Change, closing Marine Area 10 to chinook fishing. It's an unfortunate situation where the current estimate for chinook sublegal encounters for the summer fishery is at 122% of the agreed fisheries. The truly difficult part of the MA 10 closure is that MA 10 chinook catch rate typically peaks in mid-August.

I considered shifting the content and discussing areas that are open year-round or other late season opportunities to bag a chinook in Puget Sound. After some internal debate over a concern that I would be shifting the chinook effort from the now closed MA 7, 9, 10 and 11 to the few remaining chinook fisheries, I thought better of the idea. Normally I am more than willing to share information; but in this case the remaining fisheries really can't handle the potential for increased fishing pressure. I'd be

"Blowing Up" our few remaining opportunities. It's a shame though, some of my best days on the water and/or biggest Puget Sound chinook were caught August through September. I love writing about chinook fishing and the decision was a real dilemma for me. Dilemma or otherwise, in late July things changed and I decided to refocus my article.

This has been a summer of changes around the old homestead. We have had and continue to have multiple remodeling projects in work, we moved my mother-in-law in and with few exceptions I've been working 6 days a week. Not complaining, all the right thing to do. And then to be honest I absolutely love my job and kind of go through some form of withdrawals when I'm not working... With the hectic schedule and lack of fishing (neither one of my boats have been off the trailer since May and then January before that) I was kind of evaluating life and sorting through what's important or otherwise. I was even considering selling the boats.

Typically, we meet my fishing buddy, his wife, and sometimes other friends for a meal once a week. Usually, we meet at Billy's in Burlington on Sunday mornings. We're regulars and they have one of the best breakfasts in Skagit County. On a Friday morning in late July, I texted my fishing buddy to confirm our Sunday plans and he called me back to let me know that his wife, our close friend, had just had a stroke.

It was the last thing I ever expected to hear. Being that they are 20 years younger and in generally good health, the news was hard to comprehend. As couples we have spent a lot of time together; vacations, fishing, and of course our weekly outing, and nobody ever thought twice about our individual health. Instead of a fishing article I decided to write a brief public service piece.

A stroke is an interruption to the blood supply to the brain. A stroke is the result of an obstruction or damage to the arteries in the brain, such as a clot or aneurysm. A stroke can occur at any age and statistics show that 1 in 5 people

that have a stroke are under 55, but the chance increases with age. The interruption can cause brain cells to die and depending on the location, can impact the victim's speech, vision, cognitive abilities, movement, and/or coordination.

It is critical that you learn the symptoms and immediately react by calling 911. Although the individual symptoms may not be unique to a stroke, the sudden onset or out of the ordinary onset of any symptoms may indicate a stroke and require immediate EMS care.

Again, recognizing the symptoms and reacting is critical when you suspect a stroke. As outdoorsmen, especially if you or your partner are in a risk category, make sure your cell phone is charged and/or your



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Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke. It could happen on your street, in your workplace, at a store where you shop — anywhere. Your readiness to spot the stroke warning signs and call 911 could save a life or make the difference between a full recovery and long-term disability. That's why it's so important to learn the stroke warning signs and urge everyone you know to do the same.

The faster stroke is treated, the more likely the patient is to recover.

In fact, stroke patients who are treated with the clot-busting drug IV t-PA Altipase within 90 minutes of their first symptoms were almost three times more likely to recover with little or no disability.

In some cases, a procedure to remove the clot causing the stroke is also recommended. Ninety-one percent of stroke patients who were treated with a stent retriever within 180 minutes of first symptoms recovered with little or no disability.

The thing to remember is that stroke is largely treatable. It's a matter of getting the right treatment, right away.



Stroke.org

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Risk factors that we can't change are race, gender, and family history. Fortunately, with the help of your family physician, there are risk factors we can manage to reduce the chance of having a stroke.

By being familiar with stroke symptoms and taking action, both recovery and survival are possible. The onset of stroke symptom(s) is sudden with no warning. As soon as something seems off with a loved one or fishing and hunting partner you should take immediate action. Calling 911 may improve stroke recovery prospects and hopefully a piggy of a chinook will be in the cards down the road.

Editor's Note: As a Registered Nurse of over 35 years, I'd like to affirm that time is of the essence when it comes to strokes. If your fishing buddy shows signs of stroke it's time to get off the water ASAP and get help. Another excellent source of stroke information can be found at <https://www.stroke.org/>

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FLY LINES

THE METHOD TO THE MADNESS

BY CHAD BRYSON



Once upon a time, fly fishing was a simple task. If an angler wanted a fly rod outfit, it was obtained by going to a fly/tackle shop, selecting a rod that had a number written on it, and then selecting a fly line that had the that same number written on it. Said fly line was then spooled up on a fly reel. The angler bought some monofilament tapers leaders that had a weird number with an X and that was it. (We will cover what that X means later.) Off we went into the great beyond in search of stupid fish that willingly ate our artificial offerings. Simple. Those were the days of blissful ignorance, both the anglers and the fish.

In these modern times of technically specific fly rods and fly lines, there are so many choices. What used to be a simple task now resembles an act of faith to get the right set up for your application. No matter if you shop online or in a local fly shop, the fly line choices are more plentiful than they have ever been. Fortunately, all the major manufacturers of fly lines have done a very good job at trying to make a complicated

task as simple as possible. Rio, Scientific Anglers, Cortland, and Airflo have application specific fly lines that are easy to navigate on their websites as well as in a fly shop. Plus, it never hurts to have personal input from a bona fide fly shop employee that has actually used the fly line. Hands on experience will never be replaced by the typing of letters on the interweb by someone who has never even touched a fly rod. Keep that in mind when you decide where your money will be spent.

