

# REEL LIFE



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# EDITOR'S CORNER:

Welcome to Summer! My daily routine in Big Sky Country is to wake up with the sun shining in my eyes at daybreak. It's the best time of the day, having my morning coffee and feeding the dogs. If my morning is free I've been loading up my float tube and visiting new fishing spots around Great Falls. I'm always looking for that next fishing adventure!




Now is the time to stretch your horizons and make your own fishing memories. The Pacific Northwest abounds with outdoor opportunities and we are blessed with diverse experiences to be had. River, small ponds, big lakes, saltwater, Alpine lakes and more await you. The possibilities are endless!

We at Northwest Reel Life hope that our magazine inspires you to explore all our region has to offer. So enjoy this month's articles and go make some fishing memories!

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



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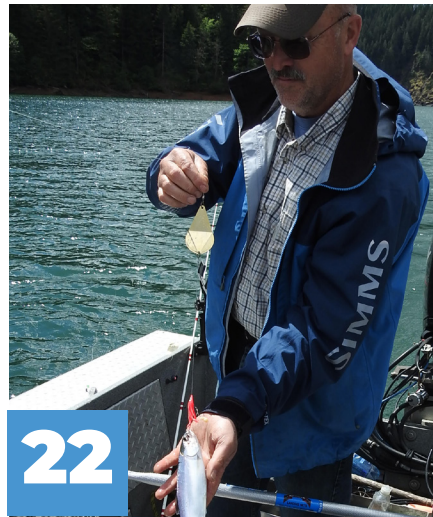


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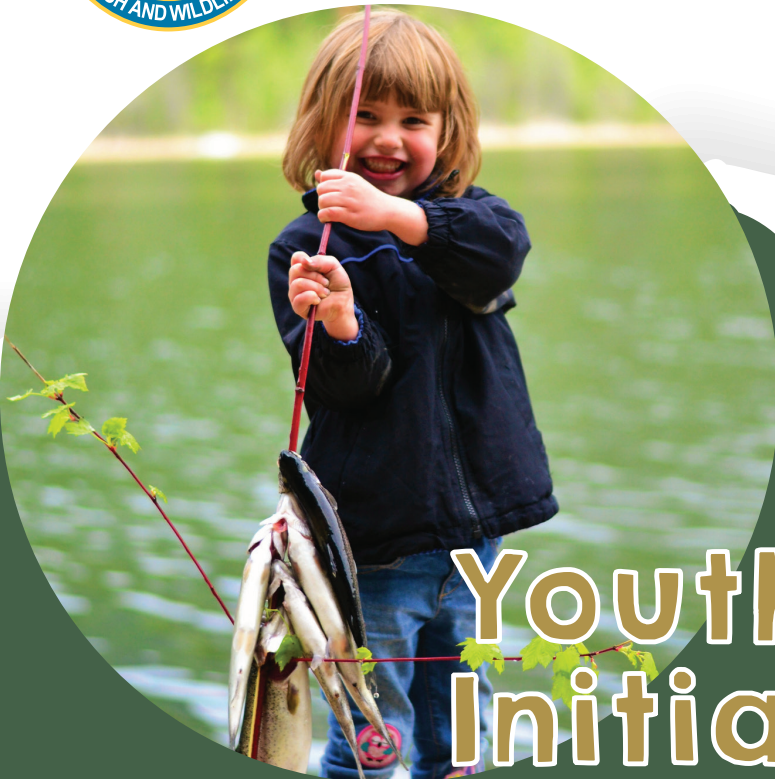
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# SHAD FISHING

## IS HEATING UP

BY JOHN KRUSE

The annual run of American shad up the Columbia River is building steam. Over a 100,000 shad a day are being counted at the Bonneville Dam fish ladder. Marc Bush, owner of Twisted Waters Guide Service, recently took two clients shad fishing near Beacon Rock State Park and the two, Drew Monsey and his father Martin, caught 104 shad in short order, with Drew out fishing his dad by 11 fish. If you would like to book a trip with Bush you can go to his Facebook page or his website at [www.twistedwaters-gs.com](http://www.twistedwaters-gs.com).

You don't need to have a guide to have success catching shad. Two great places to fish for them from shore are just below Bonneville Dam and also below the John Day Dam. Simply cast a 1/16-ounce jig or shad dart and use anywhere from ¼ to ½ ounce of lead above it (depending on the current).

Then, let it swing downstream with the current and wait for a bite before reeling in the jig and casting again.

Shad typically run between one and three pounds but they are scrappy fighters and fun to catch. Kids in particular enjoy the non-stop action when the shad run is going strong. The state record for shad is a 3.85-pound specimen caught by Tom Magnuson out of the Columbia River in 2005.

Some anglers will keep the shad to eat but others (myself included), cut these fish in half and use them for crab bait. They are a very oily fish and work very well when it comes to attracting crabs. Shad also work well as bait for sturgeon fishing and for catfish too.

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# THE VOLES OF SUMMER

BY CHAD BRYSON



As fly anglers, we are all cultured to believe that trout eat insects and nothing more. Trout gently sipping bugs from the surface of a calmly flowing stream paints the image of fly fishing narrative. It's what we all learn in the beginning. Anything else would be culturally unacceptable in the fly fishing world. For years, I believed that no self-respecting trout would ever eat anything other than some form of aquatic insect or terrestrial bug. Fly fishing in Appalachia ingrained that into my head. That was right up until I read an article in Fish Alaska magazine about rainbow trout eating mice.

The level of disbelief wielding in my brain about what I was akin to what my grandfather thought about space travel. It wasn't happening. It didn't happen and it wasn't ever going to happen. Sure, I had seen a brown trout slashing at other fish and had buddies in the upper midwest that talked about mouse fishing for brown trout at night.

But never, ever would a rainbow trout chase down and annihilate a mouse. Rainbows weren't that type of aggressor and besides, they didn't get big enough to eat a mouse. Right? That's what I, the 25 year old knower of all things trout, thought. No way.

I must have read that story 10 times before I finally accepted that the writer must have had a very minute amount of success using this "mousing" method for Alaskan Rainbow Trout. Back in those pre-internet days all we had to rely on was a trusted publication with mass circulation and a photo album. Yes kids, before internet and social media we all carried photo albums with us to trade shows, speaking engagements, etc. A three ring binder notebook full of print photographs. Sometimes carrying just one album was not enough; depending on the situation and competition. It was the only way to advertise your trade of skills and to prove

that you weren't just a liar. In fact, the next trade show I worked at was where I found living proof that the "mousing" I had read about was in fact real. Not only real but a viable method for targeting the largest of the species. I was befuddled.

At that show, I met a lodge owner that hosted the writer for the story I had read in Fish Alaska. He explained to me how the whole Alaska trout universe operated. Upon understanding, the program made sense. It was no great consequence that this guy gave me my first job in Bristol Bay some years later. I adapted his explanation into my own version. If you have fished with me as a lodge guest, client or friend new to the Alaska trout universe, you have heard me deliver this lecture. Some of you may have heard it more than once. Its as follows - Alaska rainbow trout live a different life and lifestyle than lower 48 rainbow trout.



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They only have a three, maybe four, month window of time to get in a full twelve month life cycle, as compared to a regular lower 48 rainbow that might have nine or ten months to get everything in before the water cools to a point that their metabolism slows to a crawl. So, in three months, an Alaska rainbow trout has to find a girlfriend, find a house or two and, it has to eat everything it can. And by eating everything it can, I mean everything starting with the highest forms of protein first. In spring, voles (mice) and leeches are the prominent source. As summer comes so do the salmon producing first eggs, then flesh after the spawn is over. Fall brings on the sculpin, more leeches and whatever else they can find. All that along with finding a girlfriend and a couple houses in three months. Its a lot of living.

But more importantly, the "mousing." While in spring and summer hordes of mice or voles, red back voles to be specific, make their seemingly ridiculous trek transitioning from tundra animal to aspiring olympic swimmer. Why? I don't know.

