

# NORTHWEST FISHING

EXPLORING THE PNW'S REEL LIFESTYLE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7  
MAY, 2025

PAGE 21

## SPRINGERS ARE HERE!

PHOTO CREDIT: KRISTEN MOORE (WDFW)

7 KOKANEE  
OREGON LAKES  
TO FISH THIS YEAR  
PAGE 08



WESTSIDE TROUT  
ROUNDUP  
PAGE 15



SPRING MEANS  
ROCKFISH  
PAGE 17



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# EDITOR'S CORNER:

Now is the time of year (actually, several months ago) to get those fishing trips planned and on the calendar. In our home, the adage is, if it isn't on the calendar, it isn't happening! JoAnn and I each have favorite activities and places to go each year, and I think we do a good job of balancing our mutual interests and activities. The art of compromise is alive and well in the Carey Home.

How about you? With our ever-growing Pacific Northwest population spontaneity gets harder and harder. Waiting until the last minute will likely mean you're going to miss out on some fun adventures. Hotel reservations need to be made, money saved, and plans firmed up. Knowing where to go and when to go is a big deal. Hopefully, Northwest Fishing TV and magazine have been giving you some ideas of new places to explore. This month, we look at Oregon kokanee destinations and Washington trout lakes, among other things.

So, get out your calendar and start reserving those weekends in ink.

My calendar is filling up fast with summer trips and adventures. Being semi-retired is a lot of work!

- Mike Carey, Northwest Fishing



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## CONTENTS



**08** 7 Oregon Kokanee  
Lakes to Fish This Year  
*Gary Lewis*

**15** Westside Trout  
Roundup  
*Hannah Pennebaker*

**28** Kokaneye Eyesight  
Colors and  
Presentations  
*Gary Gordon*

**11** Catch and Release  
Fishing  
*Brent Knight*

**17** Spring Means  
Rockfish  
*Josh DeBruler*

**35** Fishing Destination:  
Zeballos  
*Mike Carey*

**21** Springers Are Here!  
*Mark Yuasa*



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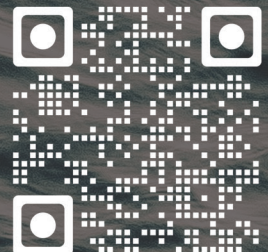
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**FOX 34**

**MAY**

**5/3: #174 "DWORSHACK KOKANEE"**

**5/10: #147 "WIND RIVER SPRINGERS"**

**5/17: #175 "HOLTER LAKE KOKANEE"**

**5/25: #146 "MISSOURI RIVER  
FLYFISHING FLOAT #1"**



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# NORTHWEST FISHING

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## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mike Carey

## PUBLISHER

Rob Holman

## COPY EDITOR

Sarah Holman

## CONTRIBUTORS

Gary Gordon

Gary Lewis

Josh DeBruler

Hannah Pennebaker

Brent Knight

Mark Yuasa

Mike Carey

## COVER PHOTO CREDIT

WDFW courtesy of  
Kristen Moore

## TEAM NWF (NWFTV)

Hillary Holman

Eric Magnuson

Luke Hatfield

Barry Dubnow

Hannah Pennebaker

Randy Castello

Matt Carey

Chris Decker

Jason Olsen

## ADVERTISING

Eric Magnuson

Hillary Holman

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION INQUIRIES

mikec@nwfishing.net

PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
COHO MEDIA GROUP

## LAYOUT & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Holman

## ADVERTISING

ericm@nwfishing.net

## SOCIAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

hillaryh@nwfishing.net

## ACCOUNTING

Rob & Hillary Holman

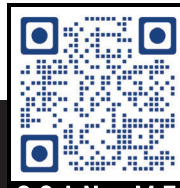
## PROJECT MANAGER

Sarah Holman

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



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# SPRING TURKEY

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Photo by Alan Bauer.

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# 7

## Oregon Kokanee Lakes To Fish This Year

By Gary Lewis



Kokanee, which are a landlocked sockeye salmon, can be found in a couple of dozen or so lakes in Oregon and are some of the best eating at any fish fry. This year, we did the scouting for you. Here are seven lakes and reservoirs you must fish in 2025.

### LAKE BILLY CHINOOK

At Lake Billy Chinook, it's not hard to imagine the old river channels – the Deschutes, the Crooked, and the Metolius and their confluence, now obscured by 4,000 surface acres and up to 415 feet of water.

Round Butte Dam was finished in 1965, and the power of the water was harnessed by three 1000-kilowatt generators. Today, the Pelton Round Butte complex generates enough energy to power a city the size of Salem.

Kokanee angling is popular here, and anglers show up as early as February, teasing them with jigs early in the season. Trolling pays off later in the year.

### ODELL LAKE

Odell Lake (and nearby Crescent) are some of the coldest, deepest lakes in the state, which makes them good habitat for a big char we call lake trout or mackinaw. Odell and Crescent also have good populations of kokanee (a landlocked sockeye salmon), the lake trout's favorite food.

Kokanee can be easy to catch when conditions are right. Full-grown, they average 12 to 18 inches. Kokanee are most easily enticed in the early morning. As soon as the sun hits the water, the plankton go deeper, and the kokanee follow.

Jigging is a favorite technique early, but trollers seem to do better in the summer.

An easy rig, whether using a downrigger or not, consists of an eight-inch flasher on the main line terminated at an Apex or Wedding Ring spinner. Most anglers add white corn and season it with a scent like Pro-Cure's Kokanee Special Super Gel. To rent a cabin or a room, click on [odelllakeresort.com](http://odelllakeresort.com)

### WALLOWA LAKE

Sockeye are native to Wallowa Lake. Historic runs of sockeye were strong in Wallowa Lake until 1916, when the lake's dam was enhanced. The fish still in the lake were landlocked.

Wallowa, with 1,500 surface acres and an average depth of 160 feet, can be daunting. Favorite kokanee areas are the western shore off Eagle Point and along the eastern bank up and down

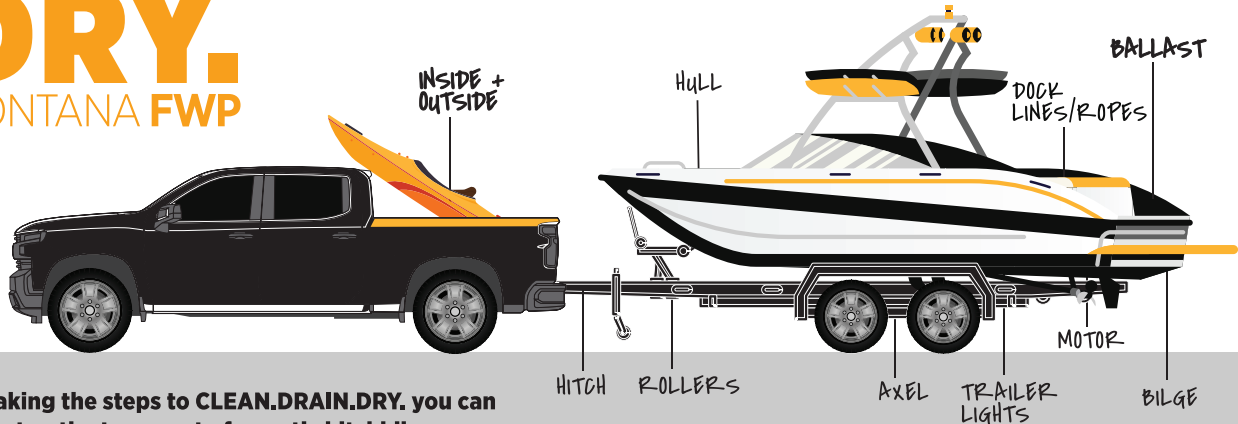


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from the large pine tree. Try jigging after ice-off and then switch to trolling in the summer. Great trolling lures include Pro-Troll Kokanee Killer, Worden's Spin-N-Glo Kokanee, and Mack's Double Whammy.

