

# REEL LIFE

09 COVER STORY

## SWINGING STREAMERS FOR TROUT

Photo by Eric Inglis

15 10 Western Washington  
Opening Day Favorites

A Bounty On  
Water Wolves 23

28 The Joys and Challenges  
of Fishing a New State

How to Fish for  
Columbia River Walleye 33

FREE

## Not just a **base layer**

GHUnders LITE.  
Take your Performance  
to the next level.  
Made with Moisture  
Transfer Technology  
that keeps your skin dry.  
Made in the NW.



[ghunders.com](http://ghunders.com)





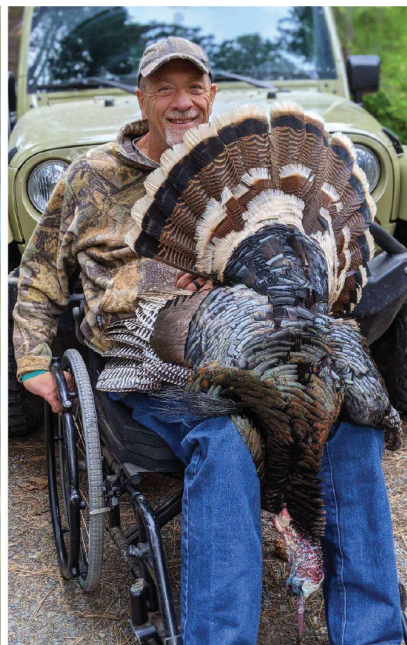
Washington Department of  
FISH & WILDLIFE

STAY CONNECTED



# Life Outdoors

**LIFE**  
OUTDOORS



**Celebrate Earth Month with  
trout fishing, razor clam digs,  
and spring turkey hunting**



**CLICK  
HERE**

Visit the Life Outdoors website at [wdfw.wa.gov/life-outdoors](http://wdfw.wa.gov/life-outdoors) for informative blog posts, the Weekender Report of monthly recreational opportunities in your area, and links to state and federal lands to explore.

# EDITOR'S CORNER:

*Change is in the air! Warming temps are heralding another spring as we can see winter in the rear-view mirror. This is one of my favorite times of the year and I'm sure yours as well. Time to start putting away the ice fishing gear and focus on all the opportunities we have in front of us. Saltwater anglers can look forward to upcoming ling cod and halibut action, while trout anglers have Opening Day of lowland lakes to look forward to. Spring chinook will be heating up as anglers follow these amazing fish up the Columbia River. Time to pull the cover off the boat and see how it weathered winter. A good cleaning inside and out on a sunny spring day is just the ticket to get you back into the boating groove. Make some new memories with kids and grandkids. Take a child fishing and pass on our wonderful sport to the next generation.*

**Mike Carey - [mikec@nwfishing.net](mailto:mikec@nwfishing.net) @Michael Carey Northwest Fishing**



**FOLLOW US:**

[www.northwestfishing.net/](http://www.northwestfishing.net/)

[@northwestfishingtv](#)

## CONTENTS



**11**

**08**

Washington Record Whitefish  
*John Kruse*

**09**

Swinging Streamers  
*Chad Bryson*

**11**

Get Ready to Catch More Fish  
*Jason Brooks*

**15**

10 Western Washington Opening Day Favorites  
*Hannah Pennebaker*



**25**

**19**

How to Survive Opening Day  
*Randy Castello*

**23**

A Bounty on Water Wolves  
*John Kruse*

**25**

Neah Bay Kayak Fishing  
*Josh DeBruler*



**31**

**28**

The Joys and Challenges of Fishing a New State  
*Mike Carey*

**31**

Road Trip Options for Spring's Best Ice-Out Trout  
*Gary Lewis*

**33**

How to Fish for Columbia River Walleye: The Easy Way  
*Kyle Jones*



# THE **GET OUTDOORS** PACKAGE



## What's in the Get Outdoors Package?

- Freshwater license
- Saltwater license
- Shellfish & seaweed license
- Two-pole endorsement
- Puget Sound Dungeness crab endorsement
- Deer license & tag\*
- Elk license & tag\*
- Cougar license & tag
- Bear license & tag
- Small game license
- Migratory bird authorization\*\*
- Migratory bird permit
- Turkey tag 1
- Turkey tag 2
- Vehicle access pass

**ALL FOR \$236.18!**

**What's the catch?**

**You just need to get outdoors. #GO**

**Visit [mywdfw.com](http://mywdfw.com) to purchase**

\*Deer and Elk tags require a weapon type selection and may be obtained at the time of purchase or at a later date.

\*\*Sea Duck, Brant, Band Tailed Pigeon, Snow Goose, and SW Canada Goose Harvest Report Cards will not be available until April. A fifty cent dealer fee will be charged per report card.



CATCH ALL THE  
NEW FRESH LISTINGS



TUNE IN AND SET YOUR DVR!

NWFISHING.NET

# NORTHWEST REEL LIFE

*A Digital Anglers LLC & Northwest Fishing Publication*

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mike Carey

## PUBLISHER

Rob Holman

## COPY EDITOR

Hannah Pennebaker

## CONTRIBUTORS

Jason Brooks

Randy Castello

Kyle Jones

John Kruse

Hannah Pennebaker

Gary Lewis

Mike Carey

Josh DeBruler

Rick Lawrence

## TEAM NWF (NWFTV)

Robby Sy

Hillary Holman

Paul Hamilton

Luke Hatfield

Barry Dubnow

Hannah Pennebaker

Randy Castello

Matt Carey

Chris Decker

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION INQUIRIES

[mikec@nwfishing.net](mailto:mikec@nwfishing.net)

## COVER PHOTO

Eric Inglis

PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
COHO MEDIA GROUP

## CREATIVE DIRECTOR/ LEAD GRAPHICS

Jason Olsen

## LAYOUT & DESIGN

Jason Olsen, Isidro Rojas, Sarah Holman

## ADVERTISING

[cameron@cohomediagroup.com](mailto:cameron@cohomediagroup.com)

## ACCOUNTING

Natalie Ackerman

## PROJECT MANAGER

Hillary Holman



Northwest Fishing  
12904 E. Nora Ave Suite B  
Spokane Valley WA 99216

**NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!**

*Subscribe to receive our free digital magazine.*

**CLICK  
HERE**

# COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW FISHING DEPARTMENT FEATURING PRODUCTS FROM THESE TOP BRANDS



Lamiglas



THE  
**FISHING HOLE**  
AND SPORTS SHOP



2424 N DIVISION ST,  
SPOKANE, WA 99207  
(509)444-8005



SHOP NOW



1330 N. ARGONNE RD  
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99212  
(509)868-0607

we got the fun stuff!



# WASHINGTON RECORD WHITEFISH

BY JOHN KRUSE

From the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, we learn a Davenport angler who attends Gonzaga University reeled in an unexpected catch while fishing for walleye at Lake Roosevelt on February 11th. Gavin Boggs was fishing with a college friend near the Lincoln boat launch that afternoon when he hooked into something very big.

Boggs said, "I was targeting walleye at a depth of around 75 feet using a four-inch swim bait and it was a pretty tough day on the water. We did mark a lot of fish on the fish-finder but had only caught one walleye before this big fish took my lure."

Boggs, whose family has a place at Seven Bays toward the southern end of Lake Roosevelt, continued his story, saying, "As soon as I

hooked it, I thought it was a big walleye. I carefully let the fish do its thing down below the boat and then when it came to the surface and we netted the fish, I was totally surprised. I've never targeted whitefish in Lake Roosevelt. It is my favorite place to fish for smallmouth bass and walleye, and this has changed my mind about fishing for lake whitefish."

Gavin caught the fish in the late afternoon and he texted his father about the catch. Gavin's dad, Tony Boggs, did some research and told his son he might have a new state record on his hands.

According to WDFW, Boggs immediately iced the fish in a cooler and drove from Seven Bays to Davenport Family Foods, where an official scale verified the weight as 7.86 pounds. The store

owner, a friend of the Boggs family, stayed late just so Gavin could have it officially weighed.

Gavin then took the fish to the WDFW Spokane regional office on February 14th, where biologist Danny Garrett measured this new state-record lake whitefish at 26.25 inches long, with a girth of 16 inches.

The old state record weighed 7.50 pounds and was caught Feb. 19, 2021, by Jacob White at Cox Lake in Franklin County. Gavin said Jacob actually reached out to him on Facebook to congratulate him and "pass the torch".

Will this record be broken again soon? Possibly. WDFW conducted a netting survey at Lake Roosevelt last fall and caught quite a few lake whitefish, including one that weighed 9.5 pounds.

# SWINGING STREAMERS FOR TROUT

BY CAPT. CHAD BRYSON



To me, there is absolutely no better feeling than a fresh, chrome anadromous fish hammering a properly swung fly. Life goes from less than zero to over 200mph in a split second. Typically, when it happens to me, I'm standing there going through the motions thinking about everything but fishing. Chaos comes and then goes just as quickly. The quick rush is addictive and leads some anglers into facing a maddening depression when there is a distinct lack of fresh chrome fish in the rivers. Years ago, while battling my own steelhead sickness, I discovered that some resident trout do in fact eat swung flies and that it was fun way to fulfill an angling need when a steelhead isn't in the same time zone.

If you are a dyed in the wool steelhead aficionado living within a stone's throw of the fabled PNW steelhead rivers, stop reading now. Nothing I have to say here will be helpful or beneficial to your quality of life. Your geographic angling superiority is to be congratulated and celebrated. The rest of us that deal with a slight pilgrimage to steelhead water might find solace knowing that a temporary fix might just be a little closer to home than originally thought.