Some say its because of some migration pattern. Maybe. Others say its because they are seeking the same things all mammals seek. Could be. Why a tiny little vole would jump into a raging river flowing at upwards of ten knots is beyond my level of good reasoning and understanding. Why do voles jump in the river? My opinion is because they just do and I don't care why as long as trout continue to eat them. If you are more worried about why they do as opposed to the consequences of it, you should probably change the channel. I heard re-runs of the greatest Bob Hope Christmas specials were going to air in July. You might check that out.

The first time I watched a rainbow "mousing" left a scorching imprint of what really happens in the bush. Eat or get eaten. Brutality in its purest form. This poor little red back vole was just swimming across the river in a narrow channel that didn't seem deep enough to hold a rainbow. Its swimming along just trying to get to the other side for who knows why and this two foot rainbow



manifests, chases the vole, swirls and smashes on it but misses. Then it swirls and smashes again only to miss the vole again. Just when we all thought the show was over the trout comes back for one last grab. Third times a charm right. Nope. Another swing and miss precluded with a full body leap out of the water to come crashing down on top of the vole, missing completely. All the while this vole is still just swimming. Doing its thing. While I am sure the thing was horrified beyond belief, it didn't change its pace or course. Probably because it wasn't capable of physically fighting the river current. The fourth and final attempt from the rainbow proved worthy but not without show. The fish came back waking the even more shallow water like a great white shark chasing a seal. It literally powered its way through six inches of water to annihilate the vole just before it reached the other side of the narrow river channel. Pure unforgiving brutality. I and my Swiss clients stood there looking at each other. Until that moment, we had all struggled with a language barrier. they didn't speak

much English and I didn't speak Romansch. Once that rainbow crushed the vole, we all understood what needed to happen and it did.

The first pass with a "mouse" pattern fly was nothing less than epic. Three chases and then a hook up. Next guy cast and had four chases and then hooked up. This went on all day and the rest of the week. At one point, I even took all the flies out of my pack except mice. The fact that they witnessed the initial sacrificial lamb significantly flattened the curve. They knew not to set the hook until they felt weight on the hook. Like the precision watches the guys built, with systematical precision they took apart the entire river and covered every bit of water with mouse patterns. All week.

Now I have clients that book for Alaska specifically when "mousing" is peak. Usually, June and July. They bring only mouse pattern flies, and floating seven weight lines on 9' rods. Most folks bring two rods, just in case the unspeakable happens. The bush isn't a place to not be prepared but, that's another story.....



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# WASHINGTON OCEAN SALMON PROSPECTS

BY JASON BROOKS

With salmon seasons being ever-changing, from season to season, month to month, and even minute to minute depending on where you fish, the recent announcement of summer salmon seasons was met with some excitement and hesitation. Fisheries managers met over several weeks during the North of Falcon process where everyone with an interest in salmon planned out the quotas and seasons. Washington's governor added a new apprehension at the table with concern

over making sure there is enough food for south Sound Orcas well as fish sport anglers, commercial harvesters, and tribal fisheries, while still allowing for escapement.

The escapement is the main focus, with ESA-listed stocks and wild fish returns dictating how and when anglers can pursue salmon. Once the run estimates are established then the managers need to figure out how many fish can be caught in the ocean and still allows for fishing, and escapement in each of the predicted runs. This is where

the marine area gets its seasons and regulations. This year the allotment for ocean salmon off of the coast of Washington was set at 39,000 chinook and 159,600 coho. Each marine area will get its own seasons and a share of the fish.

Starting with Marine Area 4, Neah Bay, the northernmost ocean section which borders Canadian waters, will get first dibs on the salmon, along with Marine Area, 3 La Push, which will have the same start date of June 17th. This is just like last year, when the areas opened up on Father's Day weekend, but



this year anglers can still keep two salmon per day. However, only one can be a chinook and all coho must be clipped. It is open 7 days per week, but later this summer, chinook will be closed east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line starting on August 1st.

Marine Area 3 will have similar regulations as Area 4 but will also have a late "bubble" fishery from October 3rd to the 7th with a one chinook per day limit. La Push is not nearly as popular as Neah Bay, mostly because it is an open water fishery where the area to the north in Neah Bay has some protected fishing. Since the Covid restrictions have lifted, both reservations are now open. Neah Bay offers a bit more in amenities, but nearby Forks is a great town to stay in when fishing out of either port and has accommodations, restaurants, and gas stations, along with a sporting goods store in case you forgot anything.

Westport in Marine Area 2 is probably the most popular of all offshore ocean fishing locations. The famed Grays Harbor bar is not fun to cross, but on good days the fishing makes it all worth it. This tiny fishing town has everything you need, and if the bar is not cooperating or you are looking for some bottom fish to take home, then fishing along the jetty or the many rock piles off the coast makes for a fun fishery. The season here opens June 24th and will be open 7 days per week with a two salmon daily limit.

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Only one can be a chinook, and all coho must be clipped.

The coast of Ocean Shores is a popular area to fish in Marine Area 2. You can use the hotels as a marker on where to fish. The casino is a well-known landmark where anglers will fish in 60 feet of water and make their way out deeper from there. Another good spot is south of the jetty, where you can intercept fish making their way to Willapa Bay and the Columbia River. One of the reasons why Marine Area 2 is such a good fishery is because anglers are targeting fish heading to Grays Harbor, and as they near the entrance they tend to hang out in the saltwater just offshore. Add in the fish migrating further south to Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, and even Oregon rivers, and it makes for a highway of salmon to intercept.

Marine Area 1 out of Ilwaco is for the serious salmon angler. The season is set to open June 24th with a two salmon per day limit, but only one can be a chinook and all coho must be clipped. Ilwaco is a protected port with a long jetty that protrudes out into the Columbia, and it can mislead the novice angler into thinking everything is good to go. Be sure to know how and when to cross the Columbia River bar safely. This is the deadliest bar in the world and there is a reason why the U.S. Coast Guard trains their rescue



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swimmers here. But if you can make it out to the ocean then you will get your first chance at the 554,000 fall chinook or the 595,300 coho making their way back to the Columbia River.

When it comes to salmon fishing in the ocean, nothing beats fishing fresh bait. I use brined herring that has sat overnight in Pro-Cure's Brine-n-Brite and been toughened with some Bait Spice, an infused rock salt with bluing agents and scents. Learning to plug cut herring can be tricky but once you get the perfect cut down, it is one of the most productive ways to fish. But if you find yourself in a school of crazed coho where most will not be clipped and before you know it bait is running low, then there are a few things you can do to increase your catch rate when the bait runs out. There are many spinning plugs on the market now, including the SpinFish by Yakima Bait Company, the Cut Plug by Brad's, and now the Simon Spin Dawg and Simon Cut Plug. The first two have a hollow cavity to place scents, herring strips or canned tuna, but the

products by Simon are solid and have a scent cavity. One benefit of the solid bait is that it won't come apart when a chinook grabs hold. The other lures, though, offer more scent-holding capabilities. All of them work on the same wounded baitfish principle and work great when the real bait runs low or you don't want to mess with brining and plug cutting. Old Goat Lures also makes a hollow one-piece wounded baitfish lure and they make it out of plastics that glow for those low-light days or early morning fisheries. With each of these lures, it is best to use a super sticky scent such as those by Pro-Cure in their Bait Sauce line.

To rig up the spinning plug lures, there are two primary ways to fish them when trolling in the ocean. The first is behind a 360-flasher such as a Mack's Lure UV Paddle ScentFlash, which can be filled with even more scent. Use a long leader from 42 to 56 inches to the lure, and then use the downrigger to get it to the depth of choice. The other way to rig it is just like how one would




mooch using a mooching weight from 2 to 5 ounces, depending on how deep you want to run it, and then a long leader, again 42 to 56 inches. Simply let this rod out of the back of the boat about 50 feet, and put it in the rod holders. This makes for a great top water rod when targeting coho. Once you find a school of chinook you can then use this same set-up to mooch for them, and even drop it down over a rock pile and catch rockfish and lingcod. It is a simple and very versatile set-up and one I always have rigged and ready in the boat when heading to fish the ocean.

It is time to do a little homework and figure out where you want to catch

some salmon. With the marine areas now open, it is a matter of checking the tides and winds and making sure all of the safety equipment is up to date. This is also a good time to update any software for the sonar unit and make sure the life jackets are serviceable. Motor maintenance should have been done months ago, but if you haven't done so then be sure to get them running right before heading out to the open ocean.