For a great place to stay, check out [wallowalakelodge.com](http://wallowalakelodge.com)

### WICKIUP

Wickiup as a storage reservoir is one of the largest in the state, and its waters harbor rainbows and brown trout. And the kokanee grow big, too.

Fed by the Upper Deschutes via Crane Prairie, the Davis Lake sump, Davis

Creek, Browns Creek and several springs, some of the best fishing is in the old channels. At its deepest, the lake is 70 feet deep, but the average depth is 20 feet.

Kokanee are spread throughout the lake early in the season, but tend to school up and head toward deeper water (the channels) as temperatures warm. Both jigging and trolling are productive throughout the season.

### EAST LAKE

East Lake kokes average 12 to 17 inches. While kokanee are known to feed on plankton in most waters,

the most reliable food sources at East Lake are the chironomids and midge larvae (chironomids). This is the reason a lot of people who are good kokanee anglers sometimes struggle at East.

Jigging works best early in the season and trolling takes more trout later in the season. Fly-anglers can take kokanee all season long on wind-drifted Callibaetis nymphs or on chironomids fished below an indicator.

### PAULINA LAKE

Paulina Lake shares the caldera of Newberry National Volcanic



Monument with its twin East Lake. This 1,300-acre lake is 250 feet in some places. Kokanee fishing is the main attraction and trolling flashers is the most popular method. Trolling a Wedding Ring with a kernel of corn or a chunk of worm on the end is very effective. Other great kokanee lures include the Cha Cha 1.5 Kokanee and the Kokanee Killer.

Jigging is the other way to catch them at Paulina, especially till about mid-June. Mack's Crippure and Sonic Baitfish are productive, as are Nordic lures. First locate schools with a fish-finder and, depending on the depth, troll with a downrigger, flashers, a kokanee spinner and a kernel of corn on the hook. Or drop down a jig and try to put it in the school.

### **DETROIT RESERVOIR**

The Detroit Dam was built in 1953, creating a large water storage and electric power generation reservoir that has become

an important recreation resource. This nine-mile lake, with 32 miles of shoreline is surrounded by forest of Douglas fir and hemlock and is fed by the Breitenbush River, North Fork Santiam and Blowout and Kinney and several smaller creeks.

ODFW stocks Detroit with rainbows throughout the season. This 3,580-acre reservoir is also home to kokanee. Angling success picks up in May when the water warms.

Try the Kokanee Kid Mysis Bug or Promise Ring made in Salem, Oregon. Other good bets include the Silver Skalez Koko Leaf or Kokanee Creek Tackle 1.5 Micro Bite Squid. Popular trolling areas include Piety Island, west of Mongold State Park, the north shore near the dam and at the mouths of inlets.

### **& FURTHERMORE**

Some of our favorite fisheries were destroyed in 2023 and another one may be destroyed this fall. One of the best kokanee days

of my life was on Green Peter Reservoir. GPR had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of kokanee and if you figured them out on any given day, you could not go wrong. What did the Feds do? The US Army Corps of Engineers decided to drain Green Peter and Foster and wiped out some of the state's favorite kokanee fisheries while simultaneously silting over and smothering salmon and steelhead and trout spawning beds in the South Santiam for miles downstream. Brilliant.

Think they are done? The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Corps of Engineers have their fish-killing sights set on Detroit Reservoir and the North Fork Santiam now. So go fish Detroit this year and I hope you catch a bunch of limits and have a good time, but don't forget the very agencies that purport to be working for the people are often working against us and the fisheries we love.



### *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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# CATCH & RELEASE FISHING

BY BRENT KNIGHT

As many anglers know, our fishing opportunities in Washington are dwindling, specifically when we are talking about salmon and steelhead. With retention opportunities waning, we are often fishing in catch-and-release fisheries, which are very misunderstood.

I was recently reminded by someone from the State of Washington that as outdoor writers, we have a responsibility to educate readers about topics such as the ethical handling of fish that we will release. We all want a picture or two of our trophy catch, but we should always place the mortality of the fish ahead of ourselves.

Please note that I took much of the information below from an Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife article written in 2019 and titled, Catch-and-release: Tips to reduce fish mortality. One very important note to share. ODFW will allow anglers to take a fish out of the water before releasing it. In Washington, it is illegal to remove a fish from the water that must be released. One way anglers can help maintain and restore native fish populations is to learn how to catch and release wild fish properly. Before fishing, anglers should always consult WDFW fishing regulations for any harvest restrictions.

Here are some tips for the safe and ethical release of a wild fish or a hatchery fish that is caught out of season.

**LAND THE FISH QUICKLY.** A fish on the end of the line is under stress, so don't play the fish to utter exhaustion. Severe exhaustion reduces the fish's odds of surviving.

**SUPPORT THE FISH WHEN BRINGING IT IN.** Support the fish underwater in a natural position, handling it as little as possible. Give it time to recover and keep it in the water, it needs all the oxygen it can get from the water passing over its gills.

**USE BARBLESS HOOKS.** Bring the fish quickly within reach. Leave the fish in the water and, without squeezing it, remove the hook carefully with long-nosed pliers or thumb and forefinger. If necessary, cut the leader near the hook, which will dissolve over time.





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The author with a Situk River steelhead

**REVIVE THE FISH BEFORE RELEASING.** Point the fish into the current or in standing water, gently move the fish forward until its gills are moving and it maintains its balance on its own. Let the fish swim freely from your hands.

**USE APPROPRIATE GEAR.** Use tackle, including line and rod, that are strong enough to bring your fish in quickly and gently.

**SAFE HANDLING.** Note that fish have a natural slime on them, which is a coating that prevents disease and protects them. Though the slime makes the fish slippery and hard to hold onto, avoid using any material, such as a cloth glove or towel that will remove the slime from the fish. This will increase the odds or chances that the fish survives.

**TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH WITH YOUR FISH** can be a lovely way to capture

the moment. But try to minimize handling and keep the fish in the water as much as possible with these tips:

*Have help.* If someone is helping you with the photo, make sure they've composed the shot and adjusted the camera settings before you position the fish. Remember, the fish must remain in the water, so the head and gills should always be submerged, never leaving the water.

*Get your hands wet before handling the fish.* This will help protect the delicate membrane on the fish's skin.

*Support the fish properly.* Put one hand under the forward part of its body and the other at the base of its tail. Keep the fish in the water. Do not place fingers or objects into or under the gill plates.



When you're ready, *cradle the fish at or just above water level* and snap a quick picture, again, keeping the head and gills submerged in the water. Note that most pull the head quickly up for the shot with the mouth still submerged and then immediately place the fish back into the water, fully submerged, to revive the fish and begin the release process.

*Return the fish to the water quickly.* Then revive it gently before letting it swim away. It is very important to revive the fish and let it swim off under its own power to ensure that it is ready to go.

Many anglers may not agree with these rules and may have heartache with our regulatory agencies, but I feel strongly that we need to be bigger than our frustration. We must do what is best for the fish to preserve them and ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to experience what we get to today. Things may not be what they were 20-30 years ago, but at least we still get to fish and experience that feeling of the tug on the other end of the rod.

