

REEL LIFE

22 COVER STORY

SHARKS WHO NEEDS EM?

Photo by Gary Lewis

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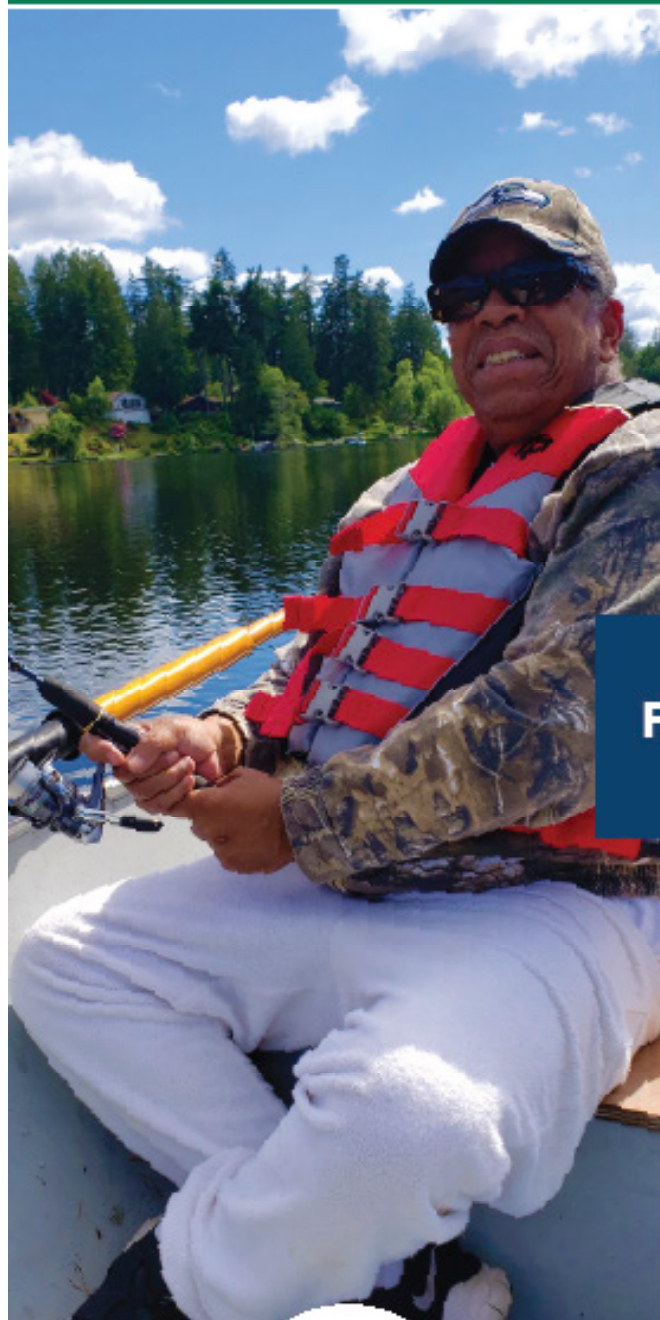
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EDITOR'S CORNER:

Hello everyone, and welcome to Summer! The spring rains are coming to an end out here on the Montana prairie, and the prairie dogs are driving my dogs nuts and digging holes everywhere. Everything is a beautiful shade of green as wheat fields spring to life. It's a great time of year! This month we celebrate Father's Day. For anglers it's a special time of bonding - what could be better than a father-son-daughter fishing trip to pass the fishing fever to the next generation?

We have a potpourri of goodness from our writers this month. From Jason Brook's Buoy 10 primer, to Josh DeBruler's Kayak 101, there's something for everyone. Time to stretch your boundaries and explore new places. The Washington Department of Fish Trout Derby is in high gear - how cool would it be for your son or daughter to catch a tagged trout on Father's Day? Check out the WDFW Trout Derby website for details on this fun all season-long Derby.


Here's wishing all the dads out there a wonderful Father's Day!

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



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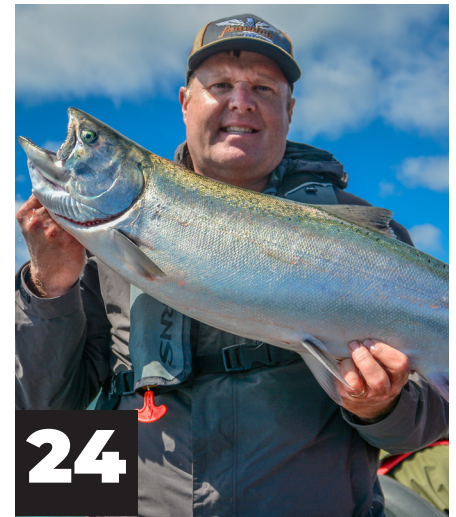
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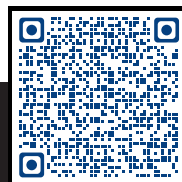
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NW Good Eats

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**COUSIN'S RESTAURANT
& SALOON**

WHAT

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GOOD LODGING**

WHERE

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THE DALLES, OR 97058**



**BY
HILLARY HOLMAN**

Many Fishermen are headed towards the Columbia River to follow the Chinook Highway from the Ocean on up the to the Snake and Clearwater Rivers this time of year. Springers make their way on up the river and fishermen watch the dam reports daily to see the counts and know what pool these prized King salmon are in.

The Dalles Oregon is home to one of my favorite places to stop, Cousins' Restaurant and Saloon. Not only does Cousins offer a hearty menu and good service in their restaurant and saloon, they also have lodging available.

From the freeway, you can see the historic looking bright red barn with Cousins beautifully painted across the top of the Saloon.

Historical Statues of cows, chickens horses and farm equipment surround the exterior. Early 1900's Dalles is still alive inside and out. Stop by their gift shop and stock up on local canned goods and local artisan creations. If you are lucky, maybe you can catch the cherry festival in bloom In April.

Unpack your bags from the long drive and hit the Saloon and Restaurant.

Their cinnamon rolls are off the hook. Their pot roast is region famous. Their pie alamode is renowned.

"After a hard day's fishing, the rooms are clean, and I like the ease of the shower. It's one of my regional favorites. It was good 30 years ago and Cousin's is still good today. There is lots of HOT water and I like the little sliding window in the bathroom to get some fresh air while I shower."

- Paul Hamilton

There is a charging station for your electric car should you need.

The water is clean and the pressure is great. And they have a swimming pool.

Coffee is made at 5 am ready to go. Grab your cinnamon roll from the night before and you are stocked up and ready to go for the day of fishing ahead.

"Fishing is the icing on the cake. The rest of the journey is the experience. The brotherhood made along the way, now that is the true Columbia Gold. So, if you are only about the fishing and not about the journey, fishing the Columbia probably won't be your cup of tea. PS, don't forget your bait!"

- Paul Hamilton

There is always ample parking for your hot rod or boat and trailer.



With opening day of the Western Washington Lowland Lake opener in the rearview mirror, many of us are looking for future lake fishing opportunities. Let's take the family fishing! Following are a list of 5 family oriented Northern Washington trout/kokanee fishing adventure lakes. One of them, Lake Samish, would be a day adventure. The other four could be a multiday family camping and fishing expedition. All offer at least one boat ramp and shore fishing, a fishing pier, or both. This article will focus on opportunity, and not necessarily technique. All the lakes offer opportunities for trollers, bait soakers, and even fly fishers. That said, pack up the family, a frypan, maybe the sleeping bags, your favorite gear, then hit the road!

CRANBERRY LAKE - Island County

Cranberry Lake is located within the boundaries of Deception Pass State Park.

There are multiple shore fishing access points and a very nice fishing pier. There is also a small boat ramp with very limited parking. If you are boating, internal combustion engines are not allowed on Cranberry Lake. You can use an electric motor but oars, paddles, or peddle power are perfect.

At 133.9 acres, Cranberry Lake hosts rainbow trout, coastal cutthroat trout, and an occasional brown trout. I've heard that there are also smallmouth bass and perch in the lake but I've never seen anybody fishing for them. No picture, but when I was a teenager (Boy Scout camping trip) I caught a huge brown trout from one of the large boulders by the campground. The brute hit a worm/corn/marshmallow combo.