The saltwater is one of the best places to catch salmon as long as you are prepared and know how to navigate the bar crossings safely. Head out to the open sea and catch some salmon.



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You've probably heard stories about the Brewster pool, if you haven't fished it before. It's one of the most productive and legendary fisheries in the state, and many fishermen look forward to fishing it every year. Thousands of chinook and sockeye salmon make their way up the Columbia River and stage in the cool waters of Lake Pateros (also known as the Brewster pool) before heading up the Okanogan River. The fishery typically opens up in July and can be extremely productive for both species of fish. Despite their long journey, the fish are willing biters and taste great on the grill or smoker. 20-pound chinook are regularly caught, and the sockeye are great eating quality. It's a fun fishery for a summer day, but learning how to fish it isn't always easy. Brewster is about an hour north of Wenatchee, so it's quite a drive. It can also be intimidating because there are so many other boats in the water. As long as you do some research and have patience, you'll have a great time and catch some fish. Here's some tips and tricks to help give you a successful day at the Brewster pool.

### **CHINOOK**

The chinook fishery at Brewster tends to be a first light fishery, so grab

the coffee and headlamps so you can launch in the dark. It's a short run from the boat ramp to the pool, just stop when you see all the other boats! The most important thing to know about the Brewster pool is that it's a trolling game. Some anglers jig or anchor up, but they are few and far between. There are just too many boats for anyone to anchor up. Most fishermen in the pool use cannon ball droppers and skip the downriggers. You can run anywhere between 4 to 12 ounces of lead, depending on the current and the stoutness of your rods. Brad's Super Baits trolled behind 360 style flashers are the go-to, but many anglers have good success with spinners too. Wrap or stuff your plug with tuna, herring, or shrimp to give it extra pizzazz. If you run spinners, you can put some gel scent on them or hook on a coon shrimp. Don't be afraid to swap out the hooks on your lures. Chinook have thick, tough jaws, so you want your hooks to stick. Troll between 1.5 to 2mph if you can, but you may have to match your speed with other boats if the pool is crowded enough. When fighting the fish, keep the pressure on. These fish will spit the hook if there's any slack in the line, and they really tend to explode when they see



the net. Adjust your drag and be patient.

## SOCKEYE

If the chinook aren't biting or you have bored kids in your boat, Brewster pool sockeye are plentiful and hungry! They are a bit smaller than Baker Lake sockeye, but they taste good and are much more numerous than the chinook. Like the chinook fishery, sockeye here are caught by trolling. There are usually two groups of boats in the pool, one that trolls faster for chinook on the current break between the Okanagan and the Columbia, and one that targets chinook closer to the mouth of the Okanagan. Chinook and sockeye do sometimes bite on the same gear, especially when the sockeye really start to stack up in the pool. If you catch a chinook on sockeye gear, hang on! If you're targeting sockeye, the same concepts you use when kokanee fishing apply. Use short leaders and lots of scent! Mack's Lures offer a variety of sockeye lures that are all killer in the Brewster pool. Pink lures work best for sockeye. Pair them up with a dodger or smaller flasher, and you're in business. Don't forget to tip your lure with a piece of coon shrimp. You can cure your own or buy some pre-cured ones. No need to use the whole shrimp like you did for chinook that morning, you can just use a small tail piece. Thankfully, the sockeye bite all day, but the fish are more active in the early morning. Use lighter cannonballs than

the ones that you used for chinook earlier in the morning. It's worth using different weights to make sure your lines don't tangle, particularly if you're running 4 or more rods. The sockeye move deeper as the day heats up. There's a deep river channel somewhat near the shore that the sockeye like to hang out in, but definitely don't be afraid to fish away from the crowd and try new areas. The sockeye in the Brewster pool are higher up in the water column than the chinook, so a good fish finder can really help you out. Just like their freshwater dwelling cousins, sockeye prefer a slow troll. Again, if you're fishing in the crowd, you will probably have to match their general speed. Make sure your gear looks good before dropping it down. You'll want your dodger to give your lure plenty of action to attract the sockeye, so shorten your leader if you need to.

Here's a few words to the wise about the Brewster pool. Wear sunscreen! The sun can really beat down on those hot days between bites, you'll be glad to have it on board. It's a good idea to start fishing at first light and run back before noon, before the heat becomes too unbearable. Also, make sure to pay attention to your surroundings. The Brewster pool isn't exactly a secret, so you can expect to have company. Sometimes there are hundreds of other boats out there, especially on weekends.

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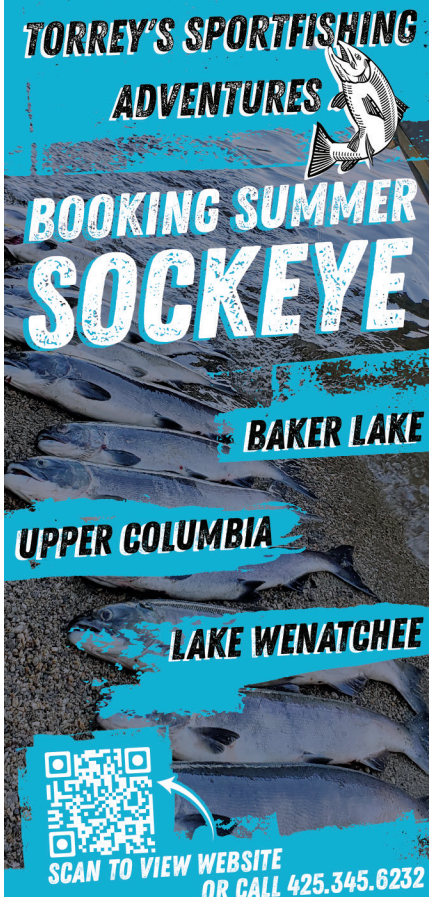
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Paying attention to the helm and giving other boats some space will help avoid flared tempers. If you'd rather not deal with the potential stress, there are dozens of guides that you can book to fish the Brewster pool. You can kick back and enjoy the beautiful scenery, and come home with a cooler full of filets. Speaking of coolers, they are a must-have- both for cold drinks and for keeping fish. You'll want to bleed and ice your fish ASAP for the best meat quality. Lastly, get to the boat ramp early and bring a good book. The boat ramp can get very crowded, especially when the sockeye are in. It's a good idea to use the time spent waiting to prep your

boat. This is another instance when having patience and a level head will help you out. If you'd rather not spend an hour or two waiting to launch, again, hiring a guide might not be a bad idea. Some of them actually launch the night before, anchor up, and sleep on the boat before they pick you up.

Once you're done fishing for the day, head into the town of Brewster for lunch. There are several excellent restaurants, and downtown Brewster is worth exploring for the afternoon. It's a great way to cap off your day of sockeye and chinook fishing! Fishing the Brewster pool is an unforgettable experience. Head out there and have fun!



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# THE JIKA RIG

## BY RICK LAWRENCE



One of the major problems I've had over the years fishing tubes is how often they get hung up using a standard tube jig. Whether you're fishing in the rocks, or wood cover they just seem to catch on everything. To solve this, I've gone out of the box so to speak.

The Jika Rig (pronounced Zee-ka), offers a new way of presenting snag proof soft plastic baits to bass, and one of my favorite baits to use for this rig is the tube. Tube fishing is one of the best ways to catch smallmouth and largemouth bass on the planet and if you were to ask Al Lindner, he'll tell you a green pumpkin tube is his absolute go-to bait for smallmouth bass fishing on any lake in North America. For me it's a green pumpkin or brown craw here on the Pend Oreille River for them beautiful pre-spawn ditch pickles.

I think the tube represents a crawdad amazingly well. This is why I love dragging a tube. As it looks just like a crawdad crawling slowly across the bottom, but if you're on a lake or river infested with Sculpin as most Washington and Idaho waters are tubes

become even more effective, as it can imitate these very well also. Here is what the Banded Sculpin native to our waters looks like.

Both Largemouth and Smallmouth eat them by the ton and a tube is a perfect imitation of these somewhat ugly little critters and I think one of the best ways to present them is the Jika Rig.