I am going to try to explain the method behind the madness of what makes a fly rod/line a certain weight. Also, I am going to attempt to do this without upsetting any manufacturers of fly tackle products. It's not my intention to ruffle feathers, only to convey the truth as I know it. So, let's just say your fly rod is labeled as a "7wt or 7 weight". In theory, this means that the rod blank needs 7 ounces of weight to make the rod load and unload. In theory, that also means your rod needs a "7wt or 7 weight" fly line to make the rod do work. What makes a 7 weight fly line a 7 weight? It should be a simple question with


a simple answer. Originally, fly lines were manufactured so that the weight of the "head" determined the fly line weight. Meaning that a 7 weight fly line had a head that weighed 7 ounces. At that time, the head was the first 35 feet of the fly line aka- the part of the line that makes the rod cast. Life was simple then.

Now that we understand the theory behind the rod/line weights, let's discuss how to start making the right decision on which fly line to select. First - What species am I using this line to fish for? Second - How much money am I willing to spend? Let's use my favorite single hand steelhead rod, Sage Z Axis 10' 7wt. Yeah, I know it's old, but it's still an awesome rod that has beaten down more steelhead than I can count. I only use this rod for steelheading in smaller rivers, or larger creeks casting heavy flies or (God forbid) times get hard, an indicator rig with nymphs. Either way, I need a 7wt line. Remember when I said that originally the fly line head was 35 feet and weighed 7 ounces for a 7 wt line? Now is the tricky part but, not really. My rod needs a fly line head weight

of 7 ounces to make it work. If I am trying to cast heavy flies or nymph rigs, it's easier to do that with a shorter piece of line beyond the rod tip. At least that is our brain's message to us. Anyone that has ever tried to fly fish knows that our brain says "use less line, it will be easier." However, this works totally against everything that makes the fly rod/line work as a team. The rod needs 7 ounces to load and unload, but picking up 35 feet of fly line with an awkwardly heavy indicator rig on the fishing end is darn near impossible. OK, maybe not impossible, but it's hard. Fishing is hard enough, why make it harder? If I could use a fly line that had head weight of 7 ounces that was 20' instead of 35', that would be easier. The rod gets the line weight it needs and the angler gets the casting performance

needed to deliver the cast without having to pick up 35' of fly line in a small space. On my last trip to the Anchor River in Alaska, I chose the Scientific Anglers Anadro fly line. It has a shorter tapered, more aggressive head that checks the box on what I need to deliver for steelhead flies and rigs. It also works well for skating mice to Bristol Bay rainbows. It is not a good choice for dry fly fishing. Yet, therein lies the conundrum.


Some of you reading this have already thought "I just need one fly line that will do everything I want it to do." In my three decades of guiding fly fishing, hanging out in fly shops, hosting trips and just generally being in the business, I have never once seen one fly line that will do everything you need it to do.




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
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It doesn't exist unless all you are going to do is fish one way, using one technique for the rest of your life. Even though that sounds completely and ridiculously boring, I guess it does happen.

Point being, I don't use my steelhead line when I go bass fishing. Even though the head taper would be great for turning over big poppers, the fly line core in the steelhead line is designed for cooler or cold temps. Bass fishing is typically warm water which requires a stiffer fly line core so that your fly line doesn't feel like you are trying to cast a spaghetti noodle with half a deer on the end of it. There is not a one size fits all when it comes to fly lines. There isn't even one size fits most. There

are some crossovers, but not many, and not enough for me to write about. Plus, the controversial arguments that would ensue would only be a recompense of opinion.

Last and certainly not least is the second part of the selection. How much money am I willing to spend on a fly line? Fly lines are expensive. Crazy expensive. I remember the first time I saw a fly line for \$25. I thought the shop manager had gone mad. No way was anyone going to pay \$25 when we had all been paying \$18. Then I cast a rod with the \$25 line on it and immediately purchased one for myself. That was more than 30 years ago.

Today's fly lines are light years ahead of what they were then. By today's standards it isn't even fair to call those old lines fly lines. They were more of just a suggestion of what fly lines should and could be. My advice is to spend as much on a fly line as you can possibly afford to do. The fly line represents the tires on an automobile. If you take an old Cadillac El Dorado that rides like a dream and put cheap tires on it, it rides like a Cadillac with cheap tires. Consequently, you can put the finest Pirelli racing tires on a Saturn and it will handle like a plastic race car. The tires change every aspect of how the car rides and handles. The fly line does the same thing to a fly rod. Spend the money, you will be happy you did.

In closing, when selecting fly tackle, or any tackle for that matter, I can't emphasize enough how important it is to collect your information from reliable sources. I find that privately owned fly shops are the utmost in providing genuine hands-on knowledge. Go to a shop that specializes in what you want to do. I have a good friend and colleague that owns a shop in the Rockies. He and his staff are some of the most skilled and knowledgeable people when it comes to their water. Yet when those guys go saltwater fishing, they call another friend and colleague that owns a saltwater fly shop for input on what to buy and use. Don't be afraid to make a financial commitment. It could be the difference in catching the fish that you want to catch and standing around watching everyone else catch fish. Don't be that person....