One fall/winter between Alaska and Patagonia guide seasons, I found myself in Western North Carolina. Appalachia. It's beautiful there. Big mountains, trout streams, elk, bears, deer, and even musky, but not a single anadromous chrome fish anywhere at all. Nothing to swing flies to. I ended up there because of a girl. Although I can't remember her name, I am sure that's why I was there. We'll just say her name was Alice. Alice lived on a big lake fed by three large trout rivers and several creeks. The lake was about 20 miles across and over 400 feet deep at the dam. The largest river flowing into it averaged about 3000cfs (cubic feet per second) annually. The other two rivers had slightly less flow. Most people around regarded it as "tough fishing" mostly because of the depth and its ability to create nasty waves. Not your typical southern sparkle boat bass lake.

I didn't care, it seemed normal to me. After spending a few seasons on Naknek Lake and Illimani Lake in Bristol Bay, I saw this as an opportunity to fish alone in water that rarely saw pressure. So, off I went in Alice's boat, without Alice. She was terrified of the lake, and she didn't like fishing. Maybe that's why I can't remember her name. Either way, I was going armed with a new 6 weight spey rod and my trusted 10' 7 weight single hand rod. The 6 weight spey was a gift from a buddy that built custom rods and I was itching to dial it in for an upcoming trip. I didn't really think it would be a useful tool for where I was.

As I pulled the boat into the mouth of the river, looking for a safe spot to anchor, I saw what could only be described as textbook holding water for migrating fish. Feeling like that was just a pipe dream fallacy, I lazily anchored the boat and trudged up to the pool above the shoal. As nonchalantly as could be, I made a cast. The rod was an absolute cannon for a 6 weight and still is. While basking in the glory of my new gift, my fly got slammed. The fish darn near ripped the rod right out of my hand. I wasn't planning for this. I was just tuning a new rod. The fish pulled a couple of runs and then gave up. As the fish headed towards the shallows, I tailed it and just knelt there with it for a minute. Holding in my hand was a perfect specimen of rainbow trout that probably measured 26-27". It wasn't chrome, but it wasn't full of color either. Just a perfect species specimen with all its fins and mandibles. Not a steelhead, but darned nice. I figured it to be a fluke but kept fishing anyway. I caught 4 just like it that day and 6 the next day. The day after that, I didn't count the fish I caught. I just enjoyed the fact that I was successfully fishing the way I wanted to in a place where that should not be working.

Soon after that, It was time for me to leave for Patagonia, where I honed the swing method for trout even more. Three months of guiding the tributaries of Lake General Carrera proved to sort out my theories well.

**10 | NWFISHING.net**



Trout that live in rivers without a lake system don't take swung flies as well as trout that live in rivers with a lake system. Maybe it's because the lake provides a semblance of oceanic feeling to the trout, nurturing its true migratory genetics. Whereas a trout living in a creek or stream that trips into a larger river is more resident homebody completely ignoring its DNA. Maybe that DNA is bred right out of those fish. I'm not a biologist, so I really don't know the answer to why they do or don't. People much smarter than me will be able to answer that.

Here is what I know - everywhere I have tested my theory on swinging flies for trout, it works. Every single time. In Alaska, PNW, Rockies, Sierras, Appalachia, and Patagonia. A trout river feeding a lake of any substantial size and depth will support an angler trying to get a fix by swinging flies to trout. It's become a game of sorts for me now. Every steelhead trip, I pack my 6 weight spey rod and a 6 weight switch rod. It's been a lifesaver at times when the steelhead water is blown out. I don't get too crazy with the flies; everything is a stinger hook fly scaled down in size somewhat. I try to use more natural looking patterns. Any smaller stinger hook sculpin or leech pattern is great and there are several very good sources for trout swing flies out there. Start at your local fly shop. Those guys will know what's up.

If your steelhead pilgrimage is a little too far to take a chance of being blown out, grab a 6 weight two hander or 10' 6/7 weight single hander and test my theory. I am sure there is a river near you that fits the description. You might save some time, gas money, and get to fish alone. Who knows, you might even get Alice to tag along.



Anglers often hear about how ten percent of the fisherman catch ninety percent of the fish, and maybe this is not completely true, but there are things that you can do before hitting the water that will increase your catch. Guides are often blamed for showing anglers how to catch more fish, increasing pressure, and “taking” fish away from other anglers, but it is not the guides’ fault that they catch more fish. The difference between guides, those ten percent anglers, and the rest of those on the water often comes down to preparation. Success begins well before the boat gets wet, and those that learn to take care of gear, do needed maintenance, and prep for the day of fishing often catch more fish.

A few years ago, we were up in Nootka Sound fishing for chinook and early arriving

coho. After fighting a fish to the boat, the toothy king had chewed up the leader to the point that the hooks broke off just as it was scooped into the net. A quick bonk on the head and a few photos along with taking care of the fish in the box, and it was time to get back to fishing. Instead of dropping the gear right back down to the school of salmon, we had to take a few minutes and re-tie the rigging. The few moments it took to do this caused us to lose the bait ball and the salmon feeding on it. That little mistake cost us an hour of fishing before we hooked up with another chinook and, once again, that fish tore up the leader and we were right back to needing to re-tie. If you have ever tried to snell a hook out in the open ocean you know how hard this can be, and it can cause you to start getting seasick.

Pre-tying leaders is necessary. Not only does it save time when you break off, but it can also help with switching presentations. It is not enough to just snell a bunch of hooks on leaders and call it good. Instead, tie up different set-ups so you can switch out easily. When winter steelhead fishing, one of the most popular lures is the pink rubber worm. Sometimes it is the rubber worm with a chartreuse tip tail, or a red and black worm, and other times it is the 4-inch worm or the 6-inch worm. Regardless, if you just tie up leaders and still need to thread the worm on then you are wasting time. Instead, use a Macks Pips Box and Leader Caddy, where you can pre-tie several different rigs and have them ready to go. Same when bead fishing, where you might need to change out to different size

or color of beads.

Check the hooks. Sticky, sharp hooks are a must, no matter what species you are pursuing, but how often do you check the hooks or re-sharpen them? Keep a hook file handy, as in one in the boat tray, one in the tackle box, and one in your pocket. The idea is to keep them ready and make a few strokes on the hook each time you check the bait or switch out the lure. At the end of the day, re-sharpen the hooks so they are ready to go the next time you go fishing.

Wash your gear. The boat and trailer need good washing at the end of the day, but so does all the gear, including rods, reels, and lures. If you fish saltwater,

then the benefits of washing everything metal is obvious, but even if you fish freshwater you should clean your gear. Using scents and baits, and even just sweating on the rod handle can lead to unwanted odors and cost you fish. Once, after a trip out shrimping, we came home and washed the exterior of the boat lightly rinsed the interior. A few weeks later, our garage reeked badly. Turns out we missed one shrimp that had fallen out of the pot and slid under the back decking. It took a few hours of re-washing the boat deck to get the stink out. If we had done a thorough cleaning of the boat the first time, we would have found that wayward prawn and avoided a stinky mess.

Rod and reel maintenance are often not done correctly or at all. Rods need to be inspected for broken or cracked guides, loose handles, and cracks in the blanks. If you have broken a rod, it might have been avoided by doing a simple inspection before the day of fishing. Reels have gears, bearings, and springs. Take them apart and learn how to grease and lubricate them, as well as clean the inside of the reels. Drag washers often need to be replaced as well, and once that is all done, then strip off all the line and re-spool. This type of maintenance can often be done once a year unless you fish in the saltwater a lot. If you do, then be sure to maintain the reel before

# Ross Outdoor Adventures

Central Washington's Premier Guide Service

BOOK ONLINE

[rossoutdooradventures.com](http://rossoutdooradventures.com)



and at least once during the season, and then again once after the season is over. A deep cleaning followed by removing all the grease and reapplying is all that's needed. Braided line can often be used for a few years, and one trick is to reverse the line or just strip off the top few hundred yards, use a surgeon's knot, and respool the amount of line you removed. When fishing braid, I often use a "top shot" of fifty feet or so of monofilament, and this gets replaced after each trip when using downriggers, as the clips can cause small nicks or crimps in the monofilament, which can cost you a fish if not checked or replaced.

Prepare the bait the day before. Most bait can be cured, brined, and rigged the day before the trip. Cured salmon eggs are often done months prior and then frozen, so be sure to take them out of the freezer and allow them to thaw slowly as a quick thawing can cause them to become mushy. One tip to thawing salmon roe is to add borax to the container or plastic bag they are frozen in, as this will soak up any moisture that is released during the thawing process and keep the eggs firm. Anglers who use herring or anchovies can make up the brine solution the day before and add the frozen baitfish, then place it into the refrigerator to allow the baits to thaw slowly and

absorb the salted brine. This keeps them firm and allows the chemicals in the brine to slowly soak, which will keep any chemical burns from occurring and toughen the baits. Brined herring can be used for multiple days if kept in the cold brine. If you plan to use a herring strip and wrapping plugs, do this the day before and keep them in the refrigerator by hanging them in a bait cooler. Having a day's worth of plugs pre-wrapped will save a lot of time on the water, and the more time the plugs are fishing, the more chances you will have of catching fish.

Trailer maintenance is more than just washing it and calling it good. The lights should be checked every time you go fishing, as well as before you put the boat away. A brake light out might not seem important, but it could lead to a collision with another driver who does not know you are braking. More than once, we were on our way to the river in the early morning hours, cruising down the highway, and we came upon a boat and trailer being hauled by an unsuspecting angler with the trailer light not hooked up or burnt out. The problem was the boat blocked the truck's rear lights and we almost ran right into the back of the truck. You cannot catch fish if you do not make it to the lake.



**HOME OF THE  
WEDDING RING®  
& SMILE BLADE®**



**Fishing's best  
kept secret**

**Shop online at  
[www.mackslure.com](http://www.mackslure.com)**



Batteries are one of the least thought of items boat owners and anglers think about. Marine batteries last a long time, but they do require maintenance. The best way to keep a battery in full charge and ready condition is to use a battery tender or on-board charging system that you plug in when you are back at home. This will charge the battery and then keep it topped off during the off season. Be sure to check all the cables at the beginning of each fishing season and especially after a trip where you encounter rough water. Bouncing along and hitting waves causes loose connections, and you do not want to find out the motor will not start, or the downrigger will not retrieve, because the connection was loose or came undone. While you are checking the battery, be sure to look at the fuse box. Not only making sure they are all in good order and the wires are secure, but also what fuses you need to have on board for spares. Some are different AMPs, so it is best to have a handful of spares along.