You can make your own Jika rigs by attaching a split ring to the eye of a Gammy EWG hook and hang a finesse dropshot weight from it. Just tie your line to the split ring not the eye of the hook.

I go down as small as a #2 EWG hook for the smaller Gitzit tubes and up to a 3/0 for the bigger tubes. I use split rings and weights to match the size of the hook and the bait with the conditions I'm fishing. In general I use a 1/4 or 3/8 oz dropshot weight with small tubes and a 1/2 oz. up to a 1 oz. on large tubes fished in deep water.

One of the primary benefits of using a Jika Rig is sensitivity. It allows for a more direct connection between you and bottom, which helps you feel bottom composition and

transitions. Traditional tube riggings tend to dampen the overall sensitivity of the rig, making it more difficult to feel bottom.

While we are talking about tubes right now, keep in mind that you can use this presentation with a variety of different soft plastic baits. Worms, creature baits, flukes, craws and swimbaits can all be Zika Rigged to various effects. It offers a different "look" than what the fish are used to seeing.

What are some good places to fish the Jika Rig? You can fish them in the same types of areas you might otherwise fish a dropshot rig or a standard tube. Look for transitions in bottom composition, whether it's a hard-to-soft bottom transition, sand-to-weed transition, or even a dark-to-light color change on the bottom. All of these areas tend to attract bass.

The beauty of this rig is in its versatility. You can easily change out weights to adjust of the depth your fishing or your desired drop speed. It can be fished on a spinning rod or a baitcasting rod, depending on your personal preference.



The Jika rig is perfect for dragging tubes as it keeps the bait on the bottom without the fear of getting hung up and dragging tubes is really quite simple. You essentially drop a plastic grub to a lake's bottom in areas likely to be holding bass, and use your trolling motor to drag the bait across the bottom while also maintaining constant contact with structure. I like to crawl my baits very slowly with a long pause in colder water moving the bait only a few inches at a time.

One day a few years ago I went fishin in late March and it was blinding cold outside. Dressed in my insulated coveralls and armed with my hot coco coffee, black licorice and a box of doughnuts, I hit the river for a little bank fishing. My standard tube dragging equipment at the time consisted

of some 1/4 to 1/2 oz. tube jigs, and some 2" Gitzit tubes to 3.5" Strike King Coffee tubes. I hiked down to my favorite early spring Largemouth hole and cast a tube to the spot on the spot where I knew the early spring largies would be. As soon as the bait hit the bottom I had a nice fat 3lb bass on. My next cast I only crawled the bait about a foot and it was hung up. Since I was bank fishing you can't just move to a spot you can pull the bait loose like you can in a boat, so I broke that off, retied and cast again. In my next 10 casts I got 4 fish and broke off 6 times. I knew there had to be a better way when I remembered an article I had read a few months prior about a new rig. I couldn't remember what it was called, but I did remember what it basically looked like. So I looked through my tackle and found

some long dropshot weights and a few smaller than average EWG hooks. I took a small split ring off a crankbait and attached it to the EWG hook and put the weight on it and rigged up my tube I was using Texas style. Well I landed 10 fish from 2 to 5 lbs in a row without one break off and I knew I was on to something.

Since that experience, I have been fishing that odd rig with a funny name with great success in places that a normal tube rig would get hung up every time. There is also another version of this rig called a Tokyo rig that the weight is on a wire about 2 to 4 inches long.

I haven't tried this rig yet, but I plan to this coming year to see if I like it any better than what I have been using. I hope you guys will try both the Jika rig and this other one to see what you like best.

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# TOO MANY KOKANEE? HERE'S THE CURE.

BY GARY LEWIS

AT OREGON'S GREEN PETER RESERVOIR, AN ABUNDANCE OF KOKANEE CAN KEEP THE RODS DANCING UNTIL EVERYONE HAS THEIR 25-FISH LIMIT.

Too many kokanee. That was the problem. We had the cure.

As we idled away from the dock in the Nomad's Fishing Adventures 24-foot Koffler sled, Bill Kremers and Josh Hopkins tied up rigs. Our guide, Damon Struble, passed out cups of cured corn. Garlic on the starboard side and krill-marinated kernels on the other. Then Struble pointed the bow up into the narrows.

A few minutes later, when Struble shut off the Mercury, he looked each of us in the eye - Tim Wehde, Kremers, Hopkins, and me. "We're going to set the back rods at 60 feet out and the front rods at 70 feet. Put one to two kernels of corn on each hook. Things are going to be chaotic.

If a rod starts bouncing, don't worry about whose rod it is. Pick it up. If you are tying up a new bait and see a rod with a fish, set the first rod down and get the fish in the boat."

Each rod was loaded with a 3-ounce weight to run the baits 30 to 40 feet down where thousands of kokanee schooled below us.

At full pool, Green Peter covers 3,700 acres and is ten miles long, with 38 miles of shoreline.

The water level fluctuates and the fish move around, but some of the best kokanee spots are by the dam, in the Quartzville arm (where we fished), and around the peninsula in the main channel. Jigging is a favorite technique early in the year, but trollers seem to do better in the summer.

Damon uses a Simon 4.0 kokanee dodger on the main line with a Gold Star micro hoochie. Another good bet is a Kokanee Kid Super Mysis Bug or a Mack's Lure Double Whammy with a 10-inch leader. Most anglers add white corn. Damon likes to marinate the corn overnight in Pro-Cure krill powder and Garlic Plus.

Hopkins had brought two prototype Lamiglas kokanee rods, graphite/fiberglass hybrids with slow actions. We would put them to the test with these heavy 3-ounce weights.

For several years, ODFW found themselves with a surplus of sockeye smolts, Struble explained. Those fish ended up in Green Peter Reservoir.



"The result is such an overabundance there isn't enough food for all the fish. So they are stunted," Struble said.

In less than two minutes, we had the first bite. The fish came fast, sometimes with two or three rods bouncing at once. As quick as we could put fish in the box and put fresh bait on hooks, there would be another bite. Our kokanee averaged eight to nine inches each.

The direct beneficiary of the kokanee experiment is a little known landlocked chinook salmon fishery created by ODFW almost 20 years ago.

"They wanted to see if the chinook salmon would migrate through the dam and return. For seven or eight years, ODFW put 20,000 chinook smolts in the reservoir," Struble said. "After some high water flood years that blew out the catch nets, the project was abandoned."

Technically, the experiment didn't prove successful, but the chinook are still there. "They turned Green Peter into their ocean and spawn up in the creeks," Struble said.

How big do they get?

"The biggest one I have caught was 16-1/2 pounds, while trolling for kokanee with a dodger and a little hoochie," Struble said.

Those landlocked chinook are growing big on the kokanee.

Struble estimates he has caught 25 or 30 chinook between two and ten pounds while fishing for kokanee.

"When they are small, I'm not sure what they feed on, but inside that 16-1/2 pounder was a mostly digested kokanee about eight inches long."

We didn't have time to target Green Peter rainbows, but that is another facet of this interesting fishery. Ahead of every Memorial Day weekend, the state plants 10,000 rainbows. Anglers don't get them all.

"Come springtime there is a really good population of hungry holdovers that range from 12 to 18 inches," Struble said.

While we worked back and forth above a biomass of kokanee, the eagles and ospreys watched. When we lost a fish at the surface, a raptor would swoop down to pluck it out of the wind-riffled water.

At Green Peter, the kokanee limit is 25 per day in addition to the daily five-trout limit. There is no size restriction for kokanee. Landlocked chinook salmon may be retained as part of the kokanee limit.

Damon glanced at the western sky, which had suddenly filled with clouds and said, "Unless you guys want part of that, we should run for the dock!" And run we did.

By the time the Ford was pointed back toward Central Oregon, the windshield wipers were working overtime. We had boated 45 kokanee in two hours. We hardly put a dent in them.