## The author with an Olympic Peninsula winter steelhead



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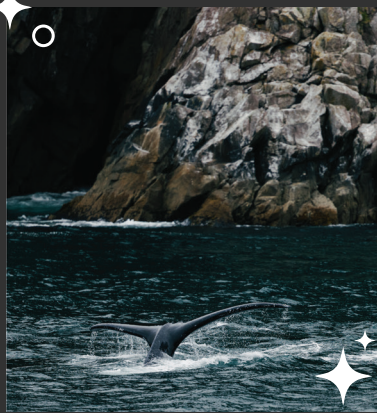
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# WESTSIDE *Trout* ROUNDUP

by Hannah Pennebaker



It's that time of year again, trout fishing has finally kicked off! May is a great time to take your family out to your local lake. WDFW stocks many lakes with thousands of catchable size rainbow trout every spring. These fish are hungry and active, and taste great on the grill. There's nothing like a relaxing day of fishing followed by a good trout dinner. Let's talk about my favorite Western Washington trout lakes. I will include lakes with both boat ramps and good shore access on this list.

## American Lake

Let's kick off this list with a beloved Pierce County lake. There are multiple boat ramps and shore access spots on this large lake. This is a popular spot for jet skis and pleasure boaters, so exercise caution if you're on a small boat. This lake is deeper and larger than most lakes in the area.

The fish can be a bit more difficult to find since they have room to spread out. However, WDFW usually plants twenty thousand or more fish, so your odds are pretty good! Try fishing the shore or dock at Harry Todd Park, or pay a small fee to fish at Bill's Boathouse. They also offer boat rentals. If the trout aren't biting, you can also try your luck for yellow perch.

## LAKE BALLINGER

This northern lake has good shore access and a large fishing pier. It's a great spot for fishermen with small boats, rafts, or kayaks. Gasoline motors are not permitted, so you won't have to worry about getting blown off the water by jet skis or large boats. The south end of the lake is a bit deeper, and that's where the fish tend to hang out.

## MINERAL LAKE

This lake is a bit off the beaten path, but you have

the best chance of scoring a trophy trout here. There is a fishing dock and decent shore access. You'll have company on weekends, however. There are also brown trout in this lake! A word of caution for boaters—there are many stumps on the lake, and some are difficult to see. Keep an eye out!

## BLACK LAKE

Located close to Olympia, this popular lake boasts a variety of different kinds of fish. If the trout aren't biting, try for panfish! There is good shore access at the park and boat launch. WDFW has planted over twenty thousand trout here this spring.

## LAKE PADDEN

No list of West side trout lakes is complete without this one. It has some of the best shore access around! The shoreline is dotted with families enjoying a tranquil

day on the water. There is a boat launch, but gasoline motors are not allowed. This lake is small and shallow, I'd definitely recommend soaking dough baits or using a bobber and worm.

### HARTS LAKE

This secluded, serene lake has amazing scenery and even better fishing. There is a small campground, pay to fish dock, and tackle shop right next to the boat ramp. Troll around the edges of the lake until you figure out where the fish are holding, it seems to change frequently. You can also drop anchor and toss dough bait.

This lake is also great for catfish, the shore fills up with fishermen on hot summer nights.

Remember to check the weather forecast before heading out, bring life jackets, and put on plenty of sunscreen! For the best meat quality, bleed, gut, and ice your fish right away. Most importantly, have a great time! Rainbow trout put up a good fight for their size and are eager biters. They are easy for kids to handle because they don't have spines on their body like many other fish. May is the perfect time to go out and explore your local lake!



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# SPRING MEANS ROCKFISH

## BY JOSH DeBRULER

If you've fished anywhere off the coast of Washington state, chances are at some point you've landed a rockfish, or depending on who you talk to, a black seabass. While rockfish are often seen as only a bonus catch during the pursuit of something larger, like lingcod, they are, in my opinion, some of the best-eating fish that swim along our coastline. The name "Rockfish" is an umbrella term that encompasses over 100 different species of fish, but the ones we most commonly fish for here in the northwest are the canary rockfish, black rockfish, blue rockfish, and deacon rockfish.

### WHERE TO FISH

Though Rockfish do inhabit the waters of the Puget Sound, it is illegal to retain or target them here due to conservation concerns. As you move

northwest into the straights of Juan De Fuca, you'll find that the populations of rockfish become healthier and fishing opportunity increases the closer you get to the Pacific Ocean. Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) is where allowable rockfish retention begins, though as of 2025, in MA 5, you can only retain 1 rockfish per day. Moving further west to MA 4 (Neah Bay) the possession limit increases to 7 and the season is year-round. Aside from Neah Bay and Sekiu in Clallam Bay, you can also target rockfish southward along the Washington coast around Westport, Ocean Shores, and Pacific County near the mouth of the Columbia River. Boat fishing Rockfish tend to prefer deeper waters near rocky structures, reefs, kelp beds, or even shipwrecks, which in general makes fishing from shore not a viable option (though

there are some exceptions). Fishing from boats, kayaks, or canoes, are generally the most effective method. And because rockfish are such aggressive feeders, it makes them a great species to target when bringing the family along on a boating trip, as these fish aren't terribly difficult to catch.

Most soft plastic grubs on a 1-3 oz lead jig-head can entice a bite. Use lighter-weight jigs-heads when the current is mild, and heavier jig-heads during strong currents. The amount of sunlight should influence your choice of jig colors. I try to stick with darker color soft plastics during overcast days and brighter colors on sunny days. Flashy metal jigs anywhere from 2-4 oz can prove phenomenal for catching rockfish as well. My favorite jig as of lately has been a 2.5 oz blue and silver laser minnow, and I seem

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to catch rockfish on this regardless of weather conditions and current strength. Most of the rockfish you catch will likely be around 2-3 lbs (though they can get much larger), considering this, they are a blast to catch on lightweight gear. However, larger fish like lingcod and cabezon will bite at the same jigs and lures as rockfish, so anglers should be prepared for this potential. I almost always run 25 lb braided mainline with a 20 lb monofilament leader off of a 6-7 ft medium light rod and find this to be a good middle of

the road setup.

## JETTY FISHING

Though boat fishing may be the most effective method for catching rockfish, land dwellers should not fret because there are options for folks who prefer to stay off the water! Jetties or rocky outcroppings that extend into deep water offer ample opportunity for a limit of rockfish. The Westport jetty, the north jetty in Ocean Shores, and the Columbia River north jetty all allow somewhat easy access to this fishery. Furthermore, if you normally fish out of a

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boat for rockfish, and have had plenty of success over the years, you might find that the process, though fun, can eventually become a bit repetitive. Jetty fishing offers a welcome change of pace as it provides an altogether different experience and requires different techniques and tackle to land the fish. When fishing from a jetty, netting the fish off the rocks isn't always an option. This means you will have to lift the fish out of the water with your rod and line. That process can put an excessive amount of strain on your line, thus, jetty anglers should stick with a 25-40 lb mainline and 20-25 lb leader. A soft plastic swim bait lure with a weight of 1/2 - 1 oz weight

between your mainline and leader will allow your gear to fall deep enough into the water column while also remaining high enough to avoid snagging on the rocks. If you run a soft plastic jig, you can retrieve, jig and repeat.