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*I picked up a pair of hitchhikers on 3^d Street in Bend (I'm not talking about ticks this time), and neither of them seemed to know the other. The guy asked what I knew about panning for gold and the girl wanted to tell me she had read *The River Why*. And isn't that like all the people that come to Central Oregon?*

One of the funny things I've noticed is on places like East Lake or Paulina or on Crane Prairie or Lava Lake, the fishermen stream back to the launch for happy hour. It's not because they caught so many fish, it's because they have dinner reservations at a brewpub in Bend. They leave the lake at the exact moment the fishing is getting good. Nothing wrong with not catching fish, except not catching fish.

I made a list of fishing towns in our part of the world, and it seems I could make the same list and call them drinking towns. Perhaps this is the core of the problem. Tourists come to a drinking town for vacation, but they have a fishing problem.

They fish in the toughest part of the day and then want a beer because the fishing was bad. Here's a thought: drink a beer in the middle of the day and go fishing when the fishing is good! I spoke to a fly-fishing club from Bellingham, Wash., and they wanted to hear about Central Oregon rivers. They knew about the big four - the Deschutes, Crooked, Fall, and Metolius. To fish them well, an angler is probably going to base out of Bend, Sunriver, Prineville, or Sisters, all towns with great restaurants and more than a few brewpubs. And also cone-lickers.

What about the White River? There are sections of the White that never get fished and the

trout can get big. Or the John Day where an angler can catch 100 bass on the fly on any day in July or August. Or fish the McKenzie where the trout chase caddis above the surface! The North Fork Santiam above Detroit Lake can deliver great dry fly action. The Ana River fishes almost all year long with reliable hatches and a lake nearby (Ana Reservoir) with trophy trout. The Williamson can turn out wild trout that tip the scales in the teens and they take dry flies! The Upper Klamath Keno Reach can turn out crawdad-eating six-pound rainbows any day in October. How about the Wood?

The Upper Willamette? The East Fork of the Hood? The Chewaucan?



BRIAN R. SMITH, OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., CAUGHT HIS METOLUIS RAINBOWS ON DRY FLIES IN THE DINNER HOUR. PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN SMITH

There are more.
Get out a map.

You still have a map, don't you? Trace those little ribbons of blue and find the nearest towns. You'll find places like Service Creek, Spray, Sumpter, Maupin, Tygh Valley, Summer Lake, Parkdale, Paisley (yes, Paisley), Westfir, Chiloquin, Blue River, and Wamic.

Fish the small rivers. Stay in the small towns. Stay at a bed and breakfast or in a tent, and get your breakfast at the tavern, and dinner too. Drop off a six-pack at the nearest fly shop and see what kind of good stuff they have been holding back. Drink coffee with the locals.

Use a map and maybe a GPS to find hidden treasures - the places where you can't see the stream from the road, but you find a place

to park and go down through the timber to the sound of the water.

Wet wade and cast dry flies till sunset.

Wherever you fish this coming year, look at the landscape like a hitchhiker. Let's say you get dropped off in a small town in Utah or Wyoming or Washington instead of a Salt Lake, Seattle, or Cheyenne. Don't fish the big name waters. Fish the places you've never heard of.

I like to think that pair of hitchhikers is going to get married. On the honeymoon they would, of course, decide to compromise and devote their lives to protecting golden trout. And hopefully they can afford their own car. And deodorant.



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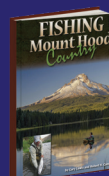
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Gary Lewis is an award-winning author, TV host, speaker and photographer. Recent books include Fishing Central Oregon, 6th Edition, Fishing Mount Hood Country and Bob Nosler Born Ballistic. Gary has hunted and fished in eight countries on three continents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



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THE DANCE OF FLY FISHERMEN

BY MATT CAREY



There are so many moving parts in fishing. Fly fishing is no exception to this interwoven connection between man, reel, and fish. On a trip with CrossCurrents Fly Shop, owner Chris Stainer even commented on my happy feet when hooked up on a fish. My rocking back and forth on the boat didn't make it any easier for him to row, no doubt. But, what would you expect? I had a blue ribbon trout on the other side of my line! This was clearly an added moving part to the entire fishing experience. Line screaming out of the reel, a solid sized trout head shaking and fighting, and me doing my best to shift the weight in the drift boat created some man-made currents. All this made for a memorable trip on the Missouri River outside of Craig, MT.

Another graceful display to take in during the whole process of fly fishing this beautiful river are the ongoing developing and vacating columns of tricos along the river bank. These small mayflies make up a large portion of the diet for the fish in the section of the Missouri River we fished. Their 24 hour life cycle made for an ever present food source during our late July fishing trip. There were columns of bugs 10-15 feet high swirling and moving about. Some columns were next to one another, other columns were isolated as if they were exclusive to only the best and most worthy tricos.

These swarms of bugs were never annoying - no biting or buzzing around your head. They were part of the ecosystem in such a simple way that you might not notice it unless an expert pointed out their significance.

The battle between you and fish is another dance to experience, a jig if you will, this time with your aquatic partner. Once the fish has been hooked, navigating and steering it as best you can through the water is a balance of both strength and finesse. Objects like weeds can be a challenge and weigh down the fish, giving him "brass knuckles" as you fight him into the boat. Manipulating the fish is crucial. During a fight with a particularly nice rainbow, maybe 18 or 19 inches in size, it felt like I was pulling up a 10lb fish with the amount of stringy green weeds that had caught the line, fly, and fish. The same thrill can be had when you've hooked into an unwilling partner: the fish who wants nothing to do with your boat or net. The fish who turns and runs and pulls line out for what seems like a football field. These fish, you respectfully allow the opportunity to take as much line as they want. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of this rhythmic contest is when the fish takes flight. Seeing those trout leap out of the water with violent intentions and come splashing down is enough to hook

anyone to the art of the fly rod.