Not really sure why, but I love fishing Cranberry Lake. Although it is not, to me it feels like you're fishing some remote lake in the Canadian wilderness. Be aware though,

NAS Whidbey is right next door. There may be military aircraft doing maneuvers right overhead. I am in awe anytime one of the Navy aircraft are overhead but not everybody feels that way. It's the sound of freedom!

If you're not familiar with Deception Pass State Park, it is an absolute recreational gem. There are multiple wells separated campsites, miles of hiking trails, and 77,000 feet of saltwater beaches to enjoy. Across Highway 20 from the lake, there is even a large saltwater boat launch with moorage. It's not really mentioned anywhere, but in season you can fish for dungeness crab and smelt from the moorage floats. On the west side of the park, the sunsets from West Beach can be spectacular.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/cranberry-lake>

<https://www.parks.wa.gov/497/Deception-Pass>



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LAKE SAMISH

At 809.9 acres, Lake Samish is open to fishing year-round. It is managed as a multi-species lake, offering coastal cutthroat, large and smallmouth bass, crappie, brown bullhead/catfish, yellow perch, and excellent kokanee populations. I can personally attest that there are also largemouth bass and brown bullheads in the lake. The lake consists of a smaller lake connected to a larger main lake by a narrow channel. The larger main lake has significant weedy shallows at the south end and a max depth of 60 feet or so. The smaller lake located at the west end of the two-lake chain is up to 150 feet deep and maintains a large pocket of cool water throughout the late summer and fall. The cool water effectively extends the Lake Samish kokanee fishery when other west side lakes are too warm to support a fall kokanee fishery.

In late April-June, Lake Samish can be red hot kokanee fishing, easily giving up limits of fat 12"-16" kokanee. One of our biggest local kokanee came out of the smaller lake during a mid-October trip a few years back. It hit our old school gear running 2 colors on the lead line, 40' of 8-pound leader, a rainbow color kokanee gang troll, and an orange wedding ring spinner tipped with a maggot. The fish was nearly 3 pounds and was in full spawning colors.

While the kokanee fishery is a trolling show, there is a fishing pier at Lake Samish Park. The fishing pier catch is primarily coastal cutthroat and peamouth chub. Lake Samish Park offers a couple of well-groomed picnic areas, a swim beach, hiking trails, and seasonal boat rentals. The park is the perfect place for a family outing and picnic with a little fishing thrown in.

An AIS Permit is required for every boat operating on Lake Samish. Here's a few words about the AIS program at Lake Samish. Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that live primarily in water. They thrive in a new environment and cause economic loss, environmental damage, and harm to human health and property. An Annual AIS Permit and a per use boat inspection is required to operate your boat on Lake Samish. Whatcom County maintains an AIS inspection station at Lake Samish.

Boat inspections are important because they can help to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species to Whatcom County lakes. AIS are transported on boats traveling from infested waters and can result in significant impacts to lake ecosystems, water quality, and water supply infrastructure. AIS can also make shoreline areas hazardous and uninviting for recreational users and property owners. To prevent the introduction, AIS inspectors are on the lookout

for any animal or plant material on the watercraft that might pose a risk to Lake Samish. They will also be checking to see if your boat has been cleaned, drained, and dried, as some aquatic invasive species larvae can be transported in any areas on the boat that remain damp or have standing water in them. Inspectors will also conduct a physical inspection of the outside of your boat to feel for any signs of mussel larvae, algae, or other organic material on the hull that could pose a risk to the lakes.

As currently planned for 2023, Whatcom County will be staffing the inspection station at the Lake Samish WDFW Boat Launch. The AIS program is sensitive to the needs of anglers participating in the kokanee fishery at Lake Samish. They are planning/budgeting to staff the inspection station 5:30am-8:30pm 7 days a week. Although the AIS inspection program will be a bit of an inconvenience, having AIS inspectors on-site at Lake Samish will help to reduce the unfortunate vandalism problem at the Lake Samish WDFW launch.

On a similar note: Boat motor labels must have at least one star to operate on Lake Samish. Generally, any motor that is certified and labeled as meeting the 2006 or later model year United States EPA emissions standard will be compliant.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/lake-samish>

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3542/Samish-Park>

<https://whatcomboatinspections.com/annual-permits-and-fees>

SILVER LAKE – Whatcom County

157.3 acre Silver Lake in Whatcom County is another unique recreational opportunity. It is a family friendly destination with camping, good trout fishing, and a WDFW boat ramp. The WDFW boat ramp is located at the north end of the lake and has ample trailer parking. The fishery is primarily for planted rainbow and coastal cutthroat trout. Even though the average depth is only 24 feet, holdovers are not uncommon. The fishery is friendly to whatever trout fishing style suits your style, but don't be afraid to soak some dough bait.

Silver Lake Park is a large Whatcom County Parks and Recreation facility on Silver Lake. The park has 3 campgrounds and a RV accessible group campground. There are also cabin rentals, a handful of hiking trails, a playground, multiple picnic areas, an equestrian center, seasonal boat rentals, and a small boat launch that is probably best suited for hand carry boats.

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<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/silver-lake-whatcom>

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3517/Silver-Lake-Park>

FISH LAKE – Chelan County

Another family friendly trout destination is Cove Resort on 492-acre Fish Lake in Chelan County. For whatever reason it is probably better known for its winter, hardwater perch fishery but it hosts a solid spring and fall rainbow trout fishery. The lake also has a few respectable brown trout available. The brown trout fishery is kind of a specialty, but if you stick with it there are some true trophies cruising around, just waiting to be caught.

In an interesting twist, the WDFW has been experimenting with kokanee fry plants in Fish Lake and it seems that there is blossoming kokanee fishery at hand. The lake also hosts a spring fishery for largemouth bass along with a year-round perch fishery. Access to the lake is primarily through Cove Resort.

Cove Resort is operated under a Forest Service private concession. You can bring your own boat: Cove Resort has a boat launch and moorage. They also have a store, boat rentals, a fishing dock, cabins, and a large campground.



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<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/fish-lake-chelan>

<https://www.coveresortatfishlake.com/>

LAKE PEARRYGIN

183-acre Lake Pearrygin is another first-rate choice for a family outing. There are 4 boat ramps, including a WDFW access point/boat ramp, 2 state park ramps, and a ramp at Silverline Lakeside Resort. For the shore fishermen there are many options. The state park alone has 11,000 feet of shoreline and there is a handicap accessible dock.

The trout fishing at Lake Pearrygin can be either fast and furious or just plain good. The seasoned trout angler can pull out the stops and get technical in their approach to the fishery, or, fortunately, anybody can catch fish using dough bait or casting their favorite spinner. A single salmon egg or a small piece of nightcrawler under a float can be deadly. As a bonus, Lake Pearrygin gives up more than its share of fat holdovers each season. Whether your family are trout fishing newbies or experienced trout hunters, Lake Pearrygin is an excellent choice for a family fishing getaway.

Lake Pearrygin State Park has a swimming beach, 169 various use campsites, 2 group sites, and cabin rentals. There are also 6.5 miles of hiking trails and picnic areas. As staffing permits, they offer

campfire programs; they are conducted every Tuesday and Thursday night from June 15 - Labor Day. The park also offers a Junior Ranger program for kidlets.

It just keeps getting better; Silverline Lakeside Resort on Lake Pearrygin is a clean, well-maintained resort. They offer RV and tent sites and a group campground. The resort has RVs available for rent, boat rentals, aquatic equipment rentals, propane fire pit rentals, a store, and a small restaurant. If that's not enough to spark your interest, Silverline Lakeside Resort also has 3 fishing docks, horseshoe pits, a playground, swimming beach, and mini golf.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/locations/lowland-lakes/pearrygin-lake>

<https://www.parks.wa.gov/563/Pearrygin-Lake>
<https://www.silverlineresort.com/>

Have a hankering for a family outing and the sizzle of fresh trout in the ole cast iron? If so, add a trip to one or all of these lakes. Cranberry Lake, Lake Samish, Silver Lake, Fish Lake, and Lake Pearrygin each offer a unique family trout fishing experience. With the exception of Lake Samish, there is a campground adjacent to each lake with many of the campsites right on the lake. You better go pick up the phone, or bring up their websites, reservations are going fast!