For a swim bait, anglers can find success by either doing a steady retrieve or by doing a steady retrieve with an occasional jig or twitch. Safety is a major concern while fishing on jetties. With this in mind, anglers should monitor weather, tides, and swell activity. During extreme conditions, waves can crash onto the jetties and pose a risk for anyone who's on the rocks. Refer to NOAA for weather conditions and surf

reports for swell and wave activity. Hiking boots, felt-soled boots, or even toe-shoes are favored by jetty anglers for walking around on wet rocks.

The rockfish fishery is a great way to get back out onto the water and get the sun back on your face as we crawl out of our long Pacific Northwest winter. Whether you're launching a kayak at Hobuck beach in Neah Bay, motoring out onto the straights, or climbing around on some rocks at the Westport jetty, there's nothing better than introducing the upcoming summer season with a cooler full of rockfish and a fish taco dinner at home with the family.





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# SPRINGERS ARE HERE!

By Mark Yuasa

When May rolls around, the spring Chinook fishery kicks into high gear as more and more fish begin filtering into the “Big-C.”

While most of the effort will shift to tributaries in May, the Columbia River mainstem spring Chinook fishery opportunities both above and below Bonneville Dam still remained up in the air as of this magazine’s publication deadline. All decisions on whether the Columbia River mainstem reopens later in May and possibly into early summer are left up to joint Washington and Oregon in-season management decisions. To keep track of updates, the public is encouraged to sign up for WDFW Columbia River Compact mailing list notices at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/lists>.

Photo Credit:  
WDFW Courtesy of  
Kristen Moore



The 2025 forecast for Columbia upriver spring Chinook is 122,250 fish, more than the 116,332 that returned in 2024, but lower than the 10-year average of 139,676 fish.

Several factors influence the arrival of spring Chinook, including flow patterns, which can change on a daily basis. These fish are known to work their way up the maze of channels and will follow bottom structure in the river. They will avoid turbulent water and are known to stall below dams when abrupt changes occur at the tailrace and fish ladder channels.

The initial spring Chinook fishing seasons for the Columbia River mainstem were set in late February, with end dates in mid/early April for below Bonneville Dam and late April upstream. It is usually soon after that when the run begins to ramp up. In recent years, the timing of the run has been later and later.

As of mid-April, the spring Chinook fishing success was just starting to build in the lower river. The number of fish seen at the Bonneville Dam fish ladder was also sporadic. Anglers can track daily fish counts by going to

Columbia River adult salmon counts at [https://www.fpc.org/currentdaily/HistFishTwo\\_7day-ytd\\_Adults.htm](https://www.fpc.org/currentdaily/HistFishTwo_7day-ytd_Adults.htm), which is key to knowing when to go fishing.

It's also wise to not wait to go fishing once the run begins to peak, as you'll likely miss out on the best time period. "For 2025, the corresponding harvest rate tiers are determined by the Snake River wild abundance estimate. Following that, we apply a 30% buffer applied to the forecast until we get a run size update, this is then used to determine the harvest rate," said Ryan



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**Photo courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and submitted by Steve Graves.**

Lothrop, Columbia River fisheries manager with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), which he referred to as step one.

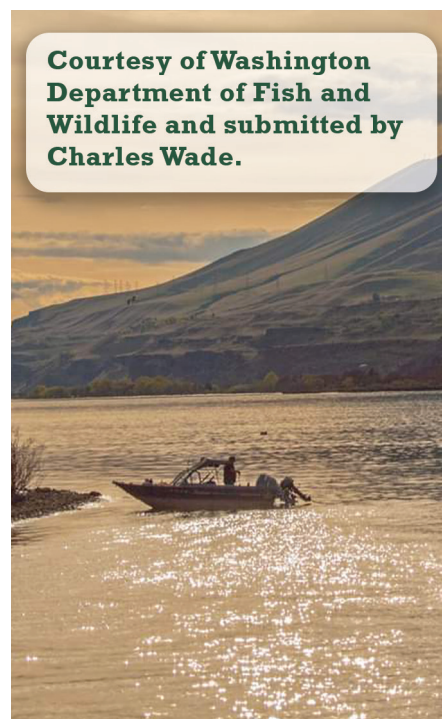
Next, fishery managers calculate the allowable catch. Lastly, fishery managers apply the commission guidance of proportion of the Endangered Species Act splits by sector and area. In 2025, recreational anglers are projected to harvest approximately 5,200 adult spring Chinook below Bonneville Dam in the Columbia mainstem, and 550 spring Chinook from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Washington/Oregon border. *“Fortunately, we were able to provide additional quality April days of opportunity*

*downstream of Bonneville Dam this year, given there was a substantial balance remaining,”* Lothrop said. *“Upstream of Bonneville Dam, increasing catch rates in recent years have led to early closures, resulting in fewer open fishing days before this year’s in-season run size update. However, if the run size update is large enough or if there’s remaining catch allocation, additional fishing time is likely.”* Fishery managers will monitor the fisheries, dam counts, and hatchery returns as the season progresses and adjust as necessary. The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee typically provides a run size update in mid-May. Based on the 2025 preseason forecasts, anglers can expect to find a decent number of spring Chinook in the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers. Tributary fisheries are managed based on hatchery spring Chinook surplus. Places like the Cowlitz experienced closures a few years ago, but with a forecast of 13,310 (4,580 and 8,822), a closure isn’t necessary in 2025. The Cowlitz spring

Chinook forecast to the tributary mouth is greater

than the recent five-year and 10-year average return of 5,300 and 9,800, respectively. In the Kalama River, the spring Chinook forecast to the tributary mouth is 2,900 (1,840 was forecast with an actual return of 2,310 in 2024). The Kalama spring Chinook forecast to the tributary mouth is similar to the recent five-year and 10-year average return of 2,200 and 2,500, respectively.

In the Lewis River, the spring Chinook forecast is 3,060 (3,270 and 2,553). The Lewis spring Chinook forecast to the tributary mouth is similar to the recent five-year average return of 3,700 and greater



**Courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and submitted by Charles Wade.**



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than the 10-year average return of 2,600. During May a lot of the spring Chinook fishing attention also shifts to tributaries above Bonneville Dam such as Drano Lake, and the Wind and Klickitat rivers. The best way to gauge when it's time to go is by watching the fish counts at Bonneville Dam.

The Wind forecast is 4,900 (4,200 forecast and actual return of 4,604 in 2024) and is greater than the recent five-year and 10-year average return of 4,100 and 4,000, respectively. In Drano Lake (aka Little

White Salmon) the forecast is 7,600 (5,300 and 7,863) and forecast is similar to the recent five-year average return of 7,400 and less than the recent 10-year average return of 8,100. The Klickitat forecast is 1,200 (1,300 and 491) and is similar to the recent five-year average return of 1,300 and less than the recent 10-year average return of 1,500. In Drano Lake, the best action happens in the area referred to as "Toilet Bowl," a popular spot where anglers troll in a tight circle near the entrance of the lake. While most are Drano Lake stock fish some of

these fish are known as "dip-ins" as they first enter the lake before migrating further up the Columbia River. There isn't much space to troll so make sure you're following the same path as others and are good at handling your boat and keep your lines right underneath to avoid getting tangled up with others. If someone nearby hooks a fish stay clear of them.