## FISHING NEARBY FOSTER RESERVOIR

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LOOK FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS AND YELLOW PERCH NEAR UNDERWATER STRUCTURE AND DROP-OFFS. REMEMBER THAT ONLY KOKANEE AND ADIPOSE FIN-CLIPPED TROUT MAY BE KEPT AS PART OF THE TROUT BAG LIMIT, BUT THERE ARE NO LIMITS ON SIZE OR NUMBER OF BASS. RETENTION OF WARMWATER FISH SPECIES SUCH AS BLUEGILL, CATFISH, CRAPPIE, AND YELLOW PERCH IS ALSO ALLOWED; NO LIMIT ON SIZE OR NUMBER.



### 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.

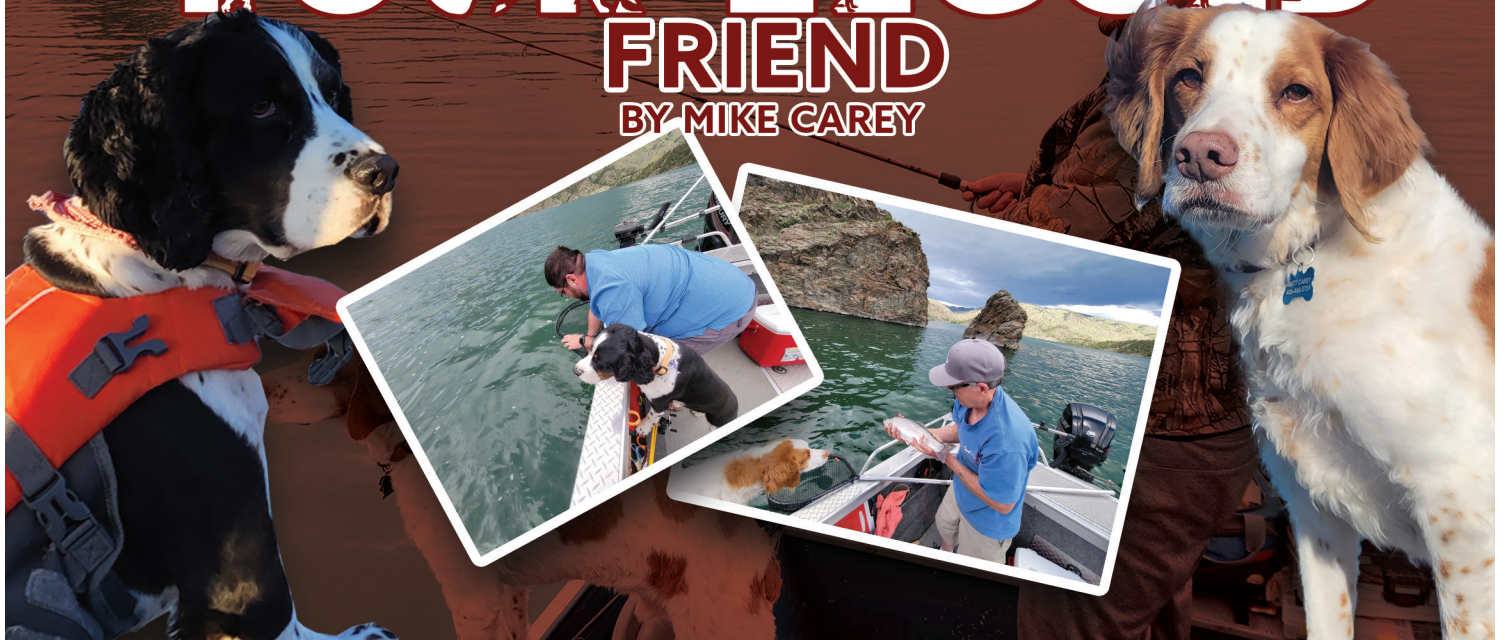


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# FISHING WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

BY MIKE CAREY



Duke tentatively jumped up to the bow of my Thunderbird, looking intently at the water passing by as we trolled along. "Oh boy," I said to my wife Joann, "he looks like he is thinking about going for a swim." Muscles tensing, Duke fulfilled my prediction and splashed into the cool spring waters of Lake Washington. As the boat traveled forward, I went to the side, leaned over, and grabbed the handle on the back of his life jacket, pulling him safely back into our boat. He gave me a look as if to say, "what did you do that for, I was just starting to have some fun!" Such is the life of going fishing with a dog. JoAnn had always wanted me to have a dog that I could take fishing, and Duke, our one-year-old Springer Spaniel, was just that dog. Trained for upland bird hunting, I'd introduced him to water early and he took to it.

That said, hunting with a dog on dry ground versus having a dog on a moving boat are two very different things. While fishing with your four-legged best friend can be a wonderful experience, it does present some unique challenges that anglers should be aware of.

When you decide to bring your dog along with you on your boat for the first time, it's important to think through what is entailed (pun intended) for your fishing trip. First and foremost is—know your dog! What kind of training has he had? Has he been introduced to water? Can he swim? Does he obey your commands? Will he be a good partner at the boat launch, or a distraction and irritation to those around you? These are all important questions to consider before you bring your dog along for a day of fishing. Having your best friend along for a day of fishing can make the day that

much special, or, it can be a huge headache, and possibly put your dog in danger. Let's look at some basics to think about before you take your dog out on your boat.

You've arrived at the boat launch and there's a couple of boats in line waiting to launch. It's just you and your best friend and your expensive boat waiting to launch. Now what do you do? In my opinion, Fido needs to stay safe and secure in your rig. Letting your dog out to run around is a big no-no. Other anglers looking to launch are not going to be happy with a dog running around, no matter how well-behaved you may think he is. Dogs can be unpredictable, so keep him in the truck as you go through your routine prep for launching your boat. Or, if there is a place you can leash him up to stay and watch, out of the way of others, that would be OK.



For me, I keep Duke in the truck where there are others around. If it's just the two of us, I'm ok with letting him out. That's because I know him and he is well-trained to commands and, most importantly, he obeys.

Launch completed and boat secured, your truck is parked. It's time to go fishing with your buddy! The next critical question to ask is this – life jacket or no life jacket? For Duke, I treat him like a kid. Just because he can swim doesn't mean he's safe to be in a boat without a life jacket. Especially when we are about to put the pedal to the meddle and blast off at thirty miles an hour to our favorite fishing location. So, the life jacket goes before we get up on a plane. It's one less thing for me as a boat operator to worry about. This way I know that he will be safe if something happens and he does go in.

What about fishing all day, either anchored up or slow trolling? Our Lake Washington trip was the first time I took Duke on the water, and he decided he wanted to see what the water was like. Since then, he has never jumped into the lake on his own. I find that very interesting, and I now am OK with taking the jacket off if we are anchored or trolling. Of course, weather and conditions are also a consideration in this equation. I try to never take Duke on the boat if it's not going to be a pleasant day. A puking dog is no fun and it's not fair to the dog to be put through rough water conditions.

While you're out on the boat there's a couple doggy essentials to keep in mind. Dogs need a few things to be comfortable: shade

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on a sunny day, water, a comfy place to lay down, and maybe a treat or two (especially when you try to eat your own lunch!). They also need potty breaks. Finding a place to pull your boat up on shore gives you a chance to stretch your legs and let the doggy stretch his. Not to mention relieve himself. Of course, being a dog means some sniffing time is important. Just like fishing with kids, I think it's important to not be hard-core when fishing with a dog. Give your Best Friend some "dog time". I think it will make him more excited the next time you pull out your boat – yay! Another fishing adventure!

One word of caution when fishing with a dog. Expect the unexpected. I remember a trip on the Snake River doing a Cast and Blast Adventure. We had dogs on the boat for our chukar hunt, but first we were fishing for chinook salmon, side drifting eggs. I think you know where I'm

going with this... At the end of a drift we brought in our gear to run back to the top of the hole. One of the anglers' dogs decided that he might like the taste of fresh salmon eggs for breakfast. Before we knew it, this angler's dog had scarfed down a baited hook of salmon eggs, all the way beyond reach. Unfortunately for the angler his day of fishing was cut short as we took him back to the boat launch for a trip to the vet for x-rays. The vet informed the owner of the dog to watch to see if the hook passed (not the most pleasant job by the way). While no harm came to the dog, it was an expensive reminder of what I mentioned early – dogs can be unpredictable.

So, by all means, take your dog fishing – you'll love it and so will the dog – but be ever mindful and keep a close eye on your Four Legged-Friend!