FATHER'S DAY MEMORIES



BY MIKE CAREY

According to Wikipedia, Father's Day dates back to 1910: "Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington at the YMCA in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, who was born in Arkansas. Its first celebration was in the Spokane YMCA on June 19, 1910."

Reading further, Sonora Smart Dodd wanted a day to honor her dad, similar to Mother's Day. The day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

Nothing was mentioned about this being the perfect Dad's Day for fishing, but truly the timing couldn't have been much better. Coming out of spring, closing in on summer, the day comes with the prospects of great fishing and fond memories for dads and children alike.

My earliest memory of Father's Day fishing was with my first son, Matthew, age two. I still remember him running around the park at a small lake, the name long since forgotten. His toddler laughs as dad attempted to introduce him to fishing are still crystal clear in my mind-eye. The day was a mixture

of casting power bait and letting it soak, waiting for a trout to come by, and playing on the park's playground swing and slides. I have a picture somewhere, buried in a box of pictures, a lifetime of memories. It's funny how the brain works – so many memories, filed away over a lifetime, coming to the surface out of nowhere. That day it wasn't about catching fish, it was about father-son time. The goal was not necessarily catching fish, rather, it was time spent together enjoying a shared experience. As it should be. At this early age, first experiences can set the tone for a lifetime. Best to make a gentle introduction and go with the flow. The child will dictate how hardcore the day will be. You'll have a lifetime of adventures ahead – if you play it right in these formative years. Farther down the road of parenthood, James came along, and then my Klamath jet boat joined the family. The boys had a lot of fun on that boat, slipstreaming turns, pulling a tube, and of course, fishing.

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It was another Father's Day, and we were fishing on Lake St Clair in SW Washington. I had Matt and James in our 16-foot Klamath jet boat, geared up for trolling trout. Lake St Clair is an interesting lake, with many channels and bays to explore. The day was a pleasant early summer father-son get-away, and we enjoyed trolling along on the boat exploring the sights and sounds.

Ducks and other animals kept us entertained, and of course, the boys had their Nintendo's along. I wasn't one to be hardcore fishing with my boys. I figured it was better to have them along for the experience than it was cramming it down their throats. When a fish came along, they would set their Gameboys down and catch it, enjoying the action, then back to one or another distraction. The fishing was not exactly hot, so after a couple hours it was time to turn back to the boat launch and head home.

Just then, the longline rod violently jerked back and behind the boat a large splash signaled a nice fish on the end of the line. Matt grabbed the rod and began reeling in the huge fish. The smile on his face as he battled the big trout was enough for me to know the magic of angling was taking hold. As the fish came closer I could see it was a big rainbow trout, a triploid most likely. Matt brought the fish close to the net, and I scooped a beautiful rainbow in as Matt let out a whoop of joy. The three of us marveled at the beautiful fish, one of a few we caught that day.

The last Father's Day fishing adventure I can remember, before my sons became fully enamored with baseball, was a trip my son James and I took on Lake Washington. He was, I believe, 10 years old. It was another beautiful Pacific Northwest early summer day, the kind that begs to get out of

the house and do something outdoors. We launched our new Seaswirl and ran across the lake to fish off Kirkland. Downriggers set and gear down, I was hoping to get into some of the quality rainbows and cutthroat that Lake Washington is known for. As we trolled along, the port rod popped free of the downrigger and it was fish on! Handing the rod to James I could see that he had a solid fish on. The fish would take a screaming run, drag crying out, James laughing and enjoying the feel of a substantial fish on the other end of the line. I said a quiet prayer hoping the fish was well hooked. Ever closer James worked the fish to the boat, until I was able to slip the net under a chrome bright Lake Washington cutthroat.

Back at the dock, James couldn't stop talking about his fish and the fight it gave him. His smile said everything I needed to know.

The years have marched ever onward, and many Father's Days have passed into my rear view mirror. My boys are adults now and have lives of their own. Matt is himself a father, making me a grandpa. While baby Hanna is a bit young yet to introduce her to a Father's Day fishing trip, I look forward to being a part of her fishing life. Say, shouldn't there be a Grandfather's Day? If there is, I hope it's not in December!

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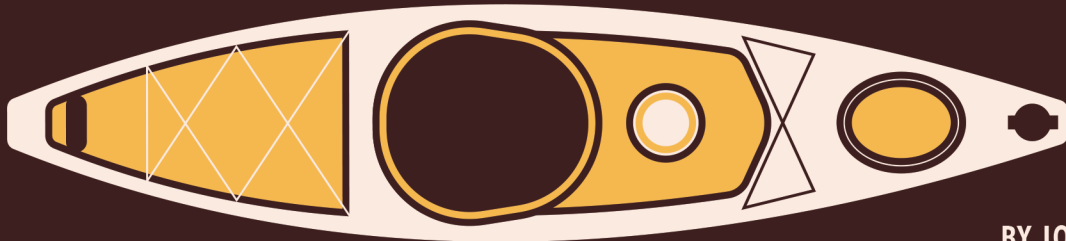


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KAYAK FISHING

101



BY JOSH DEBRULER

Much of my love for fishing has to do with the way it pushes me to explore new places in the great outdoors. Every chance I get, I am researching the waters that meander through the arid lowlands of the Columbia basin here in my home state of Washington, or expanding my search down to the many coves of the Sonoma coast in California in search of new fishing opportunities. But how can we broaden our range of opportunity without only being limited to bank fishing or having to deal with towing a heavy and cumbersome boat behind us everywhere we go?

To me, the simple solution has always been the kayak. Most fishing kayaks can be stored in the bed of a pickup truck or racked on top of a car as small as a Prius. In my case, I store mine on a ladder rack that sits above my truck-camper conversion. With set ups like these,

travel becomes simple and stress free, and allows us to move further into the great unknown. There are many considerations to keep in mind when stepping into the world of kayak fishing. As we progress in this mode of angling, the options (and investments) become unlimited, but for now, I want to list off some basics that will help set up the new kayak angler with the foundational knowledge required to enjoy an immensely fun and freeing form of outdoor recreation.

THE KAYAK

The first item on the list will be deciding what type of kayak you want to purchase. There's an endless list of fishing kayaks from a number of manufacturers. The factors that might inform your decision on what to buy are likely the type of fishing you plan to do, where you plan to do it, and the price you're willing to spend. For bass fishing in calm waters,

you might want to purchase a stable sit on top kayak with a wide pontoon style hull. These kayaks offer plenty of deck room for storing fish and gear, and typically allow anglers to stand while casting. The downside to wider kayaks like these is that you sacrifice some speed for stability. You can purchase these types of boats with the traditional paddle option or with a pedal drive system, the latter typically being the pricier of the two.

For saltwater fishing you might consider a pedal drive kayak that has plenty of length and a slightly narrower hull which affords you the speed needed to cut through strong currents and choppy waves. These are only two examples out of an almost endless list of fishing kayaks. My advice to a new kayak angler would be to plan out your budget, then visit your local kayak dealer and explain the type of fishing you intend to do

and the type of environment you plan to be paddling or pedaling in.

SAFETY

Perhaps the most important part of kayak fishing is keeping safe while on the water. Safety on a kayak involves knowledge, skillset, and gear. Having a proper understanding of incoming weather and tides and how those will affect your fishing location should be the first step before loading up the kayak. Utilize weather apps, wind predictions models, and tide charts to determine conditions for that particular day. Always know before you go.