Motor maintenance is more than just changing the oil. Be

sure to open the cowling and look at all the connections. They should be tight and covered in marine grease. Same with any bolts, nuts, and electrical connections—they all need to have a special electrical grease on them. Fuel systems are an integral part of motor maintenance, including the fuel-water separator and fuel treatments. With each tank re-fill, it is a good idea to add a fuel additive made for your motor. Be sure to check what the manufacturer recommends, and at the end of the season, a fuel additive and preservative is necessary. Even then, it is best to run the boat motor every few weeks or months until it is fishing season again, or have your motor properly winterized.

When you see a guide or one of those “fishy” anglers out on the water, realize that their success often comes down to preparation. If you have ever fished with a guide, you will notice good guides have good gear and are ready for anything that comes up. A nicked leader is quickly switched out with one ready to go, motors fire up right away, and baits are prepared before you step foot on the boat. It is the trivial things that make the difference, and that is why those that prepare for the season ahead are successful. The old saying, “failing to prepare is preparing to fail” holds true when it comes to fishing success.





# 10 WESTERN WASHINGTON

## OPENING DAY FAVORITES



by **Hannah Pennebaker**  
@hannahNWF  
on Facebook & Instagram



Is it that time of year already? That's right, go dust off the trout rods and dig out those jars of dough bait! The 4th Saturday in April traditionally marks the opening day of many lowland lakes in Washington State. Many anglers anxiously look forward to it and count the days down on their calendar. WDFW stocks hundreds of lakes with thousands of catchable size rainbow trout in preparation for this event. Freshly stocked trout are often willing biters and scrappy fighters, perfect for kids or those new to fishing. Here's a list of my favorite lakes to hit on opening day in Western Washington. See if your favorite is on the list, or maybe plan to try a new one this year!

### **CLEAR LAKE**

Clear Lake will always have a special place in my heart; it's where I learned how to troll for rainbow trout. I have many fond memories of warm spring days spent cruising around the lake, kicking back and watching the rods go off. Only about 15 minutes away from the city of Puyallup, this lake has an outstanding view of Mt. Rainier on a nice day, and it truly is a crystal-clear lake. 99% of it is private property, so bank anglers will probably do better at Tanwax Lake, just down the road. There is a pay to fish dock there and plenty of shore access at the boat launch on the south end of the lake. A word of warning, it's best to fish Clear Lake early in the morning. By

about noon, especially on a nice day, the lake can become a washing machine for pleasure boaters and jet-skiers. You can either troll or still fish on this lake. Green dough bait is always killer! The key is to troll slowly and keep an eye on your fish finder. This lake is surprisingly deep, but shallows up quickly, so be prepared to pull up your gear if needed.

### **HARTS LAKE**

Harts Lake is unique simply for its wide variety of fish species. Come here for the rainbow trout, and stay for the channel catfish, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, crappie, and bluegill. It is small and shallow: perfect for small boaters and kayakers. The rainbows seem to hug the boat launch during the early season, but spread out as time goes on. Try targeting the edges of the lily pads that surround the lake. There is a little tackle shop on the lake where you can buy worms or a cold drink. The owner is very nice and loves showing off the photos of customers with 15 pound channel catfish caught off his dock! You can pay to fish off his dock or try your luck off to the side of the boat launch for free.

### **AMERICAN LAKE**

Located next to JBLM, this lake is renowned around the state for its plentiful jumbo size rainbow trout. There's also a chance you may hook into a kokanee;


**COME DO IDAHO  
THE RIGHT WAY!**



**SCAN TO  
BOOK YOUR  
ADVENTURE  
TODAY!**


**KILLGORE  
ADVENTURES**

**13309 HWY 95 White Bird, ID 83554  
208.839.2255 • KillgoreAdventures.com**




**TROUT, KOKANEE + WALLEYE**


# ULTIMATE TROLLING RODS

**MADE IN USA** **HS7102 – 7'10" 8-17 lb., 1/4-5/8 oz.**


This HS rod is designed as a bottom bouncer rod for 1/2 oz. up to 3 oz. bottom walkers. The top 2/3 of the rod is light action to indicate bottom structure and detect those extremely light bites. This is also a fantastic rod for fishing sockeye off a down rigger or UL finesse fishing for chinook using suspended bait.

**MADE IN USA** **K862 – 8'6" 4-10 lb., 1/8-3/16 oz.**


This two-pieced, carbon fiber rod is designed to be fished off a downrigger or flatlined for Kokanee & Trout. 8 1/2' long allows it to create the perfect bend for a downrigger rod for fishing Kokanee & Trout. This is the ultimate trolling rod for Kokanee & Trout.




**AVAILABLE ONLY AT [HARRODOUTDOORS.COM](http://HARRODOUTDOORS.COM)**



**THE NORTHWEST  
OUTDOORSMEN**



**SHOP ONLINE**



the lake is planted with thousands of them every year. There is a good amount of shore access around the lake in the form of boat launches and parks, but check to see if they are military only first. You don't want to be turned away at a military checkpoint like we were the first time we tried to fish there! The lake is large, so there is plenty of room to spread out and get away from other boaters. Finding the fish can be a little tricky, so don't be afraid to pull up your gear and motor over to try new spots.

## **RAPJOHN LAKE**

Don't be fooled by the tiny size of this lake, it's a great producer of rainbow trout throughout the season! The boat launch is pretty barebones, so don't expect to launch more than a small boat or kayak here. This is one of our favorite lakes to take our inflatable boat out on when we don't feel like gassing up the Smokercraft. Dough bait and eggs work very well on this lake, as do worms under a bobber. This is a very kid-friendly place to fish since the vast majority of fishermen use small aluminum boats powered by electric trolling motors or oars. There is a decent amount of shore access at the boat launch and kids can do very well casting out a chunk of green or orange dough bait.

## **MINERAL LAKE**

Any list of the best trout lakes in Washington State would be incomplete without Mineral Lake. This lake boasts not only trophy rainbow trout, but brown trout as well. It is unique among Western Washington lakes in that it is stocked with thousands of fry every year, which grow to impressive sizes thanks to the rich forage available. WDFW also supplements the fry with catchable size rainbows and browns before opening day. There is a boat launch, tackle shop, resort, and a pay to fish dock off the side of the lake. The dock can get crowded with swimmers during peak season, so it's best to get there early. It's no secret how good the fishing at this lake can be, so expect to have company at the boat launch on opening day.

## **RIFFE LAKE**

Riffe Lake might be more well-known for its land-locked coho salmon, but a few years ago thousands of triploid rainbow trout were planted there. These trout are reaching the 14 to 20-inch range, and they put up plenty of fight! The coho salmon are perfectly willing to bite rainbow trout gear, so expect to come home with some of those too. Trolling is the name of the game here. Try trolling faster in the morning, when the fish are more active, and slower in the afternoon. Small spinners such as Mack's Wedding Rings take a lot of fish here. You can pull them behind lake trolls or small dodgers. There is some shore access near Mossyrock Dam and at Taidnapam Park. Most shore anglers fish pieces of shrimp or worms under a bobber. Be cautious when fishing Riffe, the lake is deep and wide, and afternoon winds can kick up to dangerous levels.

## **BLACK LAKE**

Black Lake is located near Olympia, and, like Harts Lake, boasts a wide variety of fish species. There is public shore access at the boat launch and park. The lake is long but shallow, so trolling can be difficult. Long lining in the early season can be very productive. This is one of my favorite lakes to cast out small spinners and spoons. The fish will gladly gobble up worms, corn, or dough baits as well. If you don't have any luck with rainbow trout, you can always try targeting the vast amounts of crappie and bluegill in this lake.

## **SWIFT RESERVOIR**

Though it's more off the beaten path than the other lakes, Swift Reservoir shouldn't be overlooked. If you do make the drive, you'll be rewarded with unbeatable views of the surrounding mountains and forests. This is a peaceful, beautiful lake, and the fishing can be just as amazing. I highly recommend trolling on this large, deep reservoir. Wedding Rings pulled behind lake trolls are deadly effective. Don't be afraid to tip your spinner with a piece of corn, worm, or shrimp. Try trolling near

the dams to start out with. Launching can be difficult/impossible if the water level is drawn down too low, so make sure to call and check the water level before heading out (the phone number is listed on WDFW's Swift Reservoir webpage).

## LAKE MERIDIAN

Unlike Swift Reservoir, Lake Meridian is an urban lake, surrounded by houses. It can get crowded on a nice day! But this lake has good populations of rainbow trout and kokanee, and shouldn't be overlooked. Most fishermen will anchor up and throw out their offering on a bottom rig with a sliding weight. There is a fishing pier and shore access at the boat launch. Every year, fishermen get some nice holdovers from the year before. Try fishing a bit deeper and increase the size of your offerings to target these larger fish.

## LAKE SAMMAMISH

Though this lake is open year-round, April is a great month to fish it. This is Western Washington's premier cutthroat trout lake! Small plugs stuffed with tuna, spinners, and spoons all work well here. Troll faster than you would for rainbow trout, and remember to target structure, such as points or coves. Switch up your techniques and tackle until you find out what the fish want that day. Cutthroat trout are highly predatory, but can be surprisingly fickle. Have fun catching these fish, they are incredibly athletic and often jump when you're reeling them in!

No matter where you decide to fish, make sure to follow all the proper safety rules, and don't forget to renew your fishing license. Check out our YouTube channel, Northwest Fishing, for videos on many of these and other opening day rainbow trout lakes. We hope to see you out there!

# NOW BOOKING SPRING SALMON

REEL TIME FISHING  
IDAHO, OREGON  
& WASHINGTON  
FISHING OUTFITTER



ENTER TO WIN A FISHING TRIP  
SEE DETAILS HERE! SCAN TO WIN  
A FISHING TRIP FOR 2!