Catching bass in the shallows during the spawn is a fun thing to do in the spring, but when it comes to summertime fishing, few things are more enjoyable than catching aggressive largemouth and smallmouth bass. Here are a few of my favorite ways to hook them:

#### TOPWATER FUN

There are a lot of ways to skin a cat, as they say, and there are also a lot of ways to catch a bass during the summer months. However, nothing is more enjoyable than watching a bass erupt out of the water to smash a topwater lure. The best time to fish topwater lures is early in the morning or in the evening (even after dark on a moonlit night). However, if the waters are calm, you can also have success with topwater lures anytime, especially in shaded areas or on cloudy days.

What kind of topwater lures should you use? If you are fishing an area full of hydrilla, milfoil, or lily pads, it's hard to beat a weedless frog. Tournament angler Jeremy LeCaire favors frog lures with a white belly since that mimics an actual frog belly. Others swear by frogs that are black in color, while others believe in using a frog with, well, a frog pattern!

No matter what color you use, twitching it over pads into small open areas of water can trigger many strikes.

If you are not fishing in cover, you have lots of other options. The biggest bass I ever caught (8+ pounds) was caught on a Berkley Bullet Pop popper in a frog pattern, fishing the lure near wood stick ups. Similar poppers or lures like a Zara Spook can be fished at a slow pace or a faster pace in a "walk the dog" fashion, popping left, then right, while you retrieve the lure. As an old friend once told me when it comes to speed, "Let the fish tell you what they want".

Are there other topwater lures that work? You bet! A fairly new offering is the Whopper Plopper, which is can be cast and reeled in with a slow, steady retrieve as it gurgles along the surface. Buzzbaits retrieved at a fast pace can trigger violent strikes, and don't forget classic lures like the Arbogast Hula Popper or Jitterbug. They have both been around for over 80 years but they both still work.

#### SPINNERBAITS

Spinnerbaits are always a good summertime bet for bass. I personally favor a white spinnerbait for most conditions but will go with a chartreuse color

if there is low visibility in the water. A ¼ or 3/8-ounce spinnerbait can be retrieved rapidly, just under the surface of the water, creating a wake. Heavier spinnerbaits between ½ to one ounce in weight can be slowly retrieved near the bottom. Both methods can be effective. Again, let the fish tell you what they want.

#### CRANKBAITS

Crankbaits are a big favorite of mine for both summer and fall bass. Many anglers mistakenly believe these lures should be fished without hitting any structure. That is a mistake. Shallow water crankbaits should bang off of wood and deeper diving crankbaits should be ticking the bottom because that contact is what triggers reaction strikes from bass. One of my favorite lures is the Berkley Digger which runs at a depth of 8 to 11 feet. If I need to go deeper, the Berkley Dredger will get down to a depth of 20 feet. As for colors, try to match the forage base. For example, a perch or bluegill pattern if that's what the bass are eating, a reddish color if crawfish are in the lake, or blue and chrome if the bass are feeding on trout.

#### LIPLESS CRANKBAITS

Another confidence bait for me is the lipless crankbait.



The original Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap has caught countless bass since it was introduced in 1971. Rattle trap style lures have no bill (hence the word, lipless). They create a sharp vibration when retrieved and thanks to BB sized shot inside the lure, they create a rattling noise as well. The combination of the vibration and sound triggers bass hanging out in ambush points along weed lines or other structure such as log lay downs, beaver huts, boulders, or rocky riprap.

The lure excels in depths of two to eight feet. You can rapidly retrieve the lure and draw strikes but I prefer to pause several times when I retrieve a rattle trap, just for a quick second. I do this because following fish will often strike it when it stops in their face or as the lure begins to fall like a wounded fish.

Another method is to use a Yo-Yo retrieve, fishing the lure off the bottom. This technique works best when the fish are deep.

As for what lure to use? There are a lot of lipless crankbaits out there in various sizes but my hands down favorite is the ½ ounce Berkley Warpig, which I've used to catch not only bass, but also walleye and other species since it was introduced a few years ago.

There's so much more to talk about when it comes to catching summer time bass (soft plastic baits for example) but we'll have to leave that for another time. Until then, use crankbaits, spinnerbaits and topwater lures to reel in some hard-hitting bass during these hot weather months!



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With Puget Sound crab season right around the corner, let's briefly discuss an unfortunate aspect of the sport; lost or stolen crab gear. While fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, most missing crab gear is actually lost, there is still a high incidence of theft associated with recreational crabbing. There are a few things we can do to reduce lost crab gear.

Much of the time, missing crab gear is due to operator error. Things like short crab pot lines, pots not properly weighted, and set location are often the reason a recreational crabber can't find their gear. Admittedly, crab gear can be the victim of theft. Either way, how do we reduce lost crab gear?

Crabbers can significantly reduce the amount of gear lost due to operator error by taking a solid look at their gear and where they plan to drop the pots. Always ensure that you have adequate line for the area that you are crabbing. Think depth of the water + 50%. Most of the

time recreational crabbing is done in 60' or less of water so for most crabbers 100' of lead line is adequate.

Weighting your pots for the location that you plan to crab is critical. The current can easily move your crab gear and I swear that sometimes a pot full of crab can walk as the crabs migrate with the tides. Puget Sound, many coastal bays, and estuaries are subject to strong tidal currents. Use weighted pots or make sure that you add weight as appropriate. Most missing pots often walk away because they are not properly weighted.

Location is important. Many of us crab where we crab because that is where we crab. In that case, you probably already know the drill, but for new crabbers or when crabbing in a new area it is a great idea to study a chart before sending your gear over the side. Make sure you have adequate line for the area and be aware of any drop-offs and strong current seams. If you have charting capabilities, mark your drop point

for painless retrieval later. If you are missing a crab pot, wait for slack tide to look again before you report it as a missing pot.

Sadly, our crab gear or even crabs can be the subject of theft. While crabbing at various popular Puget Sound crabbing areas, we have caught people picking our pots several times. Per the WDFW regulations, it is illegal to set or pull unattended shellfish gear with a buoy that does not have your name on it. Despite the regulations, there are people that disregard the law and selfishly steal our gear and crabs.

I am fortunate that during crab season I can keep a crab pot in the water on the days that crabbing is open. I just collect the crabs and rebait as required as I make my rounds. All too often when I pull the pot, the bait cage or bag is wide open with both the crab and bait missing. I use cheap chicken hindquarters for bait. Most of the time I tie wrap both the pot and bait container, but bait theft is a persistent problem (I should always have chicken bones left).



# CATCH CASH SAVE SALMON



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In my case, theft is probably not preventable because the pot is out overnight, but there are things we can do to reduce theft.

Probably the best way to reduce theft is to plan day crabbing trips. If your pot is in the right location, it only needs to soak for 20-30 minutes. Set your pot or string and just hang out in the area until it is time to collect your hard-shelled booty. You can also use tie wraps, but it seems that the crab thieves are wise to that one.

A few years back we were crabbing at Yokeko Point inside Deception Pass. We set a string of pots and went for a quick cruise around Hope Island and back, maybe 20 minutes total. Returning to our pots and coming off plane, we saw a 24-26' sun cruiser type boat with a group

of yahoos pulling a crab pot line. As we got closer, we realized it was our pot and expressed our displeasure with the situation. They were very apologetic and said they thought it was their pot. Oh OK... Anyway, a couple pictures later we went on to check our string.

One way to reduce theft is to uniquely identify your floats. You still must use a red and white float with your name and address on it, but don't be afraid to add a personal touch. Flags, additional floats, or rubber duckies can be added to make it clear that it is not someone else's gear. If you do encounter some scumbag stealing your gear or crab, do not confront them. Be polite in communicating with them and get pictures.

Share the pictures with the WDFW, they may increase surveillance in that area.

PNW recreational crabbing is a gift from Poseidon and his Tritons. While catching crab, cleaning, cooking, and (best of all) eating them is an enjoyable family activity, occasionally a pot or 2 disappears. If so, don't let it ruin the experience. Take precautions to reduce pots lost due to "that's crabbing" issues and/or gear theft, and crabbing season will be your favorite time of the year. As a final thought: with the possibility of a lost pot, always use "rot cord" to allow crab to escape freely if the pot is lost. A derelict crab pot without a proper escape can attract and kill crabs for years after the pot is lost.