It is everything you expect and look forward to with a fishing experience like this.

Of course, this all assumes you can get yourself on the dance floor. The level of technique required to fly fish isn't so much that a novice couldn't figure it out. I certainly was able to with some pointers. But it requires a fine enough skill that one can't simply have a "set it and forget it" kind of mindset.

There is consideration of how much line you'll need to strip out in order to cast to the required distance. Judging the flow of the river and feeding line. Looking at your fly relative to the fish relative to the line and mending it to make for an attractive lure. All this even assumes that you've gotten the cast down. Too much power or not enough time to let the

line get behind you on your cast and you look more like Indiana Jones with a whip than anything else. Rod tip out of position on the cast? Your fly isn't going anywhere. Chris' dedication to the craft of fly fishing stood out in two comments, one practical and one funny. An analogy regarding golfers. Say you've got an opportunity to golf at Augusta. Would you fly down there without having practiced and hope to do well on the course? Or would you expect to work on your short game and try to cut down on slicing your drive before the trip? The same practice goes into the technique when casting a fly rod. To the funny story - when talking about other techniques or ways to target fish - think bottom bouncing for walleye or using a downrigger for salmon, he said something to the effect of

"Well if I wanted to do any of those things, I'd have to buy a spinning rod" with a grin and a chuckle. If you want to hone up your fly fishing skills, see some beautiful scenery and catch some awesome fish, there is no better place to do so than Craig, MT. And CrossCurrents Fly Shop in Craig, Montana can help make it happen. A word to the wise, leave the dancing shoes at home when you go.



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BY JASON BROOKS

PUGET SOUND COHO

So far this year, salmon fishing has been a tidal wave of highs and lows. The highs are good returns of fish, but the lows are emergency closures and restricted fisheries trying to conserve endangered listed stocks that call Puget Sound rivers their birthplace. With all the runs and resident fish, each one must be managed in a way to maximize wild returns as well as hatchery brood stock and harvest. Keeping an eye on emergency regulations and looming closures, there is one bright spot this September, which is that most chinook runs to Puget Sound have reached their peak and that means biologist and anglers alike can focus on coho.

Coho salmon are found in Puget Sound year-round with resident silvers living in the waters most of their lives.

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Then there are the ocean-going fish, ones that migrate out to the Pacific, feed for a few years, and then return to the Sound and its rivers. September and into October is a time when you can catch either of these strains of fish, and both will be substantial in size. Resident coho fishing started back in June when Marine Area 10 opened, and the fishing was good right from the start. As July came and went, and then August approached, the coho just kept showing up. By the end of August, the pinks and coho made up the bulk of the fisheries, especially in popular Marine Areas such as Area 9, which closed to chinook fishing after a few days of angling but remained open for coho and pinks.

Area 11 was a major disappointment for anglers, and not because of a lack of fish but instead due to emergency

closures, first occurring in June when there was an early opener and had a lot of chinook being caught, and then in August, with a shoreline-only pink fishery. The worst part was that the Puyallup River is expected to get back 20,499 coho this year, along with the huge run of pinks and a good run of chinook. All those coho could not be touched in the middle of summer, but this makes for good river fishing.

Now that September is among us, it is time to focus on coho and not let our summer salmon fisheries, or lack of, get the best of us. So far, there are fisheries planned in the Puget Sound area for coho for a long time to come, including a "new" fishery in Marine Area 5 where coho are projected to have a season clear into October, but again, keep an eye on the emergency rules.



Marine Area 5, better known as Sekiu, is where you will find me and several other anglers in September. As the fish filter out of the Pacific and enter the straits they start to break apart, with Canadian stocks and American bound fish heading into the San Juan Islands, where the Canuck bound silvers such as those headed to the Fraser will make the turn north. Coho headed for places like the Skykomish, Green, Puyallup, Nisqually, Skokomish, and Minter will turn south. This make-up of fish is projected to be 760,000 coho, which is up from the 2022 run of 666,648 silvers. They all will travel by Sekiu, and the calm waters out of Clallam Bay means anyone with a boat can catch them.

Once they go past Pillar Point and continue east, the fish will pass right by the entrance to Hood Canal.

Here, the Skokomish, Quilcene, and other rivers and creeks that feed into the fjord will break away from the crowds and head south. It is the only place where you can target Skokomish bound fish, all 26,609 of the 112,710 Hood Canal coho projected to return this year.

Continuing to Puget Sound and Marine Areas 8, 9, and 10, fish here are heading to rivers such as the Nooksack, with 76,943 coho projected back, or the Snohomish system, with 93,500 silvers expected to return this fall. The Green River that turns into the Duwamish and dumps into Elliot Bay is expected to get 110,756 silvers. This makes the central Puget Sound waters prime for September coho fishing.

Deep south of Puget Sound, Marine Area 13 sees good runs of ocean coho as well as a healthy population of resident coho which

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are caught here year around. Beach anglers and fly fishers are known to target resident coho in the springtime, but come September, it is the ocean fish everyone wants to catch. The Nisqually is projected to get 16,898 silvers and Minter Creek about 15,130, but it is the Squaxin Island net pens which raise the majority of the resident coho that helps pump out an expected return of 45,417 coho this year.

