

NORTHWEST FISHING

EXPLORING THE PNW'S REEL LIFESTYLE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8
JUNE, 2025

PAGE 08

OF DAMSELS, DRAGONS, & SNAILS FOR

STILLWATER TROUT

PHOTO CREDIT: DON LEWIS

OMAK LAKE
CUTTHROAT ACTION
PAGE 11



WA SALTWATER
SALMON OPPORTUNITIES
PAGE 18



THE ART OF
FINDING KOKANEE
PAGE 29



Our printing materials are locally sourced, contain recycled products, and are Tacklebox friendly.

FREE

HEWES

Craft™



OCEAN PRO

2201240

Take the rugged, variable-deadrise hull of the Hewescraft Sea Runner and add something that is essential to tackling even bigger water and tougher conditions — size. The Ocean Pro is deeper, wider at the bottom and beam, and can be optioned with either a 24'- or 26'-hull length. The Ocean Pro's deep-v, seven-foot-wide hull width delivers a smooth ride while attacking waves and excellent stability at rest. Its 100-gallon fuel tank provides essential safety and range. The Hewescraft Ocean Pro is the essential affordable, ocean-ready craft for the serious angler.

FIND YOUR LOCAL DEALER AT
HEWESCRAFT.COM

f @ @HEWESCRAFTBOATS





THE **GET OUTDOORS** PACKAGE



www.fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov

What's in the Get Outdoors Package?

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

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

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

ALL FOR \$236.18!

What's the catch?
You just need to get outdoors.

Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE

EDITOR'S CORNER:

Another trip around the sun completed, and here comes summer full of promises and adventures. It's been a wet spring for us here in Montana, which is a good thing for crops and refilling our massive reservoirs. Everywhere, green is the color of the month as life explodes on the prairie.

This month, we have a selection of diverse articles for your reading pleasure. June is one of those months when plenty of opportunities to go fishing appear. Lakes, rivers, and salt all hold promises of good catches. Our kokanee series from Gary Gordon continues with some excellent master class level information. Mark Yuasa dives into Washington salmon opportunities, and John Kruse goes over summer strategies for bass. That and more means a little bit of everything fishing-related for you to enjoy!

Stay safe and have a great month!

- Mike Carey, Northwest Fishing



FOLLOW US:

www.northwestfishing.net/
f i y @northwestfishingtv

ARTICLE GENRES

FISHING



GEAR



SAFETY



FOOD



LOCATIONS



GUEST WRITER



MISC



CONTENTS

Omak Lake Cutthroat Action



11

WASHINGTON SALTWATER SALMON OPPORTUNITIES

18

the art of finding KOKANEE



29

08 Of Damsels, Dragons,
& Snails for
Stillwater Trout
Gary Lewis

14 The Derby Mentality
Randy Castello

29 The Art of Finding
Kokanee
Gary Gordon

11 Omak Lake
Cutthroat Action
Jason Brooks

18 WA Saltwater Salmon
Opportunities
Mark Yuasa

37 European Green
Crabs: What Anglers
Need To Know
*Washington Department of
Fish & Wildlife*

25 Catch More Bass
This Summer
John Kruse

CATCH CASH SAVE SALMON



NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW SPORT-REWARD PROGRAM

The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program uses tiered payments of \$6, \$8 or \$10 for each qualifying pikeminnow caught within the program boundaries. Tagged pikeminnow are worth up to \$500. Top anglers have earned more than \$100,000. See pikeminnow.org for rules, regulations and registration.



PIKEMINNOW.ORG



CATCH ALL THE
NEW FRESH LISTINGS



ROOT
SPORTS.

KTVB

PORTLAND'S
THE CW

FOX 26
fox26medford.com

FOX 28

FOX
13
SEATTLE

FOX+

FOX 41

FOX 34

JUNE

6/1: #169 "ZEBALLOS 2024"

6/8: #155 "RINGOLD SOCKEYE"

6/15: #176 "AREA 1 OCEAN SALMON"

6/22: #170 "COWLITZ RIVER STEELHEAD"

6/29: #177 "BREWSTER SOCKEYE"



TUNE IN AND SET YOUR DVR!
NWFISHING.NET
CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS FOR TIMES

NORTHWEST FISHING

A Digital Anglers LLC & Northwest Fishing Publication

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mike Carey

PUBLISHER

Rob Holman

COPY EDITOR

Eve Lawson

CONTRIBUTORS

Gary Gordon

Gary Lewis

Josh DeBruler

Jason Brooks

Mark Yuasa

Randy Castello

Chase Gunnell

COVER PHOTO CREDIT

Don Lewis

TEAM NWF (NWFTV)