REELTIMEFISHING.COM

Celebrating Our 18th Year  
Updated website with new products



The very finest attracting dodgers and matching lures for

**KOKANEE — TROUT  
LANDLOCKED SALMON**



Ultralight tackle for your success includes 3 styles of attracting dodgers  
Matching lures: **NEW** Kokanee Krill, Beaded Spinners, Super Squids, Spin Bugs  
Only the finest fluorescent ("UV") materials used. Tandem Gamakatsu hooks.

**FISH WITH GARY TACKLE CO.**

La Pine, Oregon

**www.fishwithgary.com 541.536.1002**

**Home of Kokanee University**



# HOW TO SURVIVE OPENING DAY

▶ WATCH  
NOW



BY RANDY CASTELLO

April is unofficially the start of spring and often linked to mythical tales of rebirth, resurrection, and fertility. Throughout history, spring has been celebrated via a diverse lineup of traditions. It is a time of rebirth that can be tracked back for centuries. Where many of the ancient festivals can be directly linked to some sort of bloodshed and brutality, fortunately for the Western Washington angler, we see April as opening day of lowland lakes season.

Where hopefully our participation does not result in bloodshed, opening day can either be a bodacious good time or a stressful one. As a small child I remember anticipating opening day for months, any given year it was probably the highlight of the year for me. My opening day experiences have always been memorable. To this day, fishing or not, I eagerly await opening day each

year. In a sense, opening day marks my renaissance each year. Unfortunately, not everybody feels the same way, and opening day can be an overwhelming source of frustration.

So, how does one survive opening day crowds?

Opening day frustrations come in many forms and we all have different tolerances for things that are generally out of our control. Your mindset should be that most things associated with opening day will be out of your control. The list is long, but some things to think about are tackle/gear availability, where to go, gear failure, and crowds.

Planning and preparation will go a long way in smoothing over any pre-opening day jitters. Don't go to your local tackle shop on the Friday before opening day and expect to find your favorite lure, a kiddie setup, a jar of Ball-O-Fire eggs, or

buy your license. Even well stocked tackle stops can run low in the days leading up to opening day. Shop early and remember that in our post pandemic world, the tackle shops are dealing with supply chain issues.

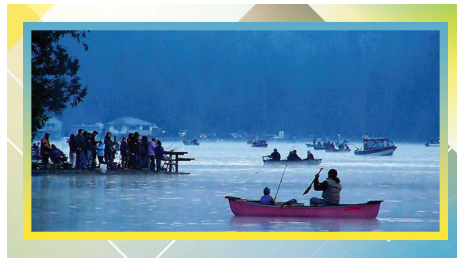
If they don't have something it's likely not their fault, and they are doing everything they can to anticipate your needs. Locally, Kevin Johns with Holiday Sports is a both the tackle buyer and lifelong local fishing expert. They are well stocked for opening day. If they don't have what you're looking for, look up Kevin and he will steer you in the right direction. SportCo/Outdoor Emporium, Johns Sporting Goods, Yeager's, and even some local hardware stores have a fishing expert. As a hidden gem, the fishing department manager at Ace Hardware in Anacortes knows her stuff and is very devout in her pursuit of our local fisheries.

Before opening day take the time to go through your gear and, if you're using them, your boat and trailer. Did the battery survive the winter, trailer lights work, and are your winch and/or tiedown straps functional? Check the line on your reels, replace as required. Check your rods for damage and cracked guides. How does your tackle bag or box look, are they adequately stocked? Make sure you have serviceable PFDs for everyone that may be on your boat, and it's a good idea to have life vests for any children and non-swimmers when fishing from shore.

As part of your planning activities, maybe visit the area you plan to fish ahead of time. Check ramp conditions, look at the boat trailer parking options, shoreline access points, and hazards. Make sure there are not any surprise road or access closures. Over the winter, some of our access points may have been updated, and parking or access could be different.

Hopefully your upfront planning and preparation will help to soothe and your opening day anxiety, but you're not out of the woods just yet. You still have to survive opening day!

I kind of look at opening day as maybe attending Mardi Gras in New Orleans. All the individual components and food may be a little odd or even uncomfortable, but the



combined experience is an absolute hoot. A big thing to remember about opening day is that it is typically a family event. Strive to make it a positive experience for everyone involved.

Children are very perceptive and are constantly learning from our behavior. If they get tangled with your prize stocked rainbow or one of the grandkids hooks your favorite fishing hat when casting just laugh it off. In the event of a tangle or other calamity, no matter who is at fault don't be afraid to say that you are sorry to your fellow angler. Use the time to teach good sportsmanship and etiquette.

You will have no control of the crowds and know that going in. That said, you can do a few things going in to improve the experience. First and foremost is to arrive early. Not just early but hours early. Your favorite spot at the corner of the dock or bulrushes is more likely to be available, and if you're boating, you may find trailer parking within a reasonable distance to the ramp. On that note; if fishing from the shore, don't impede the boat ramp access. Boaters need room to maneuver their rig, a place to beach their boat, and a line free path to and

from the boat ramp while on the water.

As an alternative, if early doesn't work, sleep in. Get up, have a cup of joe or three, and maybe even breakfast before heading off the lake. There is a thought here; opening day is all about voracious, planted trout. These fish will have the feed bag on all day. Years ago, I hatched an opening day plan to fish Lake McMurry in Skagit County. We had a guest from Alaska, she was an avid angler but had never fished an opening day.

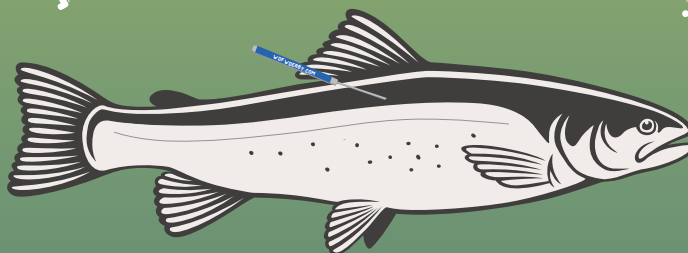
The plan was for me to launch at o-dark thirty, then wait for them to arrive around daybreak. In accordance with the plan, I launched hours before daylight and was the second rig in the parking area. After launching I motored out, dropped the anchor, and waited for the crew. It was cold, raining and breezy, and in short order I was soaked the bone. With dawn came a renewed hope that I wasn't going to die of hypothermia just off the Lake McMurry boat ramp, but my wait continued. There was a lot of activity, and I enjoyed watching all the happenings. My waterlogged condition was improving and almost bearable.

It was a little later, the rain had turned to mostly a mist and the sun was trying to show itself. I was eager to join the other opening day participants but somehow,



# GO FISHING & WIN PRIZES!

FISH FOR TAGGED



## RAINBOW TROUT

LOOK FOR THE BLUE TAG!

APRIL 22 → OCTOBER 31



**100+** STOCKED  
LAKES STATEWIDE



**HUNDREDS OF PRIZES**  
TOTALING OVER \$39,000



**MORE THAN 70**  
PARTICIPATING  
BUSINESSES

**ANYONE WITH A VALID 2023 WA FISHING LICENSE IS ELIGIBLE.  
KIDS 14 AND UNDER ARE FREE!**



**#WATROUTDERBY**

VISIT **WDFWDERBY.COM** FOR MORE INFORMATION



I was still waiting. A few of the boats that had already launched and headed out fishing were now coming back in with easy limits. I was getting a bit anxious and at that point I had full on gold (I mean, fish) fever.

Eventually the gang showed up, they had overslept and ended up parking somewhere way down the road. I considered expressing my displeasure with the situation, but here came one of the kids, little legs going as fast as they could, carrying a McDonald's bag. She was over the top excited that they had stopped and gotten me breakfast and coffee. Although they were both cold, her enthusiasm was infectious and the wait was forgotten. We got loaded up and cast off on our adventure. We had an absolute blast, lots of joking around, lost fish, and full stringers. We started out just doing catch and release, and then quickly filled out our limits. I don't know how many fish we caught that day, but it was one for the books. As applicable to opening day survival, there were a few lessons learned moments in our adventure.

Although a bit frustrated with the wait, I stayed positive and we had a great time. The kids and our guest thoroughly enjoyed our adventure and never saw my tribulations. The second lesson was in the opening day bite. Even though

people were coming in with early limits, I think the bite improved as the day progressed. I believe that with the unsettled weather, the surface temperatures were lower early on. The bite really got going as the lake warmed up. I'm sure if we had waited until 1:00 or so to launch, we still would



have limited and not had to worry about parking. Maybe off subject, but regarding lessons learned, always carry a big thermos of hot tea or coffee!

If you just can't get into the opening day hocus pocus no worries, you still have options. Remember that almost everyone that owns a fishing rod will be fishing an opening day lake. What that means to you is that, for the most part, our other fisheries will be deserted. The year-round lakes will be just hitting their spring stride. We have enjoyed kokanee limits from Lake Stevens, Lake Cavanaugh, and Lake Samish on opening day.

There are other fisheries to explore as well. You'll want to check the WDFW regs before you hitch up your rig, but for 2023 it is likely that both halibut (MA 6-10) and spring

chinook in SE Washington will be open. Both have their own crowds and challenges but are solid alternatives to our Western Washington Lowland Lake opener. You may also consider shallow water fishing in the salt. Both surf perch and bottom fish such as the Irish lord family, sanddabs, sole, flounder, and greenling are all available year round. Check the WDFW regulations and bottom fish definitions for the area you plan to fish.

Your ability to survive opening day may be a crapshoot, but with a little advanced planning your adventure should be mostly painless with bloodshed limited to a skinned knee, sliver, or the rare hook in the finger. Again, opening day is a huge family event, so patience and understanding will be your friend. At all costs, make opening day fun for all and be a teacher.