If you plan to fish Drano Lake, be aware the Columbia River outside the mouth of Drano Lake is closed. There is a marked boat fishing boundary area



in Drano to allow for some bank angling to occur near the mouth. From the shore cast spinners or Wiggle Warts. Anglers also fishing for springers in the Wind River must stay within the fishing boundary of the river itself and not stray into Columbia River mainstem area. Spring Chinook tips and tactics I could list a hundred different ways to successfully catch spring Chinook and what to use varies depending on river location, flow patterns and water clarity but the most important factor to keep in mind is patience. Earlier last month, I had a friend who spent six days and nearly 50 hours on the water of the Lower Columbia River and managed to bring home one hatchery-marked fish.


As for fishing gear, don't skimp on the rod and reel and spending money wisely will be an investment toward catching more fish. The rods of choice are usually a 9 ½ to 10 ½ foot of 15 to 25 pounds with a lot flex and soft tip. Oftentimes these fish will grab the bait and turn away so flexibility in the rod will allow for a proper hook-up. Let the salmon pull your rod tip down a few times before gently setting the hook and don't jerk hard since usually





**Fishing on the Columbia.  
Picture credit Mark Yuasa.**

the depth of water you're fishing isn't very deep to begin with.


Line counter reels are the norm nowadays and enable you to find the sweet spot by aligning the depth on your fish finder to the area where the fish are lurking. Many like to use braided line, but I'm old school and will stick with monofilament line for a bit of stretch and give when the fish bites. The standard setup for trolling is a three-way swivel with 10 to 18 inches of 15-pound monofilament to an eight- to 15-ounce dropper weight, depending on current and



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flow.

On the other end of the swivel is 24 inches of 30-pound monofilament line to your fish flash and then another 40 to 50 inches of 30-pound monofilament line with a swivel halfway down the leader to allow the bait or lure to spin freely and eliminate the line from twisting and tangling. Often I'll go "naked" and not use a fish flash which creates less drag too.

The traditional bait is a green-label herring, whole or cut-plug, with the proper tight spin.

Many will soak their bait in a brine mixture to toughen them up. After bouncing off the bottom a few times or running into debris they'll tend to get blown out or will lose their quality spin. To get the right spin on a whole herring, I like to insert a toothpick in the anal vent of the herring and bend the herring to a 45 degree angle. Then take the top hook and insert it under the lower jaw and out through the hard spot between the eyes.

About halfway down the side of the body insert and pull out the trailing hook so it dangles freely.

Others like to pin a plastic bait helmet – Krippled Herring or Rhys Davis – to avoid wear and tear on the herring. Before dropping it down, add some scent and make sure it has the right spin. Other top choices are a 3.5 spinner and prawn, flat fish wrapped with a sardine or a Brad's Super Bait. Downsizing to smaller Kokanee Cut Plugs, or a 2.5 or 3.0 Spinfish filled with tuna to tandem trailing hooks are effective in warmer water conditions and when it gets crowded during a slow troll like at Drano Lake.

Colors are also key to catching fish. Be sure to carry a wide variety but usually chartreuse, silver, orange and red work well. The scent of bare hands can be a deterrent so keeping some environmentally safe liquid soap, clean hand towels and elastic nitrile gloves will enable you to stay in the game of catching fish. Have a small bucket to wash down your lures and be sure to keep your rod handles and cranks on the reel clean.

Be sure to check the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/> for current daily limits, other area-specific rules, any emergency rule changes, and closures or openings that tend to occur during the spring Chinook fisheries.

Tight lines, and I'll see you on the water very soon!

**Mark Yuasa is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Communications Manager. He was also the outdoor reporter at The Seattle Times for 28 years.**

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# Know the laws to protect Southern Resident killer whales



## STAY AWAY

>1,000 yards  
from whale(s)

## SLOW

Move away obeying  
7-knot speed limit

## STOP

Disengage transmission,  
cease paddling,  
luff sails

1/2 nautical mile = roughly 1,000 yards

### Boaters must:

- ▶ Stay **1,000 yards** away from Southern Resident(s)
- ▶ If within **1,000 yards**, move away and out of the path of Southern Resident(s) below **7-knot** speed limit
- ▶ If within **400 yards** (and if it is safe to do so), disengage transmission, luff sails, or stop paddling until whale(s) move away



### Boaters should:

- ▶ Stay alert and cautious
- ▶ Look out for signs of whales
- ▶ Be ready to slow, stop, or adjust course



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# KOKANEYE

## EYESIGHT COLORS & PRESENTATION

BY GARY GORDON



Make no mistake, kokanee can see up, down, and all around. They see close up and farther out (depending on water clarity) at the same time, but not as clearly as we can. They can see effectively behind them as they swim, because their undulating swimming motion turns the head just far enough to see very near the plane of the tail.

### COLOR SHIFT AT DEPTH

Since sight is part of the effective formula, you must make sight important in your presentation. The very last thing you want is for your lure to be camouflaged. You want it to be noticed. You work against yourself if your target winds up being camouflaged because you have not accounted for the three things that change

your lure's appearance at depth:

- Lack of light at target depth;
- Color shift (attenuation), making your lure dull gray; and
- Lack of contrast (conveys information about shape and form)

Consider what it is that you are trying to do.

You want your setup color-wise to be different than the water surrounding it. If your setup contrasts with the water it is in, it has a far greater chance to be noticed and targeted. Remember, we are seeking a striking response. Your setup must appear different than the predominant color of the surrounding water at that depth. As we descend the water column, certain light wave

frequencies are absorbed (because water absorbs light). Here is the other prong of that absorption concept. As we go deeper in the water column, some of the colors we see at the surface will no longer be the same color at depth. At this point in the discussion, I am speaking of ordinary colors - the color spectrum we can see. Fluorescent colors will be discussed in a moment.

The longest visible color wavelengths are the reds. Shorter in descending order are orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. As you descend the water column, the longer wavelengths are absorbed, leaving the shorter wavelengths to continue down the water column. Those shorter wavelengths will ultimately be absorbed, even in the clearest of



water, provided you go deep enough. The kokanee fisherman is dealing with depths generally down to 100 feet, give or take. The typical kokanee body of water will have no light in the later season beyond 75 feet. In the very early season, there may be no light at 30 feet.

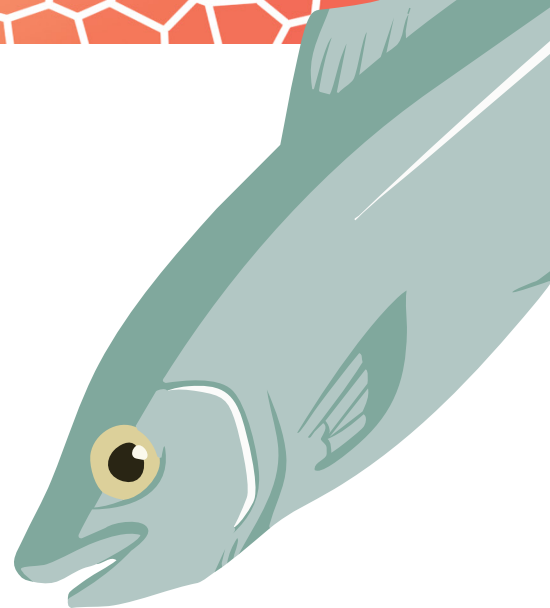
As you recall from last month's article, the proper target depth for kokanee fishing is 54 degrees. And since that temperature descends the water column as the season wears on, the resulting less light at your target depth also means that certain ordinary colors are no longer what they appeared to be on the surface because their wavelengths have been absorbed. If you use such a color at depth, your presentation will be gray and not have much contrast to the water it is in.