Hillary Holman

Eric Magnuson

Luke Hatfield

Barry Dubnow

Randy Castello

Matt Carey

Jason Olsen

ADVERTISING

Eric Magnuson

Hillary Holman

ARTICLE SUBMISSION INQUIRIES

mikec@nwfishing.net

PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
COHO MEDIA GROUP

LAYOUT

Sarah Holman

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Holman

Gracie Duncan

ADVERTISING

advertising@nwfishing.net

ACCOUNTING

Rob & Hillary Holman

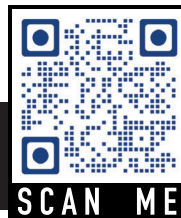
PROJECT MANAGER

Sarah Holman

**All of the articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of Northwest Fishing magazine.*



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



SCAN ME

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

Subscribe to receive our free digital magazine.

NORTHWEST FISHING'S
MEET THE **PRO:**

STEWART DUECK

CO-OWNER OF NJORD GEAR



NJORD



Built from solid aluminum with no plastic parts, our rod holder features a pivoting action that makes retrieval effortless, just pull it toward you and it's up and out.

At Njord, we fuse a passion for fishing with precision machining to craft gear that's both rugged and refined. Each product reflects our commitment to quality, innovation, and the belief that fishing is more than a pastime; it's a way to connect with nature and push the limits of our craft.

NJORDGEAR.COM



THE NJORD DIFFERENCE:
SIMPLE, SMOOTH, & BUILD TO LAST

ABOUT **STEWART**

My trade is in precision machining, with over 20 years of experience crafting tools and dies. After relocating from North Dakota to Nanaimo, we quickly saw a need for better, more durable gear tailored to the demands of local fishermen. That's when we decided to combine our machining expertise with our love for fishing.



BY GARY LEWIS

A man wearing a tan cowboy hat and a blue long-sleeved shirt is sitting in a green inflatable float tube on a river. He is holding a large, silvery trout with both hands. The background is filled with tall green reeds and grasses along the riverbank.

OF DAMSELS, DRAGONS, AND SNAILS FOR STILLWATER TROUT

BE THE BEST BIG STICK BY SLOWING DOWN THE PRESENTATION AND LIGHTENING THE TIPPET.

Last year, in early June, we fished a small reservoir in the high desert. Like a lot of private waters in Central Oregon, the lake had tules along one side and willows on the other.

We started in float tubes, backing into the water, then settling in.

My dad called out that he was seeing lots of damselflies. For which I thanked him and immediately tied on a damselfly imitation.

Kicking away from the launch into deeper water, I observed midges, PMDs, snails, dragonflies, and damselfies.

My first fish to the net was a 21-inch rainbow. Dad was on the other side of the lake and could not get a picture for me. While I was using a damsel, I was thinking

about how I usually like to start with a Renegade or a Brown Hackle or some other snail imitation.

A person has a chance in the first hour of daylight to catch trout close-in to the tules on snail patterns before the fish sense the vehicle traffic or start to feel pressured by people in float tubes. But a lot of my friends don't want to fish using snails. It is not something they think about. Why would fish eat snails? And what do snails even look like? I think the real reason a lot of us don't fish using snails is because we are too restless. The snail just sits there on the surface or just under it. Until a trout eats it. It is so simple to fish snails.

The best thing to do is walk along the reed beds and scout the weed lines with

polarized glasses. Look for swirls. Look for shaking tules. Watch for fins and tails or the white gum line as a trout opens its mouth and flares its gills.

Pattern choice is as simple as it gets. A No. 10 Woolly Worm. A Brown Hackle.

A Renegade. These are all suggestive of snails when fished at snail speed. Cast or dap, and let it sit. Wait for the butt of the fly line or the leader to move.

The fish will often have to change course to take the fly, so as the trout turns, it will feel the fly and spit it. Don't wait to feel the take, set the hook when the leader starts to move. After the sun comes up, the fish tend to retreat to deeper water, and now is the time to switch to a leech, damsel nymph, or dragonfly nymph.