The total return for the deep south Sound area 13 is 92,754, but keep in mind if you plan to target the Minter Creek return in the salt water that you must stay 1,000 feet away from the oyster outer stakes at the creek mouth.

When it comes to catching coho, anglers need to look at the top water.

Most fish are caught in shallows compared to the chinook where downrigger balls often drag in the sand and bounce off the gravel. Instead, coho travel up high, but will go deeper as the sun hits the water. Start around 30 to 50 feet down on the cable, but do not think the fish travel in shallow water. Unlike the pink salmon that have been flooding in since July and travel along the shoreline, coho prefer deep water. Back to Sekiu, most anglers do not put a hook into the water until they hit water 500 feet deep near the shipping lanes. In Puget Sound, target the middle of the water, where it runs deep, but as you near the rivers where fish will be returning, then start to make your way to the shoreline. Exceptions to the deep-water locals are when

targeting resident fish or feeding coho that cruise along kelp beds.

Anglers often find coho by seeing them on the surface where the fish will jump and leap out of the water while chasing baitfish.

If you find jumping fish, then stop the boat and start to troll. Make a note on the sonar unit and fish around until you find the schools again. Coho travel in large schools and it is common to hook doubles or even all rods once when you find the fish.

Mooching can produce coho, but trolling often lends to more fish in Puget Sound. This is often because the fish this time of year are getting closer to the spawning grounds and are migrating. The time to lounge around and feed is over, and it is all about getting

back to the rivers to spawn. The fish can become highly active on hot and sunny days, but on cold and rainy days the bite can turn off, as the fish are in “go mode” and traveling with the fresh pumping water into the sound.

For trolling, anglers need to remember that speed is crucial. Coho fishing is a fast game, and the fish are moving fast, which means trolling at speeds from 3 to 4 miles per hour is common.

It is also a good idea to downsize gear, as the fish are not as big as chinook, but also because the smaller gear trolls better at faster speeds. The typical rigging is a flasher trailing a lure. Put it back 20 feet from the boat on the downrigger clip, as this will keep tangles at a minimum when



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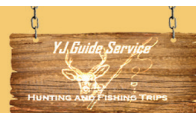


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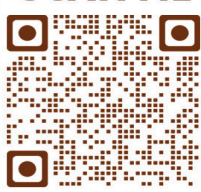


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making tight turns, and do not be surprised if a coho comes up and grabs the lure while it is in the prop wash while you are deploying it.

Flashers give the lure action and attract coho to the gear. Some good choices are Bechhold and Son's super glow or predator flashers, and the best part is you can customize your flashers right on their website. You can go from 8-inch to 11-inch and then get custom tape colors, with chartreuse and greens being extremely popular for coho. The unique design of the Bechhold and Son's flasher allows it to be trolled at a higher speed which is needed to catch coho.

Another great attractor is the Sling Blade dodger by Mack's Lure, as it can be trolled at high speeds as well. When it comes to lures the small spoons like the Skinny Gee or the Coho Killer are top producers, but another great option is to fish a Gold Star hoochie with a Luhr Jensen unrigged Flash Fly insert. The insert is a contrasting color such as blue, green, or chartreuse and is UV which adds to the glow of the lure and causes coho to bite.

New to the market this year is the Simon Spin Dawg which is a small spinning plug, much like the Yakima Bait SpinFish and Brad's

Mini-Cut Plug, and all three are good choices. The Simon Spin Dawg is different from the other two lures because it is solid, which means it will not break or come apart at high trolling speeds, and it has a scent cavity on the underside that also fits a mini glow stick which is supplied with the lure. This adds extra attraction to the lure, and they are easy to rig.

Regardless of which lures you plan on, using scent can be crucial when it comes to getting coho to bite. It is common to see coho following your lure as you pull it up and then dart away. This is where the scent can help. Douse the lures in Pro-Cure squid, anchovy, or herring, as this is the main food source coho will be feeding on this time of year. When using a hoochie skirt, fill the head of the soft bait with the scent. As water is pushed through the lure, it creates a scent trail.

For hard lures such as the Spin Dawg, Mini Cut Plugs, and SpinFish, fill them with Pro-Cure's Super Sauce, and for the ones with the hollow cavity, instead of using canned tuna as most anglers do, fill them with diced and chopped herring. This is where a dozen herring can last a day or two or more.

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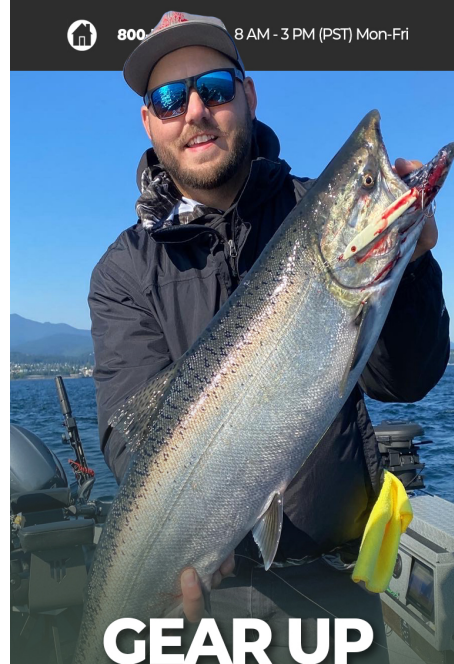


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Instead of plug-cutting them, fillet them out and use the backbone and entrails to fill the spinning lures. Cut the fillets in half longways and tip them on a hook with the hoochie, or dice it up and put it inside a SpinFish or Mini Cut Plug.