SKILLSET

Knowing how to right a capsized kayak and how to properly re-enter the kayak are two essential safety skills for any kayak angler. To practice, bring your kayak into a pool or any other chest deep body of water that is of comfortable temperature. From a sitting position: practice capsizing your kayak. Once the boat is upside down, and while using the buoyancy of your life vest, place your palms under the coaming (side of cockpit) of your kayak, and in a quick and forceful motion, throw your kayak over. Once the kayak is righted, work to keep your body horizontal on the water by kicking your feet. Instead of pulling down on the nearest coaming and running the risk of flipping the boat back towards your face, kick your


feet and reach towards the far coaming and pull your body (belly first) onto the kayak. Once your hips are over the kayak and your weight is centered, you can then flip yourself over onto your butt. Repeat this until you're confident you can do this in a non-practice situation where stress levels are much higher.

SAFETY GEAR

A few things I keep onboard when kayak fishing are a manual bilge pump for removing water in the event that it makes its way into the hull, a waterproof and floating VHF radio for radioing coast guard during an emergency, a reliable PDF, a high visibility kayak flag mounted on a pole, a first aid kit, and flares. In the PNW where I live, a wetsuit or a drysuit are both non-negotiable items to wear while out on the saltwater. There is much debate about which is the better of the two for kayak fishing. If I plan to be in and out of the water often, like during surf launches on the coast, a wetsuits work best for me. Conversely, if its winter and below 40 degrees outside, a dry suit will allow the kayaker to layer up in warm clothing beneath their suit. During a midsummer day, when the weather and waters present zero risk of hypothermia, it's better to dress according to the weather and stick to lightweight clothing that provide both UPF and SPF protection.



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HELPFUL GEAR

Fishing kayaks will always come with one or two built in rod holders, but they are often located stern-side of the cockpit and are not advantageous for trolling. Because of this, it's helpful to take advantage of track mounting systems that not only allow for additional rod holders, but also allow for accessories like fish finders, cell phones, and other navigational devices. Most tracks will mount on the coaming of your kayak next to the cockpit. Use the rear rod holder (or at least one) for your fishing net. Fish storage is a key component to any kayak fishing set up. Early on in my kayak fishing days, I landed a sizable lingcod that

wouldn't fit onto my already maxed out fish stringer. After dispatching the fish and cutting its gills, I stored it in a shallow well on the deck of my boat. For 30 minutes I pedaled around with my eye on this gorgeous ling, and imagined the melodic sizzling from the fryer as I turned my catch into fish and chips for the family. Without warning, the "dead" lingcod's nervous system kicked into full gear, and in true zombie fashion, the fish thrashed violently until it made its way overboard and left me, a sad angler, watching helplessly as it sank deep into the waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Don't be like me on that unfortunate day, and always prepare yourself

by having ample storage for the fish you catch. This can be done with portable coolers, insulated fish bags, multiple metal stringers, or a combination of all three. The air and water temperature should guide you in your fish storage technique, just be sure your storage is ample and secure.

So if you're looking to go beyond the confines of the shore and out into the vast expanse of the open water, but you'd also like an option that imparts a bit more freedom and flexibility than what is typically found with larger and more traditional fishing boats, then a kayak might be exactly what you need for your next fishing adventure.

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RIFFE LAKE

ROUNDUP

BY HANNAH PENNEBAKER

Fishing season is officially in full swing! With so many lakes, rivers, and marine areas to choose from, it can be hard to pick your next adventure. If you've never fished Riffe Lake before, or if it's been a while, you should put it at the top of your list. It's one of my favorite fishing destinations, and I make it a point to fish it as much as I can every year. Not only is the fishing top notch, but the scenery is beautiful and the surrounding towns are well worth visiting. I can't think of many other lakes that offer such a wide variety of fish, let alone with such a good opportunity. You can catch brown trout, cutthroat trout, smallmouth bass, chinook salmon, coho salmon, crappie, and brown bullhead. The lake is simply packed with fish, and they're willing biters. You can take the boat out or shore fish, and finish out the day with a Dam Burger from Pioneer Bar & Grill in Mossyrock before heading home to grill your catch. It's a bit of a drive, but it's a great way to spend a day!

Located in Lewis County, Tacoma Power created Riffe Lake by constructing Mossyrock Dam on the Cowlitz River in 1968, flooding the communities of Riffe, Nesika, and Kosmos. It has a maximum depth of 360 feet and is about 23.5 miles long. Not only does the lake boast good populations of land-locked coho salmon, but you can also catch triploid trout! Back in 2020, Tacoma Power bought about 400,000 Rufus Woods strain triploid trout and released them into the lake

for anglers to catch. The fish have had plenty of time to grow and they are a ton of fun to catch. If you're lucky, you may even hook into a steelhead or a chinook salmon on the same day! Tacoma Power releases these fish into the lake as well, once they've met their stocking quotas. With such a plethora of fish to catch, you can see why Riffe Lake is a favorite of many northwesterners.

Trolling Techniques

Riffe Lake has plenty of room for boats of all shapes and sizes. It is almost 24 miles long and up to 360 feet deep, which can sound intimidating. Not to worry, there are thousands of fish in the lake, and most days they are willing biters. There have been many days when we can't even put the planer boards out because the two downrigger poles or lead lines are constantly going off! Early in the season, lead lines, divers, and dropper weights work just fine. The fish are still feeding on the surface and haven't been driven down to the depths by the hot sun. As the season progresses, however, a good fish finder is a must, particularly for the land-locked coho. Troll until you find a school, mark where you get bites, and don't be afraid to put a little scent on your lure. I find that the land-locked coho are particularly attracted to pink lures and dodgers. You can use corn or maggots to bait your hooks. Spinners, plugs, spoons- they all catch fish at this lake.

I tend to use whatever I already have rigged up for kokanee fishing at other lakes. As for locations, you really can't go wrong on Riffe Lake- you can start trolling almost as soon as you launch at Mossyrock Park and will usually start catching fish right away. If the fish are being stubborn, try targeting points and coves. Keep an eye on your fish finder if you're using downriggers, the lake can shallow up surprisingly quickly.

In recent years, it's been difficult to keep the triploid trout off your hooks if you want to target the land-locked coho salmon in the reservoir. The salmon and trout tend to bite on the same lures and hang out at the same depths in the early season, so you can expect to catch a mixed bag. In general, the coho hang out deeper than the trout in the later season, making downriggers and a good fish finder almost a necessity for targeting them. The salmon tend to like a faster troll, so don't be afraid to bump it up to 1.9 or 2.2 MPH. However, the trout taste great on the grill and put up a great fight, so most anglers don't mind catching them.

As a word of caution to boaters, check the water levels at Tacoma Power's website or give them a call before heading out. The lake's level fluctuates throughout the year and launching can be difficult when water levels are low. The launch at Mossyrock Park is usually your best bet year-round. It has a large dock with 2 lanes to launch at, which is nice when the ramp is busy. Don't sweat the crowds too much though, the lake is massive and there is plenty of room for everyone. The other boat launches, Taidnapam and Kosmos, are unsuitable for low water conditions. Check the wind forecast before hitching up the boat- the afternoon winds at Riffe Lake can kick up and create nasty white caps, catching unprepared boaters off guard.

Still Fishing Techniques

Don't have a boat? No worries, Riffe Lake has plenty of shore access! You can fish at the dam in Mossyrock or at the fishing bridge at Taidnapam Park. These spots can get crowded on nice

weekends though. Most shore anglers cast out shrimp or worms under a bobber with a sliding weight. Experiment with setting your bobber stopper anywhere from 3ft to 15 ft until you figure out where the fish are at.

If you can't get a spot at the dam or fishing bridge, fishing at nearby Lake Mayfield or Swofford Pond is a good alternative. Lake Mayfield is stocked with tiger muskies, which are difficult but extremely rewarding to catch. WDFW also stocks decent numbers of rainbow trout there every year. Swofford Pond has good populations of panfish, stocked rainbow trout, and brown bullhead. There is a boat launch at both lakes, and good shore access. Many folks fish Swofford Pond with inflatables and kayaks, as there is an internal combustion motor ban.

Before you grab those poles and hook up the boat, keep in mind that Riffe Lake has a 5 fish limit. They can be any combination of landlocked salmon and trout, so you cannot legally keep 5 coho and 5 trout. The land locked coho don't tend to survive catch and release very well, particularly in the summer heat. The lake is large and deep, and those afternoon winds can kick up unexpectedly, so make sure that everyone on your boat has a life jacket. Keep these rules in mind, hook up the boat, and have fun!