Assure your gear, boat, and trailer are up for the task before you head to your favorite lake. Get your tackle and licenses as early as possible. Make sure the kidlets are wearing properly fitting lifejackets and, as appropriate, bundled up for the weather. Opening day is not the time to cut back on snacks, a full tummy is a happy tummy. A little attention to details and you will not only survive opening day, but the gang will eagerly look forward to next year's festivities.

# A BOUNTY ON

## WATER WOLVES

BY JOHN KRUSE



WATCH  
NOW

From the late 1800's until the middle of the 20th century, there was a bounty on wolves in the Midwest and Western United States. Both individual and government hunters used any means necessary to kill these animals, deemed a dangerous nuisance to livestock. By the time this program ended, wolves were essentially exterminated from the lower 48 states. It wasn't until 1995, when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, that their numbers began to come back, and today, we are seeing healthy populations of these animals in several states.

The relationship between humans and northern pike is a bit more complicated. These torpedo shaped fish are green in color with white spots and a white belly. They can grow to over 50 inches long and weigh over 45 pounds, though an average sized pike measures between 16 and 22 inches in length. Pike are ambush predators and feed on other fish as well as frogs and even ducklings, waiting in weeds or behind

rocks and logs, and then lunging forward to attack their prey. With a mouthful of long, sharp teeth, they have garnered themselves the nickname, "water wolves".

Unlike the land-based wolf, there was no historical dislike for these fish, which are found in the northern tier of the United States as well as in Canada and Alaska. They are a sought-after catch because of their size and good fighting ability. They also taste good, though a y-bone in their body makes them more difficult to clean and fillet than walleye or trout. In the winter, anglers will target these fish through the ice, while in the spring they are often caught in places like Lake Coeur d' Alene, fishing bait under a slip bobber. They can also be caught from spring through fall throughout their native range, using large spoons. Red and white Dardevle spoons and yellow spoons with red diamonds on them (known as a Five of Diamonds) are traditional offerings.

In Washington State, northern pike are found in Long Lake, the Pend Oreille River, and Lake Roosevelt, having migrated there from Lake Coeur d' Alene in Idaho and Montana's Clark Fork River. The fish are not welcome in the Evergreen State. Both the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the Colville Tribes are extremely concerned about their impact to native populations in these waterways such as redband trout, sturgeon, burbot, and kokanee salmon. Fisheries managers also want to ensure northern pike do not get into the mainstem Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam, where they could wreak havoc with native salmon and steelhead populations.

Since 2015, the Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have been working hard to eradicate pike from these waterways. They have had good success in reducing a burgeoning population of these fish in

the Pend Oreille River, and since 2015 have removed over 19,100 fish from Lake Roosevelt. The primary method the Colville Tribes use to catch these pike is with gill nets, but they have found this method alone is not enough.

That's why a bounty program has been introduced at Lake Roosevelt for recreational anglers. Anglers who catch northern pike (of any size) can turn in the head of the fish at designated drop off sites around Lake Roosevelt and be paid \$10 for each fish head turned in.

Anglers can drop off their pike heads at Noisy Waters Gas Station, Kettle Falls boat launch, Hunters boat launch, Fort Spokane boat launch,

or at the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

In 2022, anglers turned in 125 heads and were paid \$1,250.

In an effort to increase the number of fish caught by recreational anglers for this program, the Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department has published a map showing pike hot spots around the lake. Some of these hotspots are found at the mouth of the Kettle River, near Evans, on the eastern end of the lake near Noisy Waters, and at the mouth of the Colville River, south of Kettle Falls. Additional places worth fishing can be found south of Gifford and on either side of the reservoir near Hunters.

## • NORTHERN PIKE BOUNTY PROGRAM RULES •

YOU MUST BE 17 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

ANGLERS MUST COMPLETELY FILL OUT THE TAG INFORMATION AT THE DESIGNATED DROP OFF AREA. FISH HEADS MUST BE PLACED IN A FREEZER BAG WITH THE LABEL AND DROPPED INTO THE FREEZER OR BROUGHT TO THE INCHELIUM FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE.

FISH HEADS MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE. UNIDENTIFIABLE HEADS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR AWARDED.

FISH MUST BE CAUGHT IN THE MAIN STEM COLUMBIA RIVER FROM WELLS DAM UPSTREAM TO THE CANADIAN BORDER, THE SPOKANE RIVER UPSTREAM TO LITTLE FALLS, THE KETTLE RIVER, OR THE OKANOGAN RIVER.

THERE ARE NO SIZE RESTRICTIONS ON NORTHERN PIKE.

ANGLERS MUST ADHERE TO ALL APPLICABLE STATE/TRIBAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE AREA IN WHICH YOU FISH. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STATE OR TRIBAL AGENCY FOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND CURRENT FISHING REGULATIONS.

PLEASE ALLOW 2 TO 3 WEEKS TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD.

## YOUR PREMIERE PNW FISHING GUIDE SERVICE

*Austin's Northwest Adventures*

**Now Booking:**

Walleye, Sockeye, Summer Chinook

**Call 509-669-3557 to book!**

[www.austinsnorthwestadventures.com](http://www.austinsnorthwestadventures.com)

Austin Moser, Professional Guide and Instructor

**Great for  
families and  
corporate trips!**



# NEAH BAY KAYAK FISHING

BY JOSH DEBRULER

With cracked and battered hands, I paddled east with 25 knots at my bow and an incoming tide on my stern. Colliding forces of Mother Nature churned heavy swells into a roller coaster of seawater, tossing me about as I struggled to stay on track. A behemoth of a fish, a monster, 50, maybe 60 lbs, haunted me from the day before, yet kept me moving eastward, into the fray.

This is just one of the many tense experiences that characterize a spring kayak fishing trip at the continental United State's most northwestern point—Neah Bay. Neah Bay has become somewhat of a kayak-fishing Mecca for me. Each year I make the almost 4 hour drive to its rugged and draw dropping coastlines. Heading up the east side of the Peninsula, the drive

treats travelers to a myriad of jagged points and bluffs that meander past ancient saltwater beaten sea stacks before colliding with the belly of the North Pacific. The coastal terrain then wraps around Washington's most Northwestern point, Cape Flattery, which is a marine anomaly in its own right, and then heads down to the sandy beaches of Makkah Bay, ending just south of Cape Alava.

Though fishing might be the main attraction for readers, it's worth noting that this area holds an endless amount of wealth in its natural beauty and also in its cultural and historical prominence. The Makkah Museum is open to the public and is a great place for visitors to learn about Neah Bay's native community and their long connection

to the land and sea, that of which is estimated to be around 3,800 years old. Case in point, the Makah tribe, for at least the past 1,500 years, have paddled hand carved cedar canoes out to often treacherous seas, where paddlers would track and hunt humpback and grey whales with harpoons attached to sealskin floats. They are the only tribe in the U.S to have whaling rights secured by way of treaty, though this right was later repudiated by the U.S government after commercial whaling by both European and Americans had all but extirpated both grey and humpback whale populations.

From here visitors can explore the many outdoor attractions Neah Bay has to offer.



Whether it's a backpacking trip down to Shi Shi Beach to camp and fish for surf perch, or a day trip to the Point of the Arches, there's a number of things you can do to diversify your fishing trip before getting into filling your cooler.

Any trip to Neah Bay with a kayak should be well thought-out and planned, this is especially true during the spring when inconsistent and stormy weather frequently results in the waters around Neah Bay being under small craft warning. Always plan your trip around NOAA marine weather forecasting and make use of apps that predict swell size, wind speeds and wind directions. Optimal conditions would be flat and windless, and if we waited for those conditions, we would never fish. So, sticking with days where winds are sub 15 mph, swell size is moderate, and wind waves are predicted to be no more than a couple feet, will all help keep you on the right side of the water.

Staying on the right side of the water

is always the goal, but as probability has it, there will be some point in any kayak angler's life where he or she will get dumped into the salt. This is especially true if you're launching or landing in surf zones. If you are prepared for it, which you 100 % need to be, then an experience like this will only serve as a minor inconvenience as opposed to something life threatening.

First order of your operations will be gearing up to stay warm. I suit up into a 5.4 mm wetsuit, equipped with a hood and 5 mm booties. Essentially, I dress the same exact way I would if I was to surf anywhere on Washington's chilly coast (with the exception of a PDF). Many anglers prefer a wetsuit as they are not bulky, they make movement easy, and they perform consistently each time. Another option is to use a dry suit. Dry suits are a breeze to put on when compared to a wetsuit, they slip on over your insulating layers, provide you the security of knowing that if you were to go in; you won't experience a layer of cold water rushing over your skin

like a wetsuit allows, and you can slip out them without a struggle as soon as you are done fishing. The downside of a dry suite is that in the event of dunk— a tear or a leak in the suite would allow water to flow inside and render it completely useless, thus making hypothermia less of a possibility and more of an inevitability.

If you do get dunked, you need to know how to get back into your boat. This is something that requires practice and should be done in calm and shallow waters, perhaps somewhere close to home. Neah Bay is not the place you want to have a "learning experience" when it comes to falling into the water. Know how to right your boat if capsized and know how to climb back in.

Finally, secure all your gear like you were planning to flip the boat. Lanyards and bungee cords are your friends. Keep hatches closed and secured and you should be set to catch some fish.

Spring kayak fishing in Neah Bay is red hot when it comes to Lingcod, rockfish, and Cabezon. They can be caught in relatively shallow waters where kayak fishing is more feasible, and in general, these amazing predator fish are typically going to bite down on whatever you're willing to throw at them. My best luck comes from jigging 2 oz jig heads with a white single or double tailed grub.

The best bait for catching a trophy lingcod might be lingcod itself. The experience mentioned at the intro to this article foreshadowed what has become the most intense battle with a fish I've ever been part of, and that experience happened to occur because of the lingcods love for the predation of its own kin.

It was late morning and I had been fishing for a couple hours with various species already onboard. Snagging on kelp is a frustratingly common occurrence when fishing the straights of Juan de Fuca side of Neah Bay, and after losing my gear several times to snags, I was ready to throw in the towel.