Coho is not just for the gear angler, as they are a popular fish for fly anglers too and can be the “best of both worlds” for anglers who are willing to break out the fly rods. Here you can use fly patterns that mimic baitfish, or take a flash fly or Ace Hi Fly and rig it with a tandem hook set-up, then use a surgeon’s knot or blood knot to the stout tippet on a sinking line and let it out the back of the boat. Trolling the fly gear can be very productive as well as fun. If you do not have a fly rod set-up, then

use a long, limber rod with a 2 to 5-ounce mooching weight and a lure as a “surface rod” and troll it straight out the back of the boat. No downrigger is needed, and anglers can head to most of these fisheries in small boats. Coho are a great fish for novice and advanced anglers alike, and with over three quarters of a million of them heading back to Puget Sound, it is time to get out the gear and catch some silvers, but always check the emergency regulations before you go.



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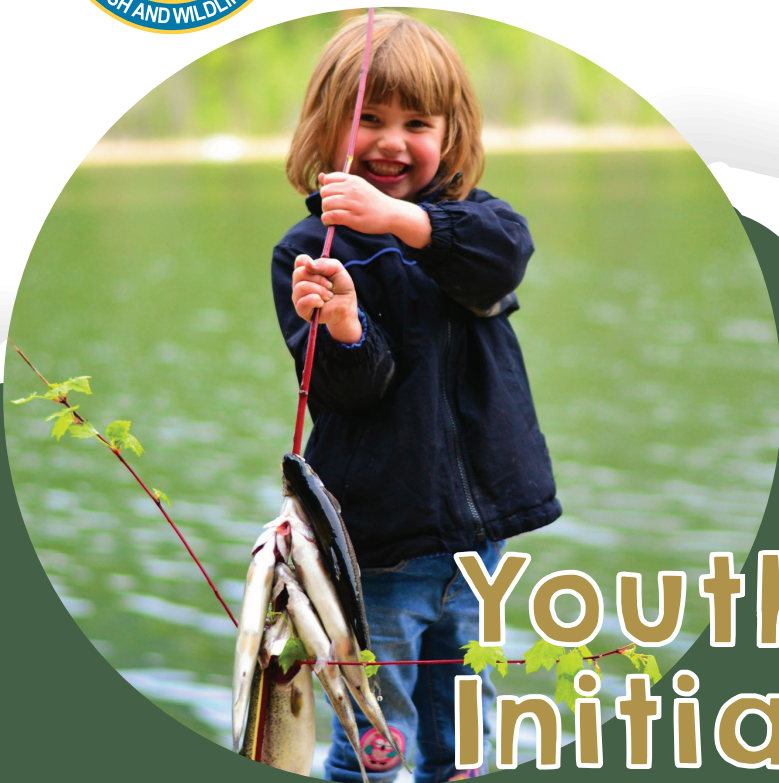
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SHORE FISHING FOR PINKS & COHO

Thick fog rolled in off the north Puget Sound, clouding the view of a sleepy oak harbor in the far distance. A fairly typical morning on a North Kitsap Peninsula beach, drizzly, damp, and bustling with movement from early risers looking to get their share of migratory salmon. Though it was still low tide and just barely into first light, a handful of anglers had already begun to put their lines in the water and a number of them had begun to reel in excitedly as their rod tips bent towards the crashing waves.

Bait fish by the thousands swarmed around the tide-rips that were occurring directly off the beach, causing the water to boil with activity. With the cool Puget Sound water up to the hips of my chest waiters I casted out past the school of jumping herring. It didn't take more than a few casts before I landed a shiny, chrome pink salmon.

During pink and coho runs, the beaches of the Puget Sound and Hood canal can produce a surprisingly vibrant salmon fishery. It's about as accessible as they come, family friendly, and leaves all the trappings of boat-fishing tucked neatly away at home. Even the gear itself is minimalistic. A salmon rod with a 1-2 oz metal jig or a spinner will get the job done. With that said, there are several other techniques you can experiment with, such as: fly fishing, float fishing a piece of herring under a bobber, or plunking with a piece of shrimp.

On odd years, pink salmon continue to pass through the Puget Sound and Hood Canal into early September. At that same time, coho fishing is moving into full swing. Both of these salmon species tend to move into the shallow waters, thus giving shore anglers a perfect opportunity to catch a fish. The pink salmon, unlike its

coho, chinook, and sockeye counterparts, isn't revered as high-grade table fare and is often used for canning or smoking. Reasons for this vary, but in general it's due to their softer flesh and lower fat content. Furthermore, their small size makes them less appealing as a sport fish and this generates a misguided belief that they aren't appealing as a food. Thankfully this is a far cry from reality, and I can tell you from plenty of personal experience that the pink salmon's mild flavor and delicate flesh lend itself well to a meal that involves a pan seared salmon fillet as the main course.

Whether it's pinks or coho, the shores are here for us to utilize throughout the early fall season, and thankfully, we have plenty of public beaches to give us access. The most productive spots are points where tide rips occur, but in a pinch, any beach that has a bit of a shelf right off the shore can produce salmon.

Below is just a small sample of known salmon beaches in Washington that will allow you to get your gear into the water and get on some fish.

Dash Point State Park, Tacoma

You can fish from the shore here, the dock has been closed for public safety reasons since 2021. Beware, fishing can get wild and crowded on the beach.