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SHARKS WHO NEEDS 'EM?

BY GARY LEWIS

You've heard of Shark Week on Discovery Channel. This is not that. We booked two days on the F/V Miss Raven, a 43-foot fishing vessel out of Newport. Our mission was to find blue sharks in the deep blue, chum them to the surface, and stick them with feathers. We called it Shark Weekend. On board were my daughter Tiffany, Sterling West, Paul Galvin, Sam Pyke, Will Saunders and Mathew McFarland and his boys, Chisel and Finney. To catch sharks on the fly, Matthew McFarland prepared three rods, long sticks built to throw 10- to 14-weight lines, with steel leaders and bright feathered creations. Now all we needed were fins in the water.

We stepped aboard the Miss Raven and met skipper Mike Sorensen and his son Sean. Minutes after the safety meeting was over, the 300-horse John Deere diesel fired and we motored out of the harbor beneath the arch of the Yaquina Bay Bridge. When we crossed the bar, waves swallowed the lights of Newport. As dawn broke through the gray clouds, Sean threw the crab pots over and Mike marked them on the GPS. Then someone spotted harbor porpoises off the bow.

For a few precious minutes, the porpoises ran ahead of the boat, their bodies briefly above the gray water, then beneath; twisting and spinning. And then as quickly as they had appeared, they peeled away. Twenty-three miles out, Mike cut the engine. The Miss Raven bobbed in the deep swells that rolled through us. One moment we towered on a wave, the next we were in the trough. Here the ocean floor humped toward the surface. Here the baitfish congregate as well as the sharp-toothed predators that feed on them. Sean punched holes in a big kitchen wastebasket, then filled it with tuna heads and carcasses. Roped to the side of the boat, the basket milked tuna gore and soon we had birds above us - seagulls and albatross. Matthew and Paul rigged fly rods with steel leaders and big streamers. We watched the surface of the water for black fins. That was when we saw the sunfish. Ocean sunfish are a seldom seen species that make their living on jellyfish. They are as tall as they are long and can weigh up to 3,500 pounds. This one sunbathed at the surface and we were able to get a good look. In some languages they are referred to as moon fish, because of their shape. The Polish name means "head alone"; because it doesn't have a true tail.

A school of 40 or so dolphins found us and ran through our greasy tuna chum line. They circled and came through again and again, breaking through the swells and flashing away below the boat. An albatross paddled nearby and took the fly in its beak. Then he dropped it. That was when I knew we would not catch a shark. The sharks had taken the weekend off. Out on the horizon, I saw a spout and then another. A great barnacled beast breached, its great, gray body lifted above the surface.

Foamy spray crashed out of the swell. In the afternoon, back in sight of the bridge at Newport, Tiffany dipped the hook and pulled in the first buoy. Sean put the rope on the pulley and we held our breath as the pot came into view, brimming with Dungeness crab. Minutes later, we took our stations, sorting males from females, throwing back the little ones. In the dark next morning, we motored south along the coast. Off Cape Perpetua, Mike Sorensen pointed out a watch station that was manned during World War II.

In range of the ghost coastal cannon emplacement, we drifted on a large underwater hilltop. Our jigs and flies bounced through a biomass of rockfish, and in moments, we had our first raw material for fish and chips. In one pass we had filled two-thirds of our limits. On the second drift, we had to call a halt and reel in. Multiple times we caught two rockfish in one cast. Once, we brought three fish aboard in one cast. We came away with a rich haul of crab and rockfish, but that sort of memory is quickly gone in melted butter and tartar sauce. We set out into the Pacific in the dark of the night and watched the sun light up the West Coast; we looked for one thing and found much more. Sharks. Who needs em?



GARY LEWIS BIO

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



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BY JASON BROOKS

BUOY 10 PRIMER

Dropping gear down slowly so not to have it tangle is the key to catching salmon at the famed Buoy 10. Sure, there are a few other things, but if you do not put the gear into the water correctly all the rest that follows does not matter. It was a skill that I learned years ago while fishing on an August day just outside of Astoria's East Mooring Basin. I use cannonball weights from 8 to 16-ounces on a short dropper and slider, to an in-line flasher trailing a plug cut herring pierced with super sharp hooks. From the weight to the herring is nearly 4-feet of what could be a tangled mess, so it is best to slowly drop the gear into the water. Once you hit bottom, do a half crank up on the reel and then put it into the rod holder, and put your hands into your pockets.

A few years ago, we started the day just like this and

before my son could warm his fingers in his pockets, the rod doubled over and stayed down. This meant a big fish was on, and just as quickly as we had put out our gear, Ryan was lifting the rod and reeling. A battle that ensued much longer than we had already been fishing, and twenty minutes later an 18-pound Upriver Bright, or URB, came to the net. It was a hot fish with sea lice, and not even completely out of the ocean, with the incoming pushing tide bringing brackish water as far upriver as Portland, Oregon.

This is Buoy 10 and though we are still several weeks away from the river opening, you need to get the gear, boat, and plans ready now. Start with motel or camping accommodations. By now about every motel, hotel, and VRBO will be full with no vacancy. The best you can do is get on a standby list. Camping is always an

option, but that does not mean it will be close by. Most campgrounds and state parks will be full as well. Even if you venture to the outlying areas such as Ilwaco, Long Beach, Seaside, and other towns, the motels, hotels, and campgrounds will be full. Another option is to call some fishing friends who had the forethought to get accommodations already and see if you can join them, or if they decide to cut their trip short, then take the rest of their reservation. If you are willing to travel a bit further, then look to Longview and even Kelso. It will add a few hours to your trip, but you can find places to stay. Two years ago, we spent the first night in Longview and made the trip to the boat ramp that morning, but we were jumping in with Jason Hambley of Pro-Cure, so we did not need to launch a boat as he was at the dock and waiting for us.

Once you hit the water, be sure to look at the tides, as this will determine where to fish. With each incoming tide, more fish push up into the river. The tides here are so strong that when it is at high tide the fish will be facing downriver, as that is where the current is coming from. Do not think that you always must troll in one direction, and let the tides tell you which way to point the bow of the boat.

The Astoria-Megler Bridge is the starting point for most anglers. Here, most of the fishing is done on the east side of the bridge, or "above the bridge". This is because of the shipping channel on the south side of the river in front of Astoria, as well as a deep slot on the north side of the

river near the Washington side. The middle is a big sand flat and be sure to be careful when crossing, as you could be in 10-feet of water one minute and the next in 6-inches of water. Again, know the tides, and if you cross at high tide, you might not be able to cross at that same place on low tide.

Just downriver from the bridge is the church hole, aptly named for a church that can be seen along the shoreline. Keep going down the river towards the ocean and you will find other well-known spots, such as the checkboard and the jetties, until you find yourself at the Buoy 10 deadline. From there you are out in the open ocean, but do make the mistake of thinking Buoy 10

is protected water. About anything from the church hole downriver gets to be big water, and depending on winds and tides, it can turn quickly.

As the tides start going out, the river returns to its normal course, and you fish it as such. The area above the Astoria bridge is good about any time, but it can be better during specific times such as the tide change, as the fish will once again be facing upriver and resting before pushing on when the water starts to slow with the onset of the incoming tide. The waters on the south side of the river by East Mooring Basin are similar. Here you will see large cargo ships anchored up, and it is easy to tell which way the tide

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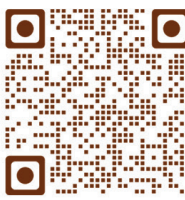


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is flowing by looking at the ships which will swing with the tide.

When it comes to gear, leave the downriggers at home. Everyone here uses a dropper weight and trolling set up. The standard is a cannonball on a slider, and the weight will vary depending on the tides and current as well as how many rods you are fishing. Rods at the front of the boat need heavier weights so they do not drag back into the rear rods.