Just at that moment, my line was once again wrapped up on some vegetation deep below the surface. After a few attempts to free my hook from what would surely become its forever home, I felt a tug at the line. Oscillating between thoughts of a monster fish or a monster let down, I decided to swing towards optimism and fought this potential snag like it was more than just another disappointment. I reeled in and raised the rod tip, letting it back down as the fish either slowly took line out or the current was simply just pushing me away from the point where my hook was snagged. Again, there was another strong tug at the line. This was a fish. Perhaps

a fish caught-up around some kelp, but a fish for sure. After fighting for what felt like an eternity, and as the minutes passed by, and my arms became more tired, I finally felt progress as my reel started collecting more line.

Finally, through the darkness of the water, I made out the shape of not one, but two fish. A good size lingcod, maybe 30 inches long had its mouth tightly secured around my hook, and even more tightly secured around him—was something that I thought only exists in nightmares. A lingcod that looked to be about the length of my kayak was lock-jawed around this smaller fish, and they were getting closer to the boat.

Fearful of what would happen if I tried to land this razor toothed behemoth in a kayak, I panicked a bit. Yet, in a split-second decision, I grabbed my net and tried for a swoop. As I reluctantly scooped toward the fish that would in no-way ever fit into my net, let alone my boat, the giant ling let go of the smaller fish, and in true nightmarish fashion, breached out of the water with its mouth wide open and razor-sharp teeth exposed. Only inches from its giant head, I watched as the open mouth of the fish passed by my face and then landed back into the water, into the depths of Neah Bay; where I was oh so happy to see it disappear.

A vertical promotional graphic for Northwest Fishing TV. At the top is the logo, which features a stylized white fish jumping into a blue circle with the text "NORTHWEST FISHING TV" to its right. Below the logo, the text "CATCH THE LATEST FRESH LISTINGS!" is written in bold white letters. A grid of television station logos follows: ROOT SPORTS, PORTLAND'S THE CW, and SWX in a gold sphere. Below these are FOX 13+, KTVB 7, FOX 41, FOX 34, FOX 28, and FOX 26. At the bottom left is a FOX 13 logo. The right side of the graphic features a photograph of two men in fishing gear. One man, wearing a white cap and glasses, is holding up a large silver fish. The other man, wearing a grey jacket and a white cap, is holding up a large red fish. At the bottom, the text "CATCH US ONLINE NWFISHING.NET" is displayed in white. Below this text are three social media icons: Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**NORTHWEST FISHING TV**

**CATCH THE LATEST FRESH LISTINGS!**

**ROOT SPORTS** **PORTLAND'S THE CW** **SWX**

**FOX 13+** **KTVB 7**

**FOX 41** **FOX 34**

**FOX 28** **FOX 26**

**FOX 13**

**CATCH US ONLINE NWFISHING.NET**

**f** **Instagram** **YouTube**

# THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF FISHING A NEW STATE

WATCH  
NOW



By Mike Carey

# MONTANA



The rainbow on the other end of my line was giving a good accounting of himself. After a solid take, the winter rainbow awoke with several strong jumps, clearing the water with an impressive aerial display, before settling down to a solid tug of war with my 7 weight rod. I slowly worked the fish into the shallows, carefully backstepping on the gravel bottom of the Missouri River. As the fish grew weary, I slipped him into my net and gently slid out the #16 streamer that fooled him. Resting the tired fish, with a strong splash he gave a signal that he was ready to return to his home. I eased the glistening rainbow out of my net and watched satisfied as he darted back to the depths.

It was the middle of January, and my former home state of Washington was trapped in a cycle of wet, icy roads causing a general standstill from accidents throughout the Puget Sound area. Meanwhile, in Montana we

experiencing our first "Chinook Winds", a warming trend I was told was a common occurrence in the Great Falls area. With temps hitting the upper forties I decided it was high time to explore the winter trout fishery that I had heard and read about on the Missouri River. In Great Falls the river was frozen from an earlier cold snap, but traveling 50 miles to the angling community of Craig revealed a free-flowing river devoid of the summer line up of drift boats plying the waters.

Reaching the Bull Pasture access, I shared a beautiful drift with one other angler. He graciously gave me some tips and an extra leader (I had forgotten mine!). Saying "I'll see you on the water", I followed at a respectful distance, giving him first water.

Moving to a new home is not easy. Moving to a new home in another state multiplies the challenges and frustrations. For my wife and I it had been a year of packing belongings, cleaning, getting quotes for

house repairs, and slowly but surely learning our new hometown, Great Falls. Somewhere in that mix of seemingly never ending tasks I vowed to myself that I would get some fishing and exploring in. Over previous visits my son Matt and I had fished different locations and so I knew a few places to go, but I also wanted to learn new spots and explore fresh places.

Montana has a wealth of angling options, but they are very different from Washington. Lakes are fewer and farther between. Trophy trout rivers are seemingly around every bend. Reservoirs offer big bodies of water which suited my Thunderjet well, but I was also looking for those local spots closer to home where I could make a quick drive, fish, and return home with time left in the day to do chores.

Fortunately, I discovered a totally unexpected source of fishing information other than YouTube and internet searches. That

information source was none other than the various handymen and contractors that came to our home to work on building a fence, repairing a garage door, and graveling our driveway. Striking up conversations I quickly discovered that, like myself, these anglers were more than happy to talk about fishing and share places to go, times to fish, and gear to use. Following our chats, I would go to my computer and do the further research needed to start expanding my fishing horizons. New locations and fishing adventures were what I craved, and suddenly my world was opening to a wealth of exciting opportunities.

Networking is nothing new, but in our new age of social media it seems to me we are losing that piece of our human connection. Or, maybe it's just that I've read one too many harangues of comments such as "I don't share locations" anytime someone asks for help on social media. As if that is the cause of our woes as anglers, and being more selfish is the solution to shrinking opportunities. Perhaps the answer is we all expand our horizons, finding those new locations and species to target. And we share the wealth, instead of tightly clinging to our ever-shrinking little world, becoming bitter and inward focused. But I digress...

As I made new friends and we shared our passion for fishing, more ideas and destinations swirled in my head. Epic adventures lay ahead of me – a trip to Fort Peck to target land-locked chinook salmon, or maybe an RV trip to a remote high country lake to fly fish out of my belly boat. Or win the Montana angler lottery's trip of a lifetime and float the Smith River on a four day camping-fishing adventure. Can't forget Flathead Lake with its famed lake trout fishery.

In addition to learning new spots to fish, I realized with both a feeling of sadness but also intrigue that the fishing routines I was used to in Washington were going to



**WORK SHARP**  
SHARPENERS<sup>®</sup>  
THE KNIFE SHARPENING COMPANY

SCAN TO WATCH  
THE VIDEO 

## INTRODUCING THE **KNIFE & TOOL SHARPENER** MK.2

Experience shaving sharp edges on all your knives. The **KNIFE & TOOL SHARPENER Mk.2** is easy to use and delivers best-in-class sharpening for all knives and edged tools. Sharper than the day you bought them.



Learn more at:  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/D614F5FT](https://tinyurl.com/D614F5FT)

**GUIDED** 

**SALMON, WALLEYE, AND STURGEON**

OFFERING PREMIER SALMON, WALLEYE, AND STURGEON TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST




**CALL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**  
509.492.8852

 MUNDENSRISINGSONADVENTURES

 RISINGSONADVENTURES@GMAIL.COM

 MUNDEN'S RISING SON ADVENTURES



RISINGSONADVENTURES.WIX.COM/FISHING



**COLUMBIA RIVER**

FULLY GUIDED SALMON AND STURGEON TRIPS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER & TRIBUTARIES 2023

**NOW BOOKING**  
WINTER SALMON, STURGEON, AND STEELHEAD

  
509.489.5945  
 MITCHELL\_SPORTFISHING  
MITCHELLSPORTFISHING.COM

be very different in Montana. For one thing, gone will be the days of waiting to hear what seasons will or won't be open. No longer would my boat see the salt water and flow of the tides. Battling seaweed while trolling for salmon will be a thing of the past. Having my choice of dozens of kokanee lakes was done. And steelheading... I can only say I am very thankful to have seen the days when local rivers had healthy returns and anglers had a multitude of opportunities to catch these magnificent fish.

In their place, however, were new piscatorial pursuits. Reservoirs with solid populations of large walleye, bass, and pike awaited. Kokanee lakes, while less in number and more spread out, offered solitude and bigger fish. Smaller mountain lakes and high elevation ponds compelled me to buy a new belly boat, bringing me full circle back to my first year in Spokane when I would travel to the multitude of trout lakes and fly fish out of a float tube. I realized with a feeling of excitement that I would need to dust off my neglected fly rods, go through my fly gear, and reacquaint myself with the fine art of fly fishing. Montana is truly the Mecca of fly-fishing and my new home put me in close proximity to one of the most famous and bountiful trout rivers in the west, the



Missouri River. I will confess, my first few trips to the "Mo" were humbling experiences. My fly-casting skills left much to be desired and Missouri rainbows are not easily fooled by sloppy casts. That said, I am embracing the challenge of becoming a better fly-fishing angler, and I observe with satisfaction a steadily improving presentation and distance in my fly tossing.

Most of all I am excited to share new adventure stories and TV episodes with our readers featuring the "Big Sky" country. I look forward to taking friends new and old out to enjoy with them the beauty that is Montana. In the meantime, wherever you call home, I encourage you to broaden your horizons, fish new waters, and share your love of fishing with other anglers. Take a kid fishing and help spark the passion in the next generation so our waters will have advocates to take care of them, help them flourish, and protect them.



Remember that opening day of trout season tradition? It's a thing of the past. Most of our best trout fishing lakes and reservoirs are open year-round. In Oregon, you can go fishing when you feel like it or when the ice thaws, whichever comes first. Here are some of the best ice-out trout fishing destinations for early April.