A lure of ordinary red will virtually disappear in but a few feet of water. Soon to follow would be the ordinary orange, ordinary yellow, and then ordinary green. Also, about that time would be ordinary indigo and ordinary violet due to the structure of water and the use by phytoplankton of these frequencies. If you take an ordinary red

object into a dark closet and shine orange light on it, the red object will appear gray. If you take an ordinary green object, and test it the same way with blue light, the green object will appear gray. For the object to be seen in its correct color, it has to be struck by a light frequency of equal or higher wavelength. In these examples, if you take a green object and strike it with red light, it will appear green. If you take the green object and strike it with orange light, it will still be green. For ordinary colors, the deeper you go, the very light necessary for that color to be that color, has likely been absorbed in the water before you reach your target depth.

Without the right light wavelength hitting it, it will be dull gray and not at all distinctive to the water that surrounds it. The little remaining visible light at depth makes the dullness even duller.

Our lures are rarely of a pure color wavelength. But even the mixing of colors (hues) will still be subject to the same color deterioration at depth. Pink is a good example. Pink is not a color of the visible spectrum, but is a mixing of red and white.



White is not a color of the spectrum, but is all colors of the visible spectrum. Thus in pink, a little of the color will respond to green and blue wavelength at depth. But the color intensity will be mostly dull. From what you now know, ordinary pink is not the ideal choice for getting noticed at depth.

While this might seem confusing to us above water, it is still the reality of the color situation in the water and at depth. Perhaps some encouragement is in order. To be "expert" of color at depth you need not memorize anything. Because most of our kokanee fishing occurs in green or blue light wave frequencies, we want all of our presentations to show up in green and blue light.

## FLUORESCENT COLORS

Enter the amazing world of fluorescent colors. No intense scientific discussion is needed here. What you need to know is this. A true fluorescent color will remain its color when struck by a

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WAVELENGTHS

### FLUORESCENT COLORS



lower light wave frequency. If a true fluorescent orange is struck by a green light (lower frequency than orange light), it will remain orange. The same is true for all of the fluorescent colors. And that means that if you use true fluorescent colors in your setup, your setup will be seen at depth. True fluorescent colors tend to be brighter as well, making for higher visibility.

Not all materials on the tackle market are of true fluorescent colors. You can easily test whether a color is a true fluorescent by taking your lures and dodgers into a dark closet and then shining a black or UV light on them. If the color seen is the color you saw in full light, you have a fluorescent color. Again, there is a difference in intensity of the color. Just because a material is fluorescent does not automatically mean it is intense.

U.V. light is below the visible spectrum (of lower wave frequency), which means it cannot be seen directly. All U.V. light is dissipated in very shallow fresh water holding kokanee, because the water, plankton and other particulates in the water absorb all of it.

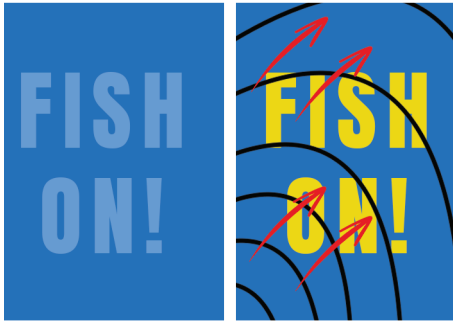
It is well documented that there will be no U.V. light in the freshwater column below just a few feet.

I have tested lures labeled "U.V." Most work very well in waters holding kokanee, and in particular, the UV squids should be a part of your tackle box. However, lures labeled "U.V." would be more accurately labeled as "fluorescent." These "U.V." lures come in visible colors. Since UV is not visible, the color you see is fluorescent. As with all fluorescent colors, stimulation by a black light will make the color jump out at you. But these lures are in fact, only fluorescent. But that is why they are good. They still need some visible light at depth to be most effective. They do not glow. Match one of these "UV" (fluorescent) squids with a Fish With Gary™ POWER Dodger, and you have a great setup.

Using true fluorescent materials in your setup will resolve issues of color shift in your favor. While some fluorescent colors will fade somewhat the deeper you are in the water column, they still are not gray if there is some light available to act on them. When using true fluorescent materials, the colors you are delivering



## CONTRAST CHART



at depth are those NOT ordinarily seen at depth. And that is exactly the effect you want. Your setup will be out of the ordinary, and kokanee will focus on it in the near field.

### VITAL CONTRAST

Using fluorescent materials is not the only way to get your setup noticed. Remember that you are after contrast, or what I call vital contrast. Vital contrast can be obtained by using different fluorescent colors next to each other or spaced in such a way as to create the illusion of not being connected. Components that contrast with themselves will stand out even more in dull watery depth. Contrast is the enemy of camouflage. Contrast is the better-developed part of kokanee vision and encompasses about 10 times larger visual window area than does color. The color window is directly in front of the

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kokanee, but contrast is not only seen in front, it is seen up, down, sideways, and backwards. Contrast vision overlaps color vision. Effectively presented, color is a great contrast. When color and contrast are effectively presented, color and contrast are in front of the kokanee to see and react to them. This allows

the kokanee to put its mouth where the color is, which is pretty much what you want!!

### GLOWS

There is another fantastic way to achieve this vital contrast at depth, and that is the use of glows. Glows are termed phosphorescent (or luminescent) as they

carry their own light to depth. No intense scientific discussion is needed here either. Glows emit light when the light source that charges them is removed. On the other hand, fluorescent materials appear brighter in light, but do not glow when that light is removed.

Most glows on the market and peddled to fisherman are of very poor quality. Their glow simply does not last even long enough to make it to depth, let alone work for you at depth.

All Fish With Gary™ glows are of the highest quality and are termed extended glows for good reason. The natural glow beads in particular will glow for hours on a simple charge of sunlight for a few minutes. Stimulation of glows by using a black light is not very efficient, and the resulting glow does not last as long as sunlight stimulation.

Glows clearly take on more importance when the level of light is less in the water column. As you descend below light in the water column in later season, glows make visible what would otherwise be invisible. And if the

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surrounding water is pitch black, the glow of light most certainly is the kind of dramatic contrast that will get your setup noticed.

### **THE IDEAL PRESENTATION**

The ideal presentation in achieving vital contrast is one that makes generous use of fluorescent materials and glows, arranged in such a way to be in contrast with each other and in contrast with the surrounding water. And this is exactly what is incorporated into the entire Fish With Gary™ Tackle line.

While the dodger blade attracts far field (long distance), the beads, and the spinner(s) on the leading wire are near field (short distance) attractors.

Here is what is going on with the beads and spinner in front of the dodger. Because the beads and spinner(s) are being moved about by the dodger, they are creating short field

sound. The spinner(s) do not consistently spin as you would expect. Instead, their movement in the water makes the spinner(s) come in contact with the glass beads. Metal versus glass produces a sound. In this case the two produce an irregular sound that alternates with some spinning, and some "tap-tap" of the metal on the glass. There is nothing in nature that this imitates, and this sequence of short field sound is itself a contrast to the natural water environment. Add to this is the natural movement of the glass beads working against themselves as this setup is whipped through the water. And all of this is going on while your dodger is still producing far field sound, attracting other kokanee to your setup. A gathering of kokanee is more likely to result in a strike than a single kokanee.



While your sound generating machine is working, your kokanee has been drawn close enough so that the colors and contrasts are within its sight window. A curious thing happens at this point. Having been drawn to the sound, the kokanee will see a particular color and contrast sequence. Once seen, this color and contrast sequence effectively imprints the kokanee with that combination, even if briefly. If your dodger and the upfront beads and spinner are of the same color and contrast, you increase that imprinting.