The set-up can differ a bit depending on what terminal gear you plan to use. One of the most popular set-ups includes a triangle flasher such as the Big Al's Fish Flash from Yakima Bait Company or the UV Triangle Scent Flash from Mack's Lure. The advantage of the UV Scent Flash is the ability to add extra scent. A brined herring that has soaked overnight in Pro-Cure's Brine-n-Bite keeps the baits solid in warm and fast running currents. It also as increases their shine, and that little bit of extra flash helps the salmon locate the

26 | NWFISHING.net bait,

as the waters can be a bit murky. Some anglers also choose to dye the herring to a bright chartreuse color or blue, with Pro-Cure's Bad Azz Bait Dye or their Brine-N-Bite Complete in chartreuse or blue making it a one-step curing and dyeing process.

If you do not know how to properly plug cut herring or do not want to mess with bait, then you have a few other options. One being the Simon Cut Plug, which resembles a plug cut herring and is solid, but has a scent chamber that also holds a miniature chem-light that makes it more visible. Brad's Cut Plugs are also popular here because you can stuff them with bait and scent. Just be sure to check on this lure regularly as it is secured with a rubber band, and any missed bite means the lure could have been opened. Yakima Bait Company came out with the SpinFish a few years ago, and they have become popular at Buoy 10. The larger sizes mimic a wounded baitfish, while the small 2.0 and 2.5 sizes work much like a spinner but can

be filled with bait and scent. Spinners are another option.

When fishing spinners, small SpinFish, and the kokanee size Brad's Cut Plugs, most anglers switch to a 360 flasher. These are the standard 11-inch flashers that saltwater anglers use. The flasher makes a large rotation, and using a short and stout leader of 40-pound monofilament, the spinner or small lure kicks out. Add in the spinning blade or action of the lure and it creates an impulse bite, where a salmon reacts to it and grabs it out of instinct as the prey tries to get away.

The advantage to using spinners or spinning lures is that if you miss a bite then there is no worry if it not working. You can leave it in the rod holder and keep fishing. With bait you need pull it in and use a new bait every time you get a bite, or every hour or two without bites. With the scent holding lures it is best to add more scent every few hours as well.

The bite can be very tide and water temperature dependent. When the water is warm, such as during low tide, and the only water flowing is the summer Columbia River runoff, then the bite can turn off. The incoming tide pushes colder water into the tidal zone, and this helps with the bite as well as pushing in fresh fish. For days with a low tide swing, anglers often head to waters closer to the ocean

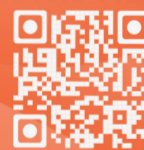
where the fish will mill around before committing to the journey upriver. If the salmon fishing is slow, then be sure to toss a few crab pots out near Ilwaco: just be sure to use heavy weights to keep them from being pulled out to the ocean. You can also fish for other species if you decide not to salmon fish. Bottom fish such as black sea bass and lingcod lurk along the jetties. This makes a multi-day and multi-species fishery option for those that want to make it a vacation. This year, there will be a few days in late August where salmon fishing is closed, to help with chinook escapement. If you find yourself at Buoy 10 during this time in August, then maybe spend a day or two out

crabbing and bottom fishing. Be sure to check for in-season updates and know the rules. Either Washington or Oregon fishing licenses work, but the catch codes of the record cards are different depending on which license you have. This year both chinook and coho must be clipped (hatchery only) below Puget Island, and there is a two-salmon daily limit with only one being a chinook. Once September rolls, around the chinook fishing will be closed but the coho fishing gets good and the daily limit is increased. Buoy 10 is almost here, and now is the time to plan and prepare.

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THE OUTDOORS ROUNDUP

BY JOHN KRUSE

Looking for some things to do outdoors in the days ahead? Here are seven suggestions, allowing you to get outside and do something new every day this spring!

WILDFLOWER HIKES – The wildflowers are blooming around Eastern Washington and now is a great time to go on a hike and immerse yourself in their presence! A few of my favorite places to go include Columbia Hills State Park in Klickitat County, Hay Canyon and Nahahum Canyon near Cashmere, Ingalls Creek south of Peshastin, the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge south of Cheney, and the area around Palouse Falls State Park.

WATERFALLS – Speaking of Palouse Falls, this is the best time of year to visit this state park near Starbuck in Southeast Washington. The spring runoff on the Palouse River sends a voluminous amount of water crashing into the 198-foot deep basalt basin below the falls. Other waterfalls worth checking out right now include Rainbow Falls near Stehekin, Silver Falls west of Entiat, and Periwee (also known as Peewee) Falls in Pend Oreille County, which cascades 233 feet into Boundary Lake.

BASS FISHING – The bass are in the shallows and getting ready to spawn. This is arguably the easiest time of year to sight fish for bass. Casting finesse rigs like senkos, jigs or Texas rigged worms and lizards can readily draw strikes.

Look for these bass in thick cover and be prepared to scratch up the boat a bit to get at them.

TROUT FISHING - Most of those trout planted prior to the lowland lakes opener are still there, and this is a great time to go fishing for them. If you are looking for places to go, check out the WDFW derby lakes where trout with blue tags have been planted. If you catch one of these trout, they are worth a prize, which could be anything from a gift card to a canoe!

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/contests/trout-derby>

CATFISH FISHING - Another option for anglers right now is to go after catfish. You can find them in the lower John Day River between the mouth and the falls as well as the mouth of the Palouse River near Lyons Ferry State Park. Channel catfish are also plentiful in the Snake River.

DESERT HIKES – As the weather warms, desert hikes become a lot less enjoyable, but if you go now, you can still take advantage of the great scenery and some of the lakes found in these regions. Some of my favorite desert hikes are the lower route to the Ancient Lakes, Dusty Lake, (1.5 and 3 mike one-way hikes respectively), and near Frenchman or Winchester Wasteway in the Desert Wildlife Area in Grant County. If you go, check yourself for ticks at the conclusion of your excursion.



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The Washington lowland lakes opener is in the history books, but that doesn't mean you can't still catch fish from them. Here's a report on some favorites and how the angler did:

Steve Caromile, the Inland Fish Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said, "The lowland lake trout season, Washington's single biggest fishing season, opened April 22nd with decent weather and catch rates. It is still one of the best bargains in local family recreation. The 22nd was also the first day of our annual trout derby, and we are already seeing catches of tagged trout!"

Caromile continued saying, "With typical springtime weather, angler catch and effort at our lakes was comparable to prior seasons, with catch averaging just about three fish per angler. The air temperatures weren't bad, but water temperatures are still on the cool side. But with better weather in the forecast, the catch will be heating up as well."

If you are wondering how Central and Eastern Washington lakes fished on opening day, here are reports from WDFW staff who visited various waters in the region:

Klickitat County:

Horsethief Lake was fishing pretty slow on the opener. Individuals averaged two trout each. However, things were very different at Rowland Lake. 29 anglers were checked, and although there were not many people fishing, creel checkers noted they harvested lot of fish.

Eight trout were caught per angler, and on average they kept 3.24 fish. The largest trout seen? A 21-incher!

Chelan County:

Clear Lake was frozen over and Beehive Reservoir was not accessible to vehicular traffic due to snow at this lake located near the Mission Ridge Ski Area, south of Wenatchee. However, Wapato Lake, near Manson, was open for fishing, and anglers caught and kept around 3.5 trout apiece.

Douglas County:

The crowds were out at Jameson Lake on opening morning. Creel checkers counted 234 anglers fishing for trout at 8 AM. Just under 3 trout per angler were caught here, the average fish measuring 11-inches long. The largest fish seen by WDFW staff was a 16-inch rainbow.

Grant County:

The crowds were also out for the opener at Blue Lake, with nearly 300 individuals counted, and a lot of these anglers were kids. The average catch was only 1.5 trout each, but the size of the trout was a healthy 14 inches. Park Lake, south of Coulee City, was also crowded, and the catching was about the same as Blue Lake. There was far better fishing at nearby Deep Lake, in Sun Lakes State Park. Anglers there were catching five fish limits of rainbow trout averaging 13 inches.