In Central Oregon, and west of Tygh Valley, Pine Hollow Reservoir is a 240-acre irrigation impoundment set in mixed pines and oak trees. Less than an hour's drive from The Dalles, it is a popular summer fishery, but can be pretty quiet early in the spring. And that's when this fishery kicks off. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks legal trout and big brood stock rainbows here, starting the third week of March if ice allows. When the ice first begins to thaw, the fishing should be excellent. A boat is a good idea for this lake, although there is good bank

angling at the east shore boat ramp and on the east shore. My favorite trolling pattern touches at the buoys in front of the resort.

Nearby, and west of Wamic, Rock Creek Reservoir shows off best early in the season when ODFW stocks approximately 12,000 legal rainbows between early March and the end of May. Plan it for the third week of March and beyond. This is a good spot for bank angling, but a car-topper boat is a definite advantage. Bait is allowed and bank anglers do best when using jar baits with a sliding sinker and a long leader. This is not a place to use a light leader. The Department often plants brood stock trout that can run up to 30 inches long.

Near the town of Summer Lake, 60-acre Ana Reservoir is one that does not ice over, but the best timing is going to be after the third week of March when ODFW typically plants 3,000 legal rainbows. The community of

Summer Lake has been paying for additional trophy rainbows to be stocked in this lake, creating a destination fishery that is still relatively unknown. Trust me, if you catch one of the big ones and want to keep it for a barbecue, it may be one of the best tasting trout you have had in a long time. Or let it go for the next guy to tangle with. Your call. Best place to start is at the boat ramp and along the dam. Bank fishing is good here. Fly anglers will want a boat or float tube.

If you plan a trip to Ana, there is a good RV park, nearby hot springs with cabins, and the Lodge at Summer Lake. Tell them you're there for the fishing and they will keep this trophy program going.

In early April, Krumbo Reservoir is one of the best things going when ODFW plants the first legal rainbows of the year. Krumbo, a shallow desert lake on the west side of the Steens, is

150 acres and fishes best in spring and fall. Because the lake is so food-rich, the trout can winter over and 20-inchers are common. Bank anglers can do well here, although bank access is tricky, scrambling over lava rocks. A better bet is to bring a float tube or a small boat.

Between Sumpter and Baker City, 2,235-acre Phillips Reservoir was a formerly great rainbow trout fishery which was overrun by yellow perch and has since been rehabilitated with the help of the tiger muskie. That is all you need to know. But since you want more, I'll give it to you. Phillips is a better-than-good ice fishing destination. Perch can be easy to catch through the ice and are every bit as good to eat as walleye. And the perch, because there are fewer of them now, are bigger. As this issue goes to press, Phillips Reservoir has about 12 inches of ice, so depending on the spring conditions, it could still be iced over well into April. Another item to consider is that Phillips is refilling after being drained last year so boat ramps might be out of the water.

At full pool, trolling is a real treat on this lake. An angler

should plan to troll for rainbows and spend a little time targeting tiger muskie, which is a catch-and-release fishery. On a steady diet of six-inch perch and 10-inch rainbows, these fish grow to four feet long and weigh as much as 30 pounds. I hooked one once and lost it when it plowed through the weeds next to the boat, jumped as high as my shoulder and broke my line. Use a steel leader and a six-inch swim bait or large spinner bait to target tiger muskies.

One of my favorite lakes right now is Lake Simtustus, located seven miles west of Madras in the deep, narrow Deschutes canyon. Simtustus was formed by Pelton Dam, backing up to Round Butte Dam below Lake Billy Chinook. The reservoir was named after a Warm Springs warrior who served as an Army scout in the Paiute wars of the 1860's and lived on the Warm Springs Reservation. The reservoir receives about 25,000 trout each season; a hard-fighting summer steelhead strain that run a fat 12 to 14 inches in April.

To fish Simtustus, an angler must not only have an Oregon fishing license, but

also a tribal fishing permit. The annual price is up to \$60 to fish Simtustus, and that keeps a lot of anglers away. Simtustus has been kicking out limits of rainbows already this year, but not for me. When I fished it in February, I only caught one, but I'm seeking rainbow redemption with several trips on the calendar for April and May.

For the trout fisherman, at the end of a long, cold winter, it's time to plan some road trips and do battle with trout.

## GUIDE SERVICE SPRING SPECIAL

**SPRING WALLEYE** <sup>\$700</sup>  
COLUMBIA RIVER

OR

**SPRING SALMON** <sup>\$800</sup>  
WIND RIVER  
DRANO  
MCNARY

FISH  INTIMIDATORS

**BOOK NOW AT**  
**FISHTHECOLUMBIA.COM**



**CONTACT US**

(509) 750-6809

**Fish Intimidators**

Fishintimidators@gmail.com

\*Prices rate 4-6 anglers. Some conditions apply. Call for details.




### GARY LEWIS BIO

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



**FOR A SIGNED COPY OF FISHING MOUNT HOOD COUNTRY, SEND \$29.99, INCLUDES SHIPPING TO:**

Gary Lewis Outdoors  
PO Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709  
**Contact Gary Lewis at**  
garylewisoutdoors.com



# HOW TO FISH FOR COLUMBIA RIVER WALLEYE —THE EASY WAY—

BY KYLE JONES



The Columbia River in Washington State and Oregon is one of the premier destination walleye fisheries in the United States. Anglers come from all around to target Walleye in the mighty Columbia River. The Columbia River is known, not only as a possible location for the next World Record Walleye, but also as a great place to catch unbelievable numbers of great eating size fish.

The point of this article is to be a starting point for people looking to take advantage of this great fishery. This is not an end all be all on Columbia River Walleye, just a simple article to get people catching fish fast. Catching good numbers of 14 – 20 inch Walleye on the Columbia River is easy, and with a little knowledge under your belt, you too will be putting lots of these tasty buggers in the boat.

## **HOW TO FIND COLUMBIA RIVER WALLEYE**

It goes without saying that you need to “find fish to catch fish,” and when it comes to a beginner staring at the mighty Columbia River it’s easy to get overwhelmed. Walleye are an ultra-predator and they will always position themselves in the best possible locations to find food. The Columbia River is a literal conveyor belt of food for foraging

walleye and positioning yourself in the correct locations can make or break your trip.

During the spring and summer there are millions of out migrating juvenile salmon, steelhead, and shad making the downstream migration to the ocean. Walleye take every advantage of this and position themselves to make the most of these easy meals. During this out migration period there is often a lot of current in the Columbia. Walleye are not particularly strong swimmers and so they gravitate to the slower moving parts of the river. What we do is locate the areas of the river that are moving slower than the main flow and concentrate our efforts there. Large points, islands, inside bends, rip rap, and other natural structures can create these current breaks. Walleye will use these areas to ambush whatever can fit in their mouth.

As a general rule of thumb for most of the areas below dams that we fish in the spring and early summer we are looking for water 20-50 feet deep in areas with very little current, or just out of the main flow, adjacent to shallow water. The adjacent to shallow water is key, as walleye will move up into the shallows to feed on bait fish at night, and like to position

themselves close to their nightly food source. By targeting the deep slow moving water near shallow feeding flats we put ourselves on large numbers of feeding walleye during daylight hours.

### **EASY RIGGING FOR IMMEDIATE SUCCESS**

By far the quickest and easiest way to get into Columbia River walleye is to use bottom bouncers and worm harnesses. This method makes it easy for beginners to not only make and maintain contact with the bottom, but also insure that their gear is in the walleye zone all the time. Columbia River walleye in current are tight to the bottom. These fish live and feed within the bottom foot of the water column so maintaining constant bottom contact is a must.

Bottom bouncers (also called Bottom Walkers) come in all sorts of different sizes ranging from as small as a quarter ounce to as large as four ounces. Even larger bottom bouncers are available, but they often need to be ordered from custom manufactures. Generally speaking for almost all the situations we fish during spring and early summer we find that the three and four ounce bottom bouncers to be our go to size. Typically when fishing four anglers the rods near the bow are rigged with four ounces and the rods out the stern are rigged with three ounces.

When it comes to the worm harness the options are unlimited. If you go to a tackle shop that sells walleye gear you will notice the many pre tied rigs from companies such as Mack's Lure and other in house pre tied gear. All of this stuff works, but for our purpose we like to keep things simple and tie our own. We basically use three different styles of rigs and below we have listed and pictured some of our favorites. We fish all these rigs on leaders lengths of three to four feet.

**Spinner Blade rigs:** These rigs are very simple and consist of a quick change clevis, size 1-4 colorado spinner blade, a few beads, and two #4 octopus style hooks tied four inches apart.

**Smile Blade Rigs:** This is again a very simple rig and consists of a size .8, 1.1, or 1.5 smile blade, a few beads, and the same two #4 octopus hooks tied four inches apart.

**Corky Rig:** This is by far the most simple rig we fish and seems to produce the best as the water starts to warm in late spring through early summer. It is simply one size #10 corky slid down the line on top of the two #4 octopus hooks.

### **PRESENTATION**

In general my favorite way to present a bottom bouncer and worm harness is to "troll" them down stream with the current. I put the quotations on the word troll because this is trolling in a very loose sense of the term. What we are actually doing is moving just fast enough to maintain the ability to steer the boat downstream. Enough emphasis cannot be placed on the need to go slow! When using bottom bouncers in this scenario I am often in and out of forward and neutral on my kicker motor and will often times spend a lot of the drift in neutral. Remember that you are already fishing in current that is pushing you downstream, so think of this more as a controlled drift.