And if your lure is of the same color and contrast, then you give the kokanee a target that it does not fear. That is why it is absolutely critical that your dodger setup and the lure be matched.

The lure is making short field vibrations and adding color and contrast, and adding scent.

So now you have the complete picture. Far field vibrations attract, short field vibrations and colors in consistent vital contrast imprint the kokanee and provoke the strike.

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# FISHING DESTINATION: ZEBALLOS

BY MIKE CAREY



The scream of the reel as the broad-shouldered king salmon took another run was music to my ears. The single-action reel handles spun dangerously around as I got my hand out of the way just in time. They don't call them knuckle busters for nothing, and I learned that painful lesson earlier in the day. That said, it was a lesson gladly accepted because it meant the fishing action was hot, and indeed it was. Our boat's fish hold was steadily filling up with the bounty of the ocean in this remote location off Zeballos, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

Ever since I moved to the Pacific Northwest and started going to Sportsman's Shows, I had the dream of someday fishing a true "destination" fishing location. Wandering up and down the booths, looking at pictures of giant halibut, ling cod, and Chinook salmon, it just got me thinking how much I wanted to try something

like this out. All the maps of faraway, exotic places to fish – I wanted to go! But I had other priorities and needs, not the least of which was raising my two boys. They are grown now and moved out of the house, and with a wife encouraging my dreams, my opportunity finally came.

We had been invited by Northwest Fishing sponsor Adrian O'Connor to come up for a few days and enjoy fishing and stay at his lodge, Reel Adventures Sportfishing. What can I say? My jaw dropped when Rob told me we would be traveling to this fishing Mecca in B.C.

Zeballos is a small, remote town located at the end of Zeballos Inlet on the west side of north Vancouver Island, a little more than halfway along the large island. In days past it had been a vibrant town of a couple of thousand residents. A gold rush between 1938 and 1942

produced a booming town, which quickly faded after World War II when the price of gold collapsed.

The town turned to forestry and fish processing. It's the tourist and sport anglers who come now to visit, at least those in the know.

Our crossing at the border was uneventful. Although I must admit to being taken aback when we told the border officer our destination was Zeballos, and his response was, "Are you making that up?" No officer, and please don't pull us over and empty our vehicle! But he smiled and waved us on. Next stop was the ferry crossing at Tsawwassen, due south of Richmond (near Vancouver). It's a two-hour crossing from Vancouver to Nanaimo. The B.C. ferry system is impressive. Large, comfortable ferries, reservation systems (recommended), and good food on board made the crossing a breeze.

Not to mention the beautiful scenery and ever closer Vancouver Island in the distance, growing our anticipation with every kilometer travelled (hey, we're in Canada now, eh?).

I had looked at the map of Vancouver Island many times, and in my mind I imagined winding, narrow, gravel, two-lane roads, taking forever to reach our final destination. Imagine my surprise when we unloaded in Nanaimo and promptly got on a smooth, four-lane freeway. The road to Campbell River was smooth sailing, and the miles, er, kilometers flew by. We gassed up the truck and had to do some quick and dirty conversions – let's see, there are about 4 liters per gallon of gas... but the exchange rate is 22% in our favor... so the cost of gas here is – more. But not that much more, so relax, you won't go broke filling up your vehicle. From Campbell River, the road was reduced to a two-lane road, but it was still a nice road to drive, and we made good time. Wooded hills stretched out in all directions and signs of civilization were few and far between. Towns composed of a half dozen buildings

became the norm.

Finally, there it was, the turnoff for Zeballos! Now things began getting interesting. Our paved road became a gravel logging road. Hills gave way to snowcapped mountains as we first climbed and then descended through the Haihte Coastal Range of the Vancouver Island Ranges, a mountain range that extends along the length of Vancouver Island. Creeks and small rivers worked deep and narrow canyons into the hillsides. The landscape is likely very little changed from a hundred years ago. There are clear cuts here and there, but nothing like what one sees in Washington. Finally, the descent smoothed out, and a few small, worn houses began to appear. Then more, and finally we had arrived, destination, Zeballos. We had a scenic nine-and-a-half-hour trip from Seattle by car, two hours of which was a ferry ride. Very doable, and not nearly as strenuous as I had imagined it would be.

Once we arrived, we met Adrian and his staff, and other guests. This was a Northwest Fishing "Get-Together" of sorts as Adrian had given a special discount to our members



and had filled up the lodge with them. We enjoyed meeting fellow NWF members and sharing stories of fishing past and to come. To cap things off, everyone graciously held up dinner for us. We sat down, and Chef Jason promptly appeared to introduce our first dish.

What can I say about Chef Jason? A smile seems to be a permanent part of his personality. Always open to conversation and playing cool, eclectic music in the background, he truly made coming to dinner a memorable experience. Not to mention, Jason has his cooking chops down! Our meals were five-star affairs every day. From a quick morning breakfast before fishing, to abundant lunch packs, to afternoon snacks, to appetizers and main courses that had us eating ever last bite off my plate, we ate like kings!

We had the luxury of fishing three days with owner/operator Adrian O'Connor.





Adrian has fished these waters for a lifetime and knows the best offshore reefs and underwater humps to fish, not to mention the migratory habits of the Chinook salmon as they flood into this region every year.

The passage leading away from Zeballos, Esperanza Inlet, is breathtaking in its scenery. First explored by the Spanish in 1774 and then by Captain James Cook in 1778, it is the traditional territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation, who inhabited these lands for thousands of years. The inlet was formed by glaciers during the last ice age, and now attracts anglers, kayakers, divers, and hikers to the wilderness area. Wildlife is everywhere to be seen, including otters, sea lions, bears, cougars, and bald eagles. As we departed the inlet for open waters, we scanned the horizon for killer whales (Orcas), migrating gray whales, seals, and porpoises.

To Adrian's surprise, however, we instead got to see a pilot whale leisurely swimming along, its large tail fully revealed as it sunned itself.

Once on the open ocean, we tolerated the swells and moderate chop until a short time later, we reached our anchoring locations. Even though it's about a thirty-mile run to this spot, because most of it is in sheltered waters, it's an easy trip. Adrian quickly set us up on anchor in two hundred feet of water. The plan was to start with halibut, and then after getting our limits, troll for salmon. I believe the term is "easy limits", and that's just what we experienced. Within minutes of lowering our bait we caught fish. In the next hour, we pulled up our limits of halibut ranging from 15 to 60 pounds, perfect eating size! Bigger fish can and will be caught. Adrian reported just the previous week's customers having caught one hundred-pound-plus-sized halibut. They, however, must go back, as there is a slot limit on these tasty fish. Personally, I was perfectly happy getting my "big" and not having to haul up a hundred pounds of muscular fish only to

let it back down. Maybe another time fish... Adrian pulled the anchor and set up gear for trolling Chinook. In Canada, the preferred gear is a single-action "knuckle buster" reel with a ten-foot rod. *"These are traditional rod setups in Canada, you won't find too many anglers using level winds for salmon"*, Adrian explained. Over the course of the next three days, I grew to love this setup – the sporting nature of catching a salmon is greatly enhanced with this gear. With no gear advantage, you must be fast on the retrieve when the fish runs at the boat, and be always ready to remove your hands when they run (or you will have your knuckles "busted").