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# SPRING & SUMMER PURSUIT OF KOKANEE

by gary gordon



Sometimes you need to know more about stuff than rod, hooks, bait, corn, net and the smaller words we kokanee dudes know about. Let me introduce a couple of words that could make the difference between a fantastic day on the water and just a boat ride.

The first word is “Daphnia.” Kokanee love Daphnia. Daphnia make up to 90% of a kokanee’s protein diet. Yes, your favorite kokanee lake has Daphnia – likely tons and tons of Daphnia.

Daphnia are small freshwater crustaceans, commonly known as water fleas. They are called so due to the short, jerky flea-like movement they make while swimming. Their size ranges from 0.5mm to 6 mm. Males and females look similar, but the males have a smaller body and somewhat larger antennae.

Daphnia have a lifespan of approximately 10 to 30 days, but if their environment is favorable and

free from predators, they can even live up to 100 days. Their primary source of food is phytoplankton. They also carry out filter feeding and consume bacteria, yeast, detritus, and dissolved organic matter – making them vital for a healthy lake environment.

Besides being a vital source of protein for kokanee, one other really important thing all kokanee fishermen need to know about Daphnia: Daphnia hate light. Hold that thought.

The second word is “crepuscular.” In this instance it describes the rays of light when first hitting the water. For the kokanee fisherman this is usually early morning, when the first rays of light come over the mountain top and through the trees to hit the water. When crepuscular light hits the water, it bends. Really !! The bending effect polarizes the light as it goes down the water column. Are you still with me?

As you just learned our friend Daphnia hates light. So while Daphnia have been happily grazing all night on the phytoplankton (the green stuff), they close up their eating shop as soon as that light hits the water. They then proceed down the water column to where it is dark. Of course, to get to the dark water, they have to do the gauntlet thing where the kokanee are waiting to slurp them up.

But the very cool (cruel?) thing is the effect of crepuscular light on the Daphnia. Daphnia have what is called an exoskeleton – the outer shell, so to speak, that supports the anatomy of the creature. When crepuscular light hits the water, it bends and polarizes. That polarized light then makes those Daphnia exoskeletons shine like the mid-day sun, making them very easy for the kokanee to see and target.



The effect of the polarized light seems to last about 15 minutes. Polarized light does not penetrate the water column as far as does regular light.

So how can the kokanee fisherman take advantage of this oddity? For those who have followed my articles over the years, you know that I do my best to target a water temperature of about 54 degrees wherever that is in the water column. It is the optimal temperature for kokanee happiness, and 54 degrees is happiness for the food the kokanee eat. If I find that my target 54 degrees is say at 30 feet first thing, then when that crepuscular light is about to hit the water, I bring my downriggers up to about 18 to 20 feet. This is where the kokanee will be lingering to snatch up the now visible Daphnia. Invariably, the action is fast and furious. Most of my doubles occur during this time slot.

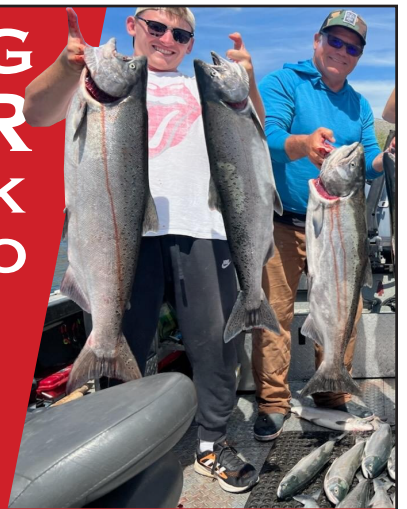
As the time slot for the polarized light shuts down, their exoskeletons lose the glow effect, and the Daphnia become more invisible to the kokanee. You will know when that happens. The bite shuts down, and you need to return to the normal fishing depth.

This technique is successful for most everybody in the early part of the season. But it works really well throughout the season if you are fishing the northern lakes where the kokanee fishing never really drops below 30 feet.

Next: What happens to light in the water column and how you can take advantage of that.

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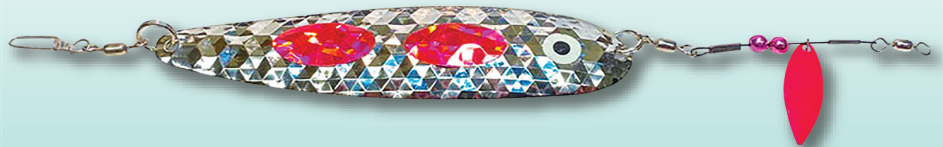
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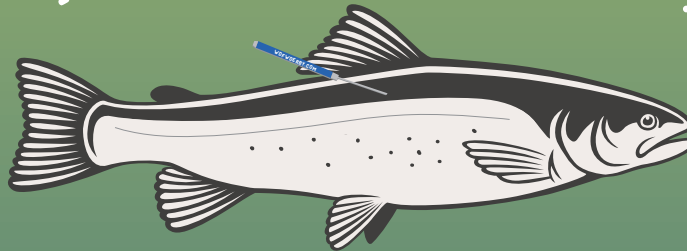
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Here are my top 10 Bass fishing destinations of the inland N.W. Whether you like catching Ditch Pickles (AKA L.M. Bass) or River Turds (AKA Smallies) here are some of the best waters to fish here in the N. W.

#### **10. ELOIKA LAKE, WASH.**

This lake is 629 acres and located seven miles north of Chattaroy off Highway US-2, with a year-round open season. Fishing for Largemouth bass in spring and fall and are the best bets. This lake has a reputation as an excellent largemouth bass lake with more than a few 4- to 6-pound bass caught each year. Eloika has a resort with a boat launch and a WDFW boat launch south of Gray's Landing off East Bridges rd.

#### **9. CHAIN LAKES, IDAHO**

These 10 Chain Lakes are off the slow moving and majestic Coeur d'Alene River. From top to bottom they are Rose Lake, Bullrun, Killarney, Medicine, Cave, Swan, Black, Blue, Thompson and

Anderson Lakes. The best bass lakes in the chain are Killarney at #1, followed by Thompson, Anderson, and Medicine. All of the lakes have both SM and LM, except Bullrun which only has Largees. There are 2 launches on the river, one near Thompson Lake and one near the channel that leads to Cave and Medicine lakes. There are 2 more launches in Killarney and in Medicine lakes.

#### **8. COLUMBIA RIVER, TRI CITIES AREA WASH.**

There are hundreds of places in Washington where fishing for smallmouth bass can at times be outrageously good, but the Columbia is one of the best for giant fish. All of those huge pools behind the dams hold excellent populations of smallmouth worthy of your attention, but Lake Wallula, (McNary Dam Pool) stretching from the Tri-Cities area down to the Oregon state line is often considered among the very best.

#### **7. NOXON RES. MONTANA**

Noxon Rapids Reservoir is considered a top-notch bass lake for both Largemouth and Smallmouth are popular, as well as northern pike. It is a collection of such contrasts - mountainous beauty beyond compare combined with some of the best bass fishing in the state. Backing up about 34 miles of the Clark Fork River, the reservoir is relatively narrow - only a little over a mile across at its widest point. Yet the warmer waters have proved to be a haven for a species of fish more commonly thought of as only eastern Montana fare - Largemouth and Smallmouth bass. According to Jon Hanson, a fisheries biologist with the Montana Department of Fish and Wildlife, "It's got probably some of the best bass fishing in the Montana, right up there with Fort Peck,"

#### **6. PEND OREILLE RIVER, IDAHO**

This is where the Junior Big Bass World Champions have been held



the last 2 years and it is awesome bass water for sure. It has many sloughs (about 20) along its 25 mile journey from Lake P.O. to the Wash/ID. boarder. At full pool the LM load up in these backwaters to spawn which is going on right now. Morton and Cocolalla are 2 of the most popular but I like some of the lesser know sloughs like Gypsy Bay and The sloughs from the Old priest river channels. The Smallies inhabit all the moving water on the river, but there are some good boulder fields down near the town of P.R. that really produces big fish year after year.