Okanogan County:

Okanogan County is a popular destination for the lowland lakes opener and for good



reason: the fishing can be very good here and the scenery is nice. Creel checkers did not make it out to any of the lakes here for the opener but I called Gene Bussell at Liars Cove Resort, who said anglers did pretty good for both bass and trout. However, the lake is really low right now, and according to Bussell, "it's not easy to launch boats at the moment." The good news is the lake is starting to fill and boat access is getting better. Check with Bussell for exactly where to launch so you don't get stuck in the mud.

PEND OREILLE COUNTY:

At Diamond Lake, the crowds were low and the fishing was slow, due primarily to cold water temperatures. Of the anglers checked, on average they only harvested a rainbow apiece, though most of them were 13-inches long, and the largest checked was a respectable 19-inch trout.

STEVENS COUNTY:

Waitts Lake had more anglers than any other body of water in Stevens County on opening

day. Creel checkers noted the fishing was best in the morning before the winds kicked up. The anglers checked averaged 2.4 trout apiece, but the fish were large, with the rainbows going nearly 14 inches and the brown trout 16. There were not many anglers seen at the other Stevens County lakes. At Starvation Lake, anglers were indeed starving for trout and the fishing was slow. The same scenario played out at Rocky and Mudgett Lake. The few trout checked averaged 12 inches in length.

Last but not least, if you catch a trout with a blue tag on it, don't throw it back. That's a WDFW trout derby fish and it's worth a prize. Go to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/contests/trout-derby> for details about where these fish have been stocked and how to claim your prize if you catch one.

John Kruse – www.northwesternoutdoors.com and www.americaoutdoorsradio.com

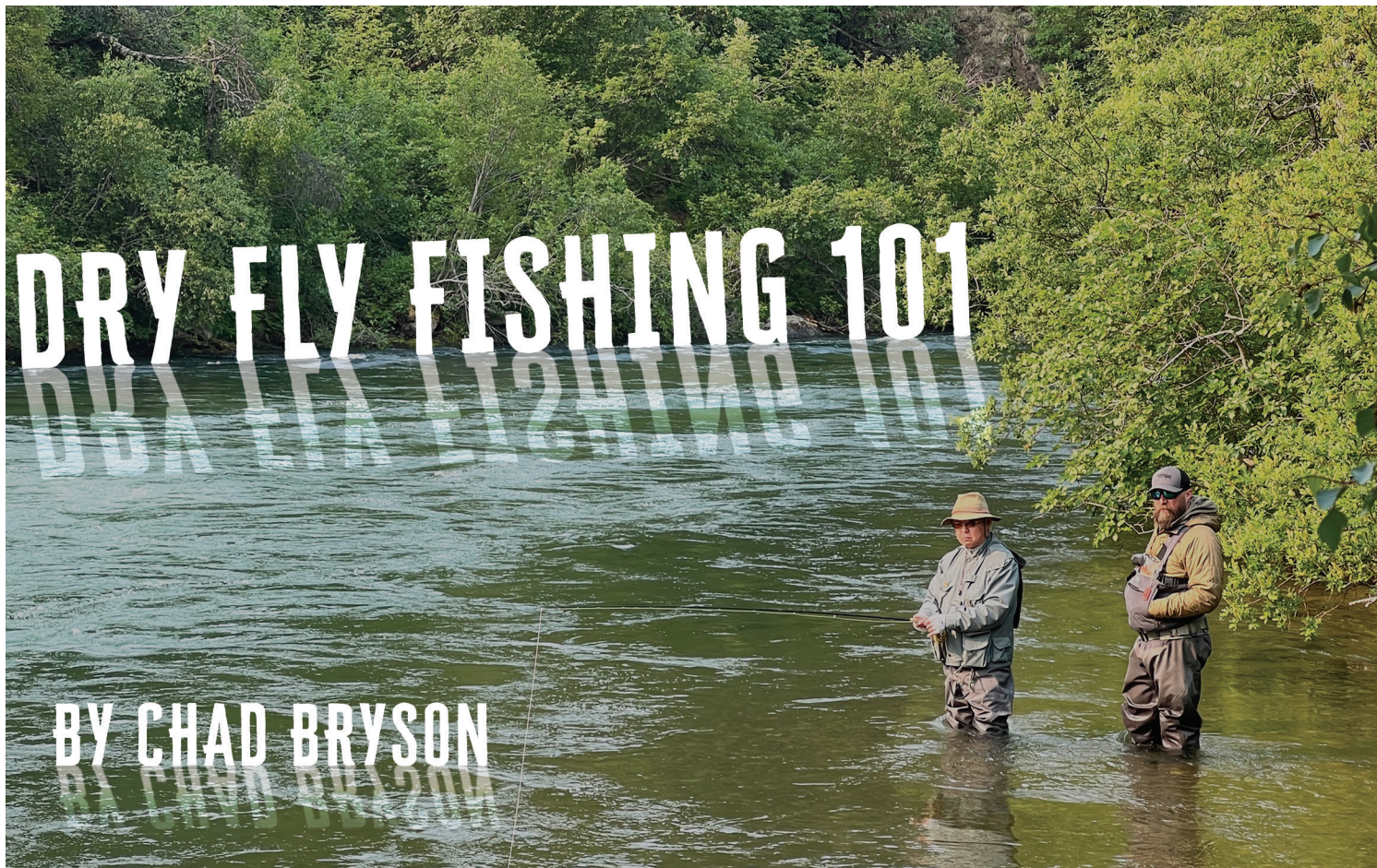


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The image of a trout rising to eat an aquatic insect, usually a mayfly of sorts, is the encapsulation of what drives most anglers to pursue fly fishing. I remember as a young boy seeing it happen for the very first time. What seemed like a gargantuan brown trout rose from an abyss to chase, crush, and inhale a grasshopper. I think I was 7 years old. So in reality, that fish was probably only about 17-18 inches long, and the abyss it rose from was more than likely just a plunge pool that was as deep as I was tall. Nonetheless, it impacted my angling future by putting me on a path to learn fly fishing at a very young age.

Almost as quickly as I started, I found out just how difficult enticing a trout to eat a fake fly could be. My grandfather and my dad were kind enough to allow my pursuit of relentless frustration just to the breaking point before they insisted I fish with bait. At 8 years old, my patience wasn't virtuous at all. However, I did have the persistence and drive to succeed, just not the patience to figure out what I was doing wrong. God bless my grandfather and my dad for tolerating me during that time.

Fast forward 43 years and I have a much better idea of how to help new fly anglers get started. There are a

couple of key ingredients that reduce the learning curve. First, buy some equipment that works. Notice I didn't say buy some expensive equipment, I said buy some equipment that works. For example, a 9' 5 weight fly rod is the most universal of all rods. It is the perfect trout rod as well as panfish, and my favorite dry fly fish, the Arctic grayling. Just make sure your 5 weight rod has a 5 weight fly line on it, matched up with a 5 weight size fly reel. Putting this together accordingly is literally the difference in casting and flailing. There will be some flailing, but not nearly as much if you match everything accordingly.

If you are not sure if your set up is right, visit a fly shop for assistance. Any reputable fly shop will be more than willing to help you fuel this latest version of insanity.

So, you have visited the local fly shop, you have everything matched up. You probably bought some leaders, tippet, and a few flies. If it was a really super reputable fly shop, you probably got loaded up on a healthy dose of sarcasm and ridicule. The best shops always seem to have that air about them, but they will steer you in the right direction. It comes from a good place. Armed with your newfound knowledge and gear you need to proceed to step two: find some dumb fish. Really dumb. The dumbest. Find an entire village of idiot fish to cast to. Panfish make some of the best beginning dry fly fish to cast to. They aren't spooky, they eat willingly, and they taste delicious. There is also absolutely no shame in following the local trout hatchery stocking schedule. Trout raised in a concrete raceway seem to fit the description "village of idiots." They are used to looking up to eat the food served to them twice a day in the very pleasant, controlled environment of the hatchery. In addition, hatchery trout aren't typically too spooky. What we are looking for here is bang for the buck on opportunities. In the beginning of your dry fly

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fishing pursuits, you need a lot of opportunities to fail without punishment. The more times you can make a cast and get results, the more you learn. The more learning opportunities you get, the faster you become a better fly angler. Don't be bashful about fishing to the village idiots.