Squaxin Island park, Olympia

If you're on the southern end of Marine Area 13 and want to avoid the traffic heading north, you can try your luck at Squaxin Park (formally known as Priest Point park). This park in Olympia offers access to hatchery coho planted by the Squaxin Island tribe. The coho can be pretty lock jawed at this point of their journey, but with some patience and persistence, salmon can be had here from the northern portion of the park.

Alki Point, Seattle

The gem of Seattle's fishing beaches, Alki offers miles of public beach and amazing views of the city. Fish this beach 1-2 hours before and after the tide change.

Lincoln Park, Seattle

A popular Seattle fishing beach. Lincoln Park juts out into a point that provides prime fishing real estate into Elliot Bay. If the bite is slow, take a break and swim some laps in the public swimming pool located right at the point.

Hoodspport Hatchery, Hoodspport

Owned by the WDFW, Hoodspport Hatchery provides fishing access right off of HWY 101. This spot requires anglers to wade into the water and fishing here is more or less a combat sport. Practice good fishing etiquette here and be aware of buoys marking private beaches.

Point No Point Lighthouse, Hansville

A well-known salmon shore fishing spot, Point No Point is positioned near tide rips and can get quite busy during the weekends. It's ideal for anglers that have kids who want to try out fishing or who would rather build a sandcastle on the beach.

Kitsap Memorial State Park, Poulsbo

The park offers camping and has shore access for anglers to target pinks and coho that are heading south to the Hoodspport hatchery. This is a quiet and scenic park. Fishing at high tide isn't ideal for fly anglers who need room to back cast.

Bush Point, Freeland

Bush Point is situated on the Westside of Whidbey Island and is a prime fishing location to target pinks and coho as they make their way out of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and into Admiralty inlet.

Lagoon Point County Park, Greenbank

Another Whidbey Island honey hole, Lagoon Point is just north of Bush Point and is known to get quite busy during the pink and coho runs. Fly fishermen may find it difficult to find the necessary room for casting during peak season.

Regardless of where you fish or which method you chose, chances are that if you spend enough time with your gear in the water on one of the many beaches that sit in the path of migratory salmon on their journey down the greater Salish Sea, you'll likely be rewarded with life long memories, beautiful scenery, and most importantly, one—or several delicious dinners for you and the family.

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REINTRODUCING CHINOOK SALMON ABOVE THE GRAND COULEE DAM

BY JOHN KRUSE

Chinook salmon have not been swimming in the waters of the Upper Columbia River above Grand Coulee Dam since it was built in 1941, but several Native American tribes in our region are working on bringing them back.

I recently had a chance to chat with Conor Giorgi, the Anadromous Program Manager at Spokane Tribal Fisheries, about this subject. I asked Conor why no fish ladder was installed at Grand Coulee Dam so the salmon could get past the dam, like others on the Columbia River. Giorgi said a fish ladder was planned for the dam, but as the dam grew bigger and taller, the construction of a fish ladder became unfeasible.

There were efforts made after the dam was constructed to trap chinook salmon at Rock Island Dam near Wenatchee and transport the fish above Grand

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Coulee Dam, but the efforts to sustain the chinook salmon in Lake Roosevelt and further north into Canada failed within a few years of the dam being built.

Grand Coulee Dam is not the only dam without a fish ladder. The next dam downstream, Chief Joseph Dam, which was built in 1950, also lacks a fish ladder, and all migratory salmon passage has been blocked upstream of this dam near Bridgeport to the headwaters of the river in British Columbia.

Asked about the possibility of installing fish ladders at these two dams now, Giorgi said they would be unlikely to work because the fish would simply have to expend too much energy attempting to make it past these dams. Instead, they are trapping salmon and hauling them above Grand Coulee Dam.



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However, they are not necessarily releasing them right above the dam. Giorgi points out Lake Roosevelt is 150 miles long, and the Spokane Tribe, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, plans to release the trapped salmon in multiple locations in the Upper Columbia and tributaries above the dam, including the Spokane River watershed.

Giorgi went on to explain the Upper Columbia tribes are taking the lead on this project because, "They have connections with the salmon that go back millennia. The (chinook) are not just a food source, they are a staple of their cultural and spiritual well-being."

Efforts to reintroduce salmon into river drainages above Grand

Coulee Dam have been ongoing since 2015. The first adult chinook were released into this area in 2019 and the first juvenile chinook were released into a creek on the Spokane Tribal Reservation in 2017. In 2022, 146 adult chinook were released into the Spokane River, and some of these fish were released into a part of the river that had not seen the presence of these fish since 1911, when Little Falls Dam was built.

The specific stock of fish being used are summer chinook salmon because of their abundance in the Upper Columbia. Biologists tagged 752 yearling salmon in 2017 that were released to migrate downstream. Of these fish, only 234 were detected passing over Bonneville Dam and only 75 were detected

in the Columbia River estuary near Astoria.

However, one of these fish made it back as a spawning adult in the summer of 2019. The salmon made it back to the Chief Joseph Hatchery fish ladder and the remains of the fish were transferred to Tshimakain Creek where it was released as a juvenile fish two years earlier.

This second phase of salmon reintroduction above Grand Coulee Dam is expected to go on for some 20 years and with any luck, we'll be seeing healthy populations of these iconic salmon swimming in the waters and tributaries of the Columbia River in harvestable numbers above the dam by that time or sooner. To find out more about this project go to www.ucut.org.