**5. Dworshak Res. Idaho**  
Dworshak is the #1 place to go west of the Mississippi if you want to catch the biggest Smallie of your life. The 3rd largest Smallmouth ever caught anywhere in the world, was caught here and it has produced many 9 lb. plus fish. However it is not an easy place to learn or catch fish at, as it is a very deep and cold body of water. Typically dropshotting in 80 to 100 feet of water is the norm here, but fish can be found in the shallows at times here also.

#### **4. PEND OREILLE RIVER, BOX CANYON RES. WASH.**

Box Canyon near Newport Wash. is one of my premier Bass fishing waters. It has produced hundreds of giant Smallies for me over the years, as well as my 3 personal best, at 7lb, 6 ½, and 6 ¼. It not only has great Smallmouth fishing, but produces some nice Largemouth as well. I was just out on the river yesterday and had a hay day landing over 15 ditch pickles between 14 to 18" I also got a bonus 16" River Turd.

#### **3. LONG LAKE, WASH.**

Long is one of the best Smallmouth waters in Eastern Wash, and should definitely be on your to do list. The area from Nine Mile Dam down to The State Park produces some good fish and the flat in front of the park is prime Ditch Pickle waters. The rocky area known as "The Cove" at Fisk Park is another prime place to catch them River Turds,

#### **2. LAKE COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

One of the best things about Lake Coeur d'Alene, besides the natural beauty and prevalent wildlife, is the fishery's diversity. Professional bass anglers Brandon Palaniuk and Luke Clausen both grew up fishing CDA and it undoubtedly helped shaped their fishing styles thanks to the many options the lake provides. There are few places in the country where you have a shot at catching a trophy Largemouth and Smallmouth on the same day, but Coeur d'Alene is one of them. Local tournament results prove that five fish limits over 20-pounds are not uncommon, with many in the mid-20 pounds and sometimes approaching or even exceeding 30-pounds. In general, the lake's northern and middle sections are deeper and rockier, with clear water. In contrast, the northern bays and southern parts are shallower and includes water that is a little more stained, with more grass, shallower water, and plenty of backwater lakes in the south.

#### **1. BANKS LAKE, WASH.**

Banks Lake, part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, was created in 1951 by damming the north and south ends of the Columbia River channel known as The Grand

Coulee. This long, skinny, 27,000-acre lake, ringed with basalt cliffs and talus slopes along its 90 miles of shoreline, produces some of Washington's best smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing and it's open year around.

The spring largemouth bite begins to heat up in May. The males combine feeding activity with their search for appropriate nesting sites so the successful fisherman will prowl for prime nesting habitat. One of my favorite sections of the lake is the Devils Punch Bowl. It has some shallow coves on the S.W. side that provide good spawning habitat. Also look for smallies in that area on the old submerged roadbeds that runs through it and along the lakeshore. These sites often consist of raised roadbeds with deeper water to each side, which provide good spawning beds and deep-water protection for smallies.

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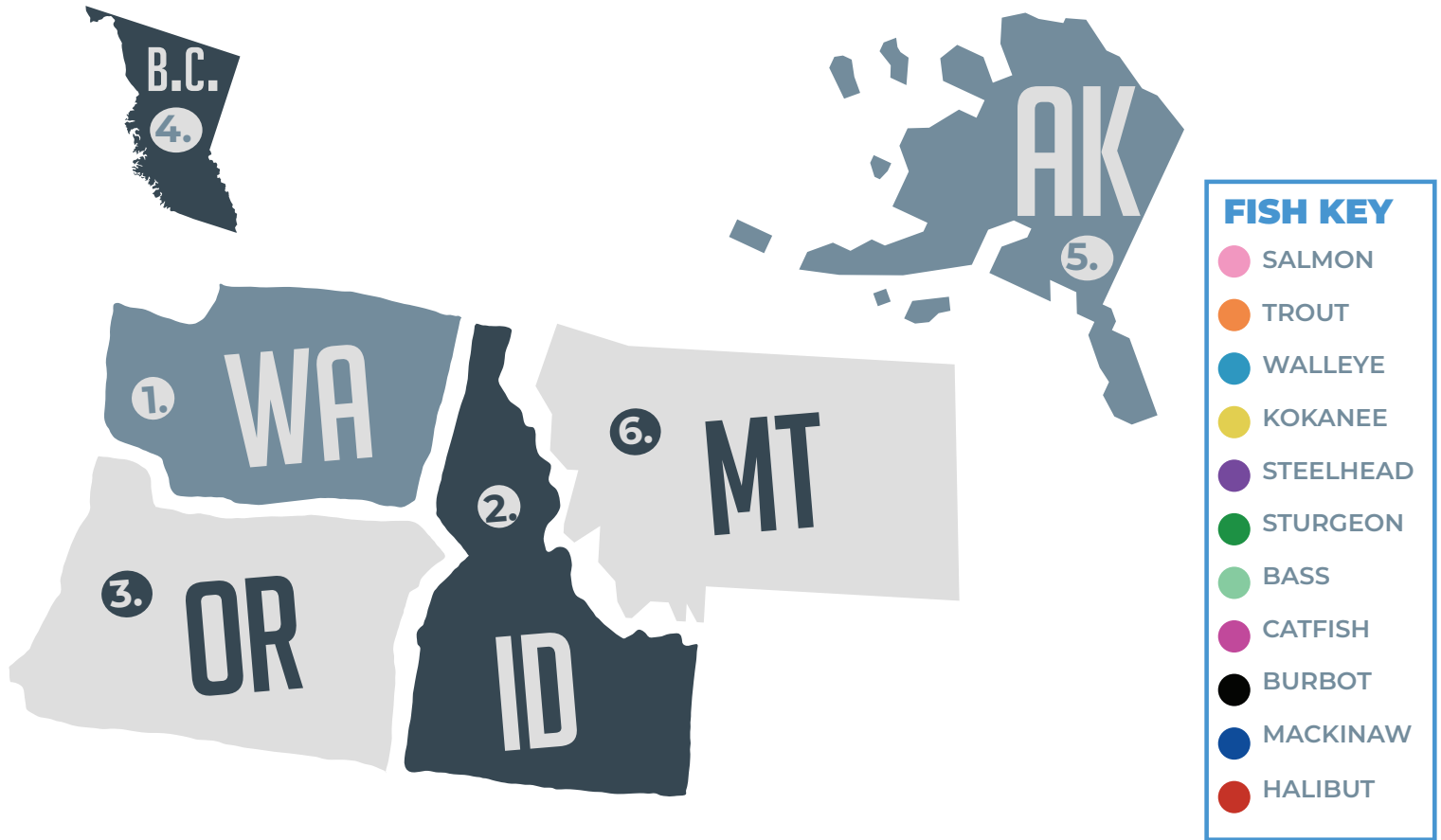
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# Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit is required for all boats registered outside of Washington State



## 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:

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

## Protecting Our Waters

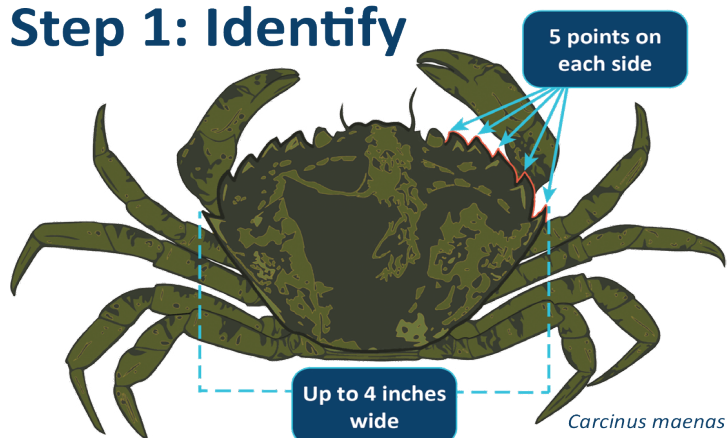
Funds from the AIS Prevention Permit support efforts to keep Washington's waters free of aquatic invasive species and manage infestations when prevention fails.



# 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, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.



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