We can all learn something from them. Once you have found your village to fish in, you need to consider what exactly you are trying to do. You are attempting to imitate an aquatic insect that is resting on the surface of the water above the meniscus. If you are lucky enough to live somewhere that has legitimate bug hatches on the trout creeks, stop and watch the bugs float downstream. Watch the trout that rise to eat them. Also watch the trout that rise for the intent of eating an insect but refuse at the last second. That's just as important. The bugs that are floating downstream with trout eating them are the ones you want to imitate. Invariably someone out there is currently saying "match the hatch." It is a catch phrase that I have come to detest and loathe but it does bear some legitimacy. We can worry about the catch phrases later.

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For now, you just need to focus on making a cast so that your fly looks right to the fish. Ultimately, that is the most important part of the equation. Casting your fly with it splashing the water upon impact has the same impact as the brute squad knocking your front door down with a battering ram. If that happened at your house, you probably aren't gonna want to hangout, hold hands, and sing kumbaya. Try to be soft on approach. A live insect doesn't even weigh fraction of an ounce. No way it can make a giant splash when it hits the water. Your fly shouldn't either.

Lastly, in regards to presentation, there is this thing you need to learn called "drag free drift." Yeah, I know, another catch phrase. This one is tolerable though only

because it carries weight with it. Obtaining a drag free drift absolutely ensures that your presentation looks as good as it can possibly look to the fish. It's imperative to seducing a fish to eat your fly. What is this drag free drift, you say, and how do I obtain it? The drag free drift is achieved by manipulating the fly line with upstream or downstream in order to make the fly travel at the same speed at the river current on the surface where the fly is positioned. Great. Now here it is in layman terms, you are going to cast your fly and there will be a V-wake coming off of it. V-wake is bad. V-wake tells the fish that your fly presentation does not look right, therefore, the fish does not eat your fly. This is, of course, not what we are trying to accomplish at all.



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The act of “mending” your fly line, or manipulating the fly line, upstream or downstream of your fly will either speed up the fly or slow it down to the point of eliminating the V-wake. Trying to put in to words how to mend fly line in order to achieve a drag free drift is like trying to write down instructions for riding a bicycle for the first time. Hands on handle bars, feet on pedals, pedal fast, hold tight, and hope for the best. Mending fly line is best learned through visual aid. Hire a guide or watch a video from Rio Products on YouTube. It will be the difference in catching and flailing.

We have covered a lot of ground here, but one last thing. What do you do when the fish does actually eat your fly? You’ve made a good cast, good drift, and a trout graces your ego by taking your synthetic offering as if it were a tomahawk ribeye. Dear baby Jesus, this actually worked. What now? I’m willing to bet the first time it happens, you will set the hook well before the fish has the fly in its mouth. Most anglers react upon the visual of the fish breaking the surface resulting in the fly being pulled away from the fish before it has time to come down on top of the fly to ingest it.

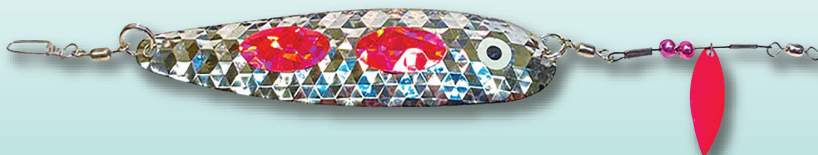
If you can somehow force yourself to wait on the hook set until after you can see the dorsal fin, your success rate will increase substantially. I once had an Alaska client that came every year only to fish Arctic grayling on dry flies. He would stand in the run and say “God save the queen” every time a grayling rose to his fly. After he said the words, he set the hook. That was his way of metering his hook set so it wasn't too quick. After about the 50th time hearing it, I was hoping for a new phrase or no phrase at all, but it worked for him. It's summer. Get your gear sorted out, find a village of idiots, have some fun, and God save the queen.

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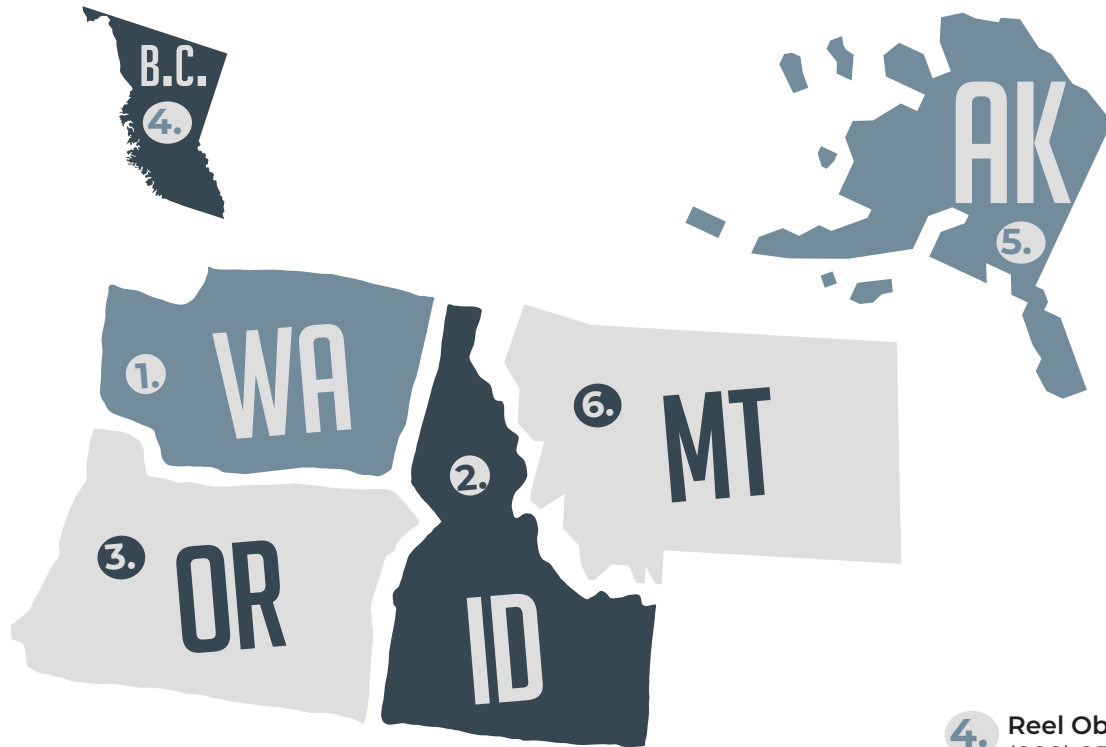
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Washington State Law RCW 77.15.160

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- Permits cost **\$24** and are valid for one year.
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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.

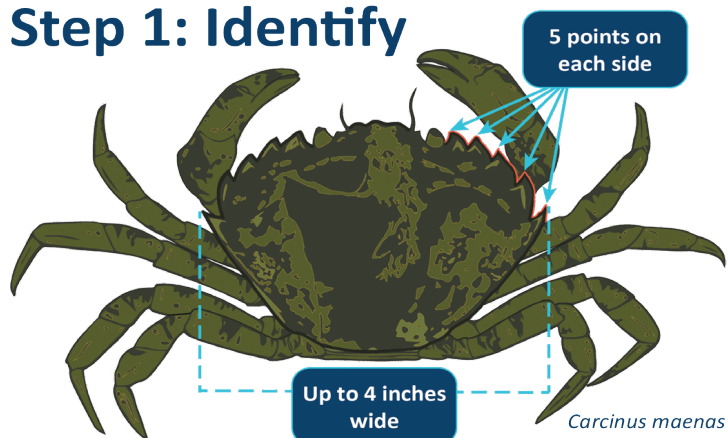


For more information visit wdfw.wa.gov or call the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at **888-WDFW-AIS**

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

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.

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). For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.



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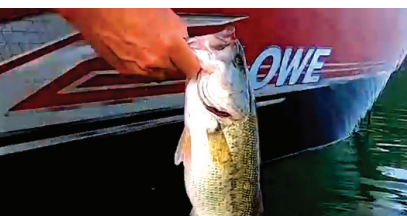
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