The advertisement features a dark background with a subtle pattern of fish scales. On the left, a man in a grey hoodie and a white cap with a red logo holds a large rainbow trout. In the center, a man in a grey jacket and a black cap holds two large silver fish. On the right, a man in a yellow jacket and a red cap holds several large silver fish. The text "YOUR PREMIERE PNW FISHING GUIDE SERVICE" is written in large, white, bold letters at the top. Below it, "Austin's Northwest Adventures" is written in a smaller, white, cursive font. At the bottom, the text "Now Booking Trophy Kokanee, Triploids, and Rainbow Trout for December, January, and February!" is written in white, bold letters. Below that, "Call 509-669-3557 to book" is written in white, bold letters, and "www.austinsnorthwestadventures.com" is written in white, bold letters. The name "Austin Moser, Professional Guide and Instructor" is written in red, bold letters at the bottom left.

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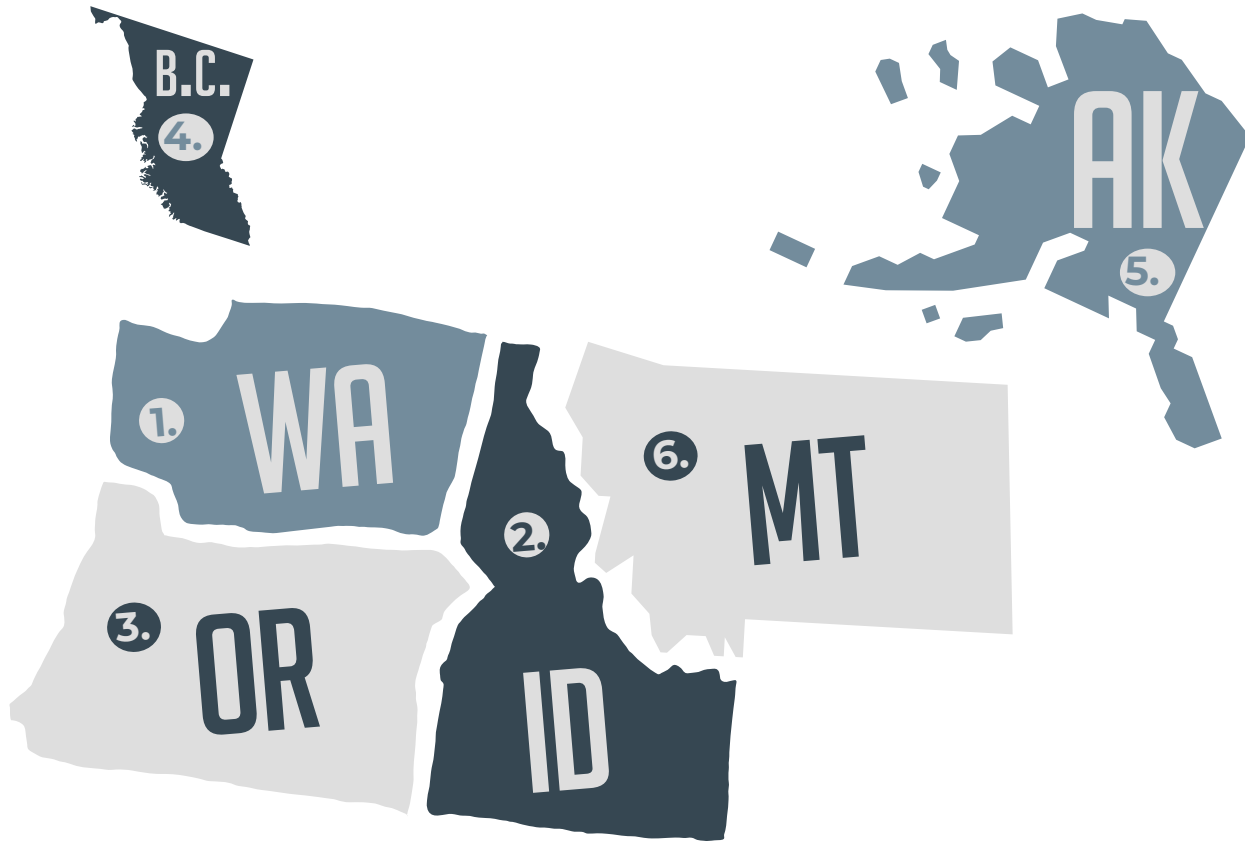
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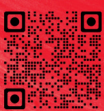
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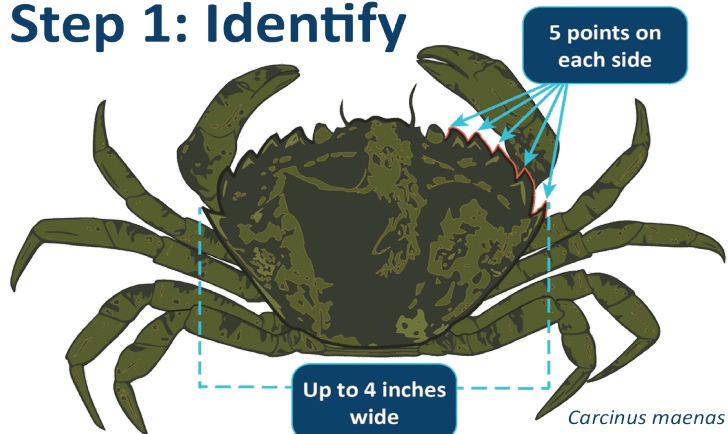


For more information visit wdfw.wa.gov or call the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at **888-WDFW-AIS**

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

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