The key to this presentation is to keep your gear on the bottom. The best way to do this is to fish with the rod in your hand. We see a lot of guys act like they are fishing for salmon and let their bottom bouncer and worm harness out, then let the rod rot in a rod holder. Don't be that guy! This is active fishing and when you hold the rod in your hand you can make sure that you are always very near the bottom. When starting your troll slowly let out your gear so that it doesn't get tangled, by slowly dropping your tackle you will ensure that you are actually fishing. Feel for the arm of the bottom bouncer to touch bottom, once you feel it bump bottom put your thumb on the spool and quit letting out line. Now you are fishing. To make sure you stay in the strike zone you need to actively fish your rod. At this point I start to lift the rod tip a few inches, I am intentionally trying to lift the arm of the bouncer off

the bottom, and then drop my rod toward the water. If you do not feel it touch bottom you need to feed more line. You should be able to maintain contact with the bottom with every small lift and drop. I almost always fish the run with my thumb on the spool and prepared to feed more line. If you begin to feel the bouncer dredging bottom you need to reel in a few feet, remember that you just want the arm of the bouncer hitting bottom, as this will make sure your gear is at the correct level and minimize the inevitable hang ups on the bottom.

The second thing that the short lift and drop of the rod will help with is detecting bites. The bite from even a very large walleye is very subtle with this method. If at any time, while doing your lift and drop for the bottom you feel any extra weight or pressure on the rig you are getting a bite. When I feel the added pressure on my lift I continue a nice steady lift through the weight. There is no need for a hard hook set. You will miss fish if you try to give a big rip. Simply just lift through the weight and start reeling in your fish. Often times these fish are just barely hooked so bring them in nice and slow and have the net ready!

### **RODS AND REEL FOR BOTTOM BOUNCING**

The ideal rod and reel for this method of fishing can be debated for decades, but the bottom line is that it needs to be able to handle 3-4 ounce bottom bouncers, while still having a soft tip to detect the subtle take of a walleye.

Our favorite rod for bottom bouncing is a Gloomis E6X 7'1" 8-17 pound line rating in a medium heavy power. The model number is E6X 853C WBBR. While this rod is designed specifically for this use we also have used and really like an 8'6" 8-17 line rated medium heavy steelhead casting rod. This line rating seems to handle the weight of the rig nicely, but still lets you feel the subtle take.



The Northwest's Premier Outfitter offering guided fishing trips in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

f | @ **Jones Sport Fishing**

For a reel we like a quality low profile casting reel such as the Shimano Curado. The reason we like a casting reel in this situation is that we are always adjusting how much line we have out and the ability to release line so easily and maintain feel of the bottom is much easier with the casting reel. We spool the reel with 30# power pro in either the high vis yellow or the low vis green. This is just personal preference here so go with the one you like.

In closing I hope that this article is of help to anyone who is trying to get into the wonderful walleye fishing the Columbia River has to offer. We love seeing new walleye anglers and if you decide to get a crash lesson on walleye fishing with us we will be happy to show you just how we do it and get you started off on the right foot.

If you want more information on the walleye fishing trips we offer or to book a trip with us!

I just wanted to end on a small note of conservation. Even though these fish are not native to the Columbia River we want this exciting fishery to continue well into the future. I encourage anyone targeting walleye to please release the larger 25 plus inch fish. These larger fish are our brood stock, and their survival is key to having this fishery forever. The smaller fish are absolutely fantastic to eat and with the ability to catch them by the bucket load there is no real need to kill the larger fish.

### JONES SPORT FISHING

Jones Sport Fishing is owned and operated by Kyle and Dani Jones. Kyle's passion for the outdoors has driven him to commit to making his living as a professional fishing guide. Kyle prides himself in his commitment to make sure that your fishing trip meets and exceeds expectations, and is dedicated to serving his clients. You can follow Kyle on Northwest Fishing and his website [JonesSportfishing.com](http://JonesSportfishing.com)

NOW AVAILABLE ON



**ROOT**  
SPORTS™

**KTVB 7**

TUNE IN AND SET YOUR DVR!  
[NWFISHING.NET](http://NWFISHING.NET)



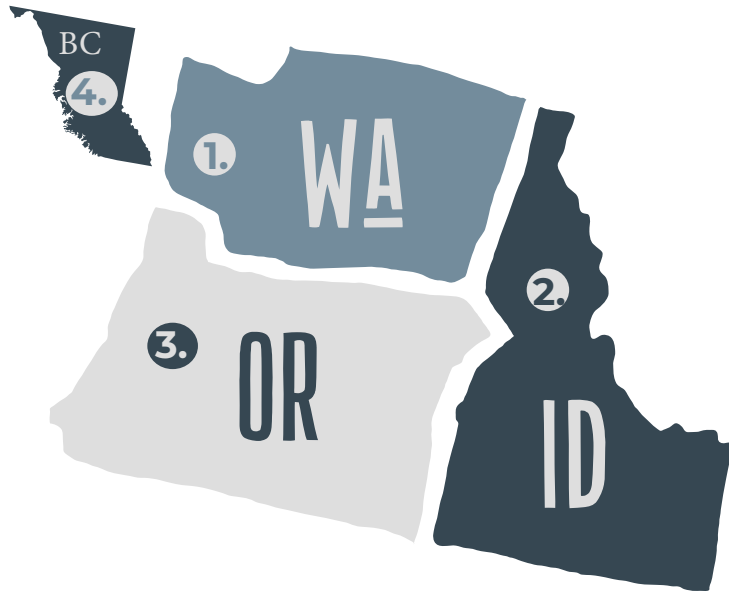
**SALMON • TROUT • KOKANEE**



Build yours today at  
[wigglesfin.com](http://wigglesfin.com)



# DIRECTORY



## FISH KEY

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

## Destinations

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

## Guides & Charters

**Alaska Trophy Adventures Lodge**  
(877) 801-2289  
<https://www.atalodge.com/>

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

- Killgore Adventures**  
1-888-957-6875  
killgoreadventures.com  
Hells Canyon

- Double M Outdoors**  
(503) 956-5489  
doublेमoutdoors.com  
Columbia River: Buoy 10, McNary Dam

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

- Fish Intimidators**  
(509) 750-6809  
Columbia River

- Mitchell Sportfishing**  
(509) 480-5945  
mitchellsportfishing.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Outdoor Gear

**Ghunders Performance Base Layers**  
(360) 612-0506  
ghunders.com

**Work Sharp Tools**  
(800) 597-6170  
worksharptools.com

**The General Store Spokane**  
(509) 444-8005  
generalstorespokane.com

## Marine Gear

**Fish Fighter**  
(208) 580-1905  
fishfighterproducts.com

**Fishing Tackle**  
**Fish With Gary Tackle Co.**  
(541) 536-1002  
fishwithgary.com

**Harrod Outdoors**  
harrodoutdoors.com

**Mack's Lure**  
(509) 667 9202  
mackslure.com

**Old Goat Lures**  
oldgoatlures.com

**Wigglefin Tackle**  
(208) 388-8539  
wigglefin.com

## Other

**Skip Rock Distillers**  
(360) 862-0272  
skiprockdistillers.com

Email today for directory  
advertising information.  
[cameron@nwfishing.net](mailto:cameron@nwfishing.net)



*Reel Obsession*  
SPORT FISHING  
ZEBALLOS, BC   
www.reelobsession.ca 1-888-855-7335



**WEST  
VANCOUVER ISLAND'S  
PREMIER FISHING  
LODGE  
DESTINATION**

WORLD CLASS BC SALMON,  
HALIBUT, ALBACORE TUNA,  
LINGCOD AND BOTTOM FISH

*Reel Obsession*  
SPORT FISHING

**LUXURIOUS WATERFRONT  
ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOCALLY  
SOURCED CUISINE SERVED UP BY  
OUR ACCREDITED CHEF**

- 1ST CLASS EXPERIENCE
- 3 AND 4 DAY INCLUSIVE LODGE AND CHARTER FISHING PACKAGES
- FISH THE BC SALMON HIGHWAY



**Located in Zeballos, BC**

Reelobsession.ca | Phone: 1-888-855-7335

AS SEEN ON  
NW FISHING TV



# Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit is required for all boats registered outside of Washington State



## Washington State Law RCW 77.15.160

- All boats registered outside of Washington State **must have** an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Permit before launching in Washington waters.
- Permits cost **\$24** and are valid for one year.
- Failure to have the permit may result in a **\$150 fine**.

## How to buy:

- **Online**  
[fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov)
- **At a fishing and hunting license dealer near you**  
[wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/dealers](http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/dealers)

## Protecting Our Waters

Funds from the AIS Prevention Permit support efforts to keep Washington's waters free of aquatic invasive species and manage infestations when prevention fails.

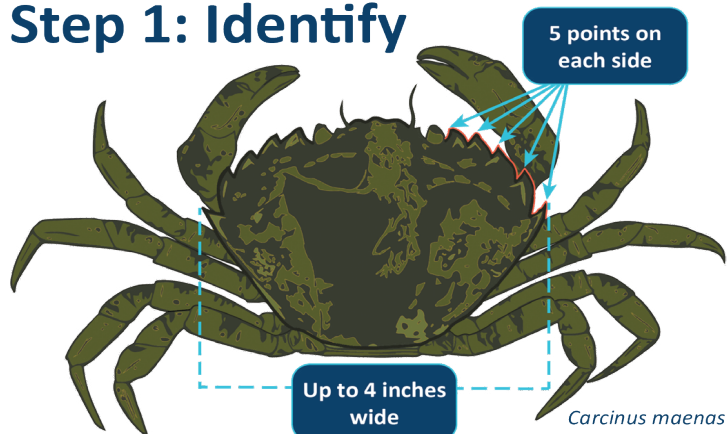


For more information visit [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov) or call the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at **888-WDFW-AIS**

# Report Invasive European Green Crabs



## Step 1: Identify



## Step 2: Report

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



## Scan to report!



[wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab](http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab)

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

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

**FISH FIGHTER**  
Products

**THE WORLD'S BEST SONAR MOUNT  
NOW AVAILABLE**



# QRS UNIVERSAL LIVE SONAR TRANSDUCER MOUNT



*In Stock Now - Visit our website for more information*

**BUY ONLINE TO GET 10% OFF. USE PROMO CODE: NWFISH12**  
**EXPIRES MAY 31, 2023**

***FISHFIGHTERPRODUCTS.COM***



**DROP US A LINE: 208-580-1904**  
**MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO 83647**

DOC0998