Just like the halibut, we managed to catch our daily limits without too much difficulty. The hot gear was a large flasher with either a 5" spoon or a whole anchovy fished "off the deck". The bite that deep is kind of subdued, but once off and running, these kings put up great fights, running at the boat, taking out line, but ultimately joining our halibut for dinner. The big king of the trip fell to Rob, 25 pounds of delicious springer.

*"And now for something completely different,"* That's what came to my mind when Adrian informed us on Wednesday, he was going to take us to some locations to troll for ling cod and bottomfish. *"This should be interesting,"* I thought. He explained, *"We'll be fishing a large underwater reef that has a rocky bottom surrounding a sandy bottom. This rocky bottom is habitat for smaller fish and octopus, and it draws in larger fish. It can produce well for ling cod,"*.

Before we went trolling for bottomfish, we trolled some near-shore, shallow water locations for chinook salmon. What spectacular scenery! The waves crashing into the rocky shoreline and reefs made for some amazing pictures. Not to mention, a huge sea lion standing watch over his domain and eagles flying overhead. Our port rod exploded in short order and, I grabbed the rod. This was a nice king! Multiple strong runs gave me a great challenge on the knuckle buster reel and 10-foot rod - I love this setup! The fish eventually weakened, and I was able to slide him into the

awaiting net. Wow, what a beautiful fish to start the day!

The salmon bite was slow, so it was time to head to our next spot and troll up some lings. We used flashers and bait, using downriggers to get the gear down to the bottom, a few feet off the deck in 120 feet of water. Trolling speed was slow, we were going just fast enough to keep the flashers wobbling back and forth, but not rotating. I'd never trolled for ling cod, nor had Aaron or Rob. It didn't take too long before we were able to recognize the sometimes light tap tap of a bottomfish. Of course, the lings had a more forceful tap tap! And on release from the downrigger clip, it was obvious when we had a ling. We worked at this productive location for a couple of hours and caught a lot of fish. A limit for each of us, in fact. But it wasn't ling cod we were mainly catching. Nope, instead, time after time huge, brightly colored yellow eyes and vermilion came to Adrian's sharp gaff. As we hit our limit for vermillion, we could have kept fishing this area for lings, however, rather than stress and kill bottomfish that likely

An advertisement for NJORD fishing gear. The top half features a dark background with a QR code and a fishing rod. The text "NJORD" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, "ROD HOLDERS YOU CAN TRUST" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "MAKE ROD RETRIEVAL A BREEZE WITH OUR UNIQUE PIVOT ACTION" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The website "NJORDGEAR.COM" and phone number "(250)754-4171" are listed at the very bottom.

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would not recover from being caught from 120 feet deep, he decided to move us to another, smaller reef location.

It was a good location change! Within seconds of lowering our first rig, the rod doubled over. Aaron grabbed the rod and battled a beautiful 20-pound ling in to the boat. Shortly after, Rob and I got nice lings. Another pass yielded some smaller lings and with that we were done for the day.

Back at the lodge, Chef Jason had prepared another five-star meal.



We visited with the other Northwest Fishing Reports guests who reported good fishing and bountiful catches. Just another day in paradise!

Traveling to Zeballos from the Seattle area is not nearly the ordeal I had in my mind prior to the trip. The drive is easy, and Canada couldn't be a nicer place to visit. People are so friendly and polite, and we were welcomed everywhere we stopped. As to the fishing, I'd rate it a slam dunk "10". And not that I like to think in these terms when I fish, but the amount of fish

we brought back at the prices you'd pay in the grocery store amounted to easily a couple thousand dollars' worth of fresh fish, far superior to anything you'd find in a store. Plus, it's all processed, vacuum-sealed, and flash-frozen at the lodge. My family and friends will be eating like kings for the next year, until we get a chance to do it again!

To book a trip with Reel Obsession Sportfishing give them a call at 1-888-855-7335 or check them out on Facebook, or their website.



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## Washington State Law RCW 77.15.160

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

## How to buy:

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

## Protecting Our Waters

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



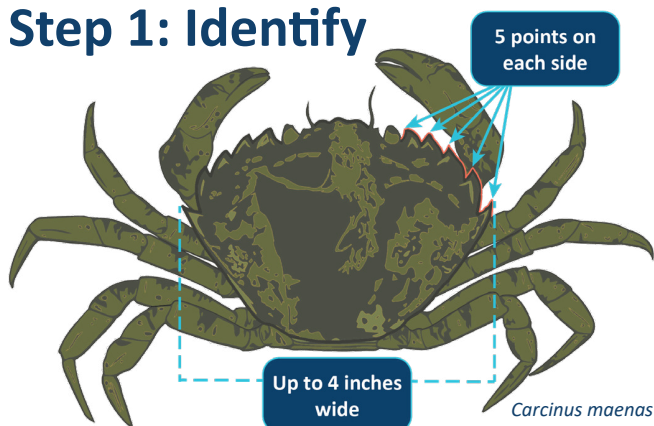
For more information visit [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov) or call the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at **888-WDFW-AIS**

# Report Invasive European Green Crabs



Washington  
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**FISH &  
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## 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!



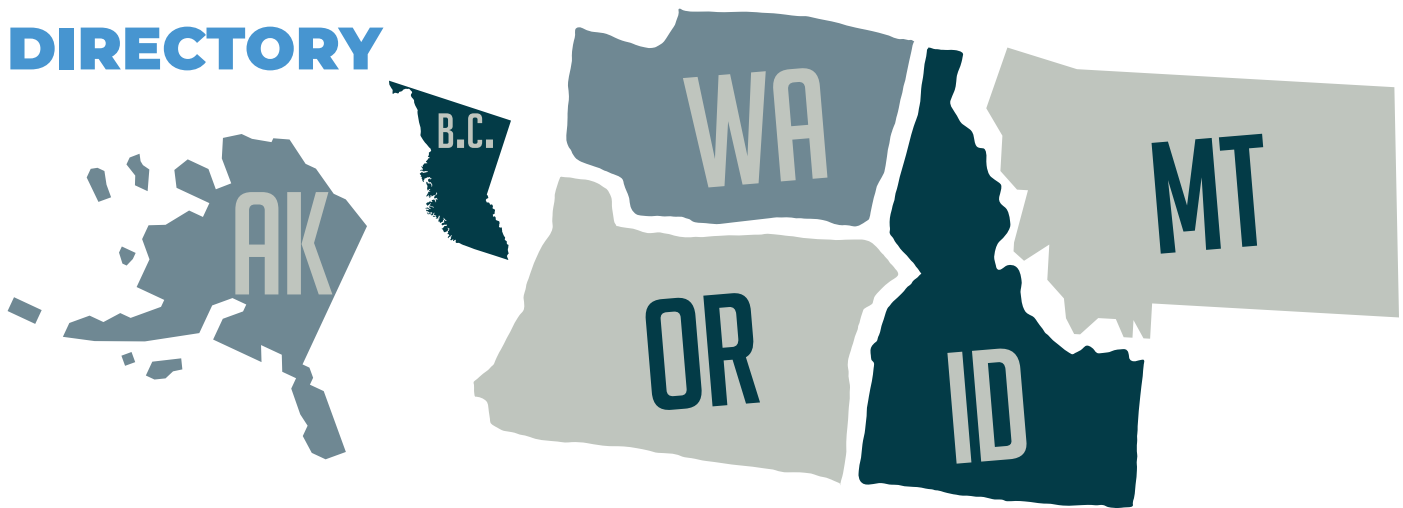
[wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab](http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab)

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 [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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