While it is tempting to use old standbys like the Woolly Bugger or even the Thin Mint, don't forget, the fish have seen all these flies before. We can catch more fish if we use lifelike patterns that are faithful to the profile, contrast, and color of the food source, but also incorporate rubber legs, gill movement, and eyes.

It's okay to experiment with retrieve, but in general, these critters don't move fast and can spend a lot of time at rest. One-inch increments are my rule for retrieves. Unless I am fishing a minnow imitation.

We need to be more patient and precise with our presentations. Once I watched a guy in a float tube. He was using the right fly, but his tube was underinflated, so when he kicked, he leaned way back, transmitting all of that back-and-forth motion to his fly rod and his fly. His fly was probably making two-foot moves. No bug does that. Some guys don't like to be told what they are doing wrong, so I just kept my mouth shut. While the guy's buddy caught half a dozen trout that morning, this guy didn't land one. The difference between a poor day of fishing and a good day might just be the way the fly swims.

A good presentation is one where the bug swims and rests naturally. Since real bugs don't get towed around on lines, we have to minimize the way the line affects the movement of the fly. The smaller the tippet, the more that the fly will work in the water like the tyer intended. If you have been using 3X, go

down to 4X tippet or even 5X on smaller flies. Don't forget, fluorocarbon was made so that you can catch more fish. And the guy with fluoro will probably out-fish the guy with mono five-to-one if everything else is equal.

Like it or not, you might have to learn a new knot. Try a non-slip or a perfection loop and see how the fly behaves differently at rest. My biggest fish of the morning was a 25-incher with a thick wrist, one of my best trout of the year. But it was in the late afternoon with a low-pressure system coming in when I earned a 20-inch rainbow.

"What are you using?" Dad wanted to know.

"A damselfly."

"Oh, good idea," Dad said.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"Because you told me, I figured you already knew."

"Oh yeah, I'm pretty smart," Dad said.



GARY LEWIS BIO

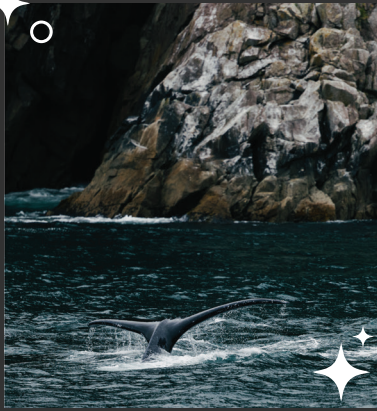
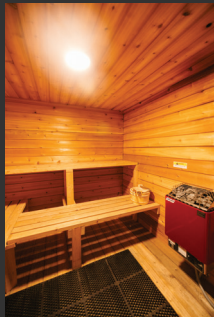
Gary Lewis is an award-winning author, TV host, speaker and photographer. Recent books include Fishing Central Oregon, 6th Edition, Fishing Mount Hood Country and Bob Nosler Born Ballistic. Gary has hunted and fished in eight countries on three continents and in the islands of the South Pacific. Born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



FOR A SIGNED COPY OF FISHING MOUNT HOOD COUNTRY, SEND \$29.99, INCLUDES SHIPPING TO: Gary Lewis Outdoors PO Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709 Contact Gary Lewis at garylewisoutdoors.com



EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF GUIDED FISHING TRIPS,
STUNNING WILDERNESS, AND LUXURY AMENITIES WITH
ALASKA KENAI ADVENTURES



FOLLOW US ON
f i o
ALASKA KENAI ADVENTURES



BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY!



+1 (907) 252-0705 • AKALODGE.COM

INFO@ALASKAKENAIADVENTURES.COM



Omak Lake Cutthroat Action

— Jason Brooks —

Omak Lake, nestled within the picturesque landscape of Washington State, is a hidden gem for anglers seeking the thrill of catching Lahontan cutthroat trout. This expansive body of water is renowned for its crystal-clear waters and the bountiful presence of this unique trout species.

The Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) is native to the Lahontan Basin of Nevada, Eastern California, and Southern Oregon. These trout are well-adapted to the alkaline and saline conditions of the region, making Omak Lake an ideal habitat. Lahontan cutthroat trout are known for their striking appearance, characterized by vivid red and orange hues along their sides and beneath their jaws. They can grow to impressive sizes, with the Washington State record at 18.04 pounds and was caught out of Omak Lake.

Omak Lake is located on the Colville Confederated Tribes Reservation, and is 3,244 acres, nestled in a high desert of rolling sagebrush hills. The prime fishing season at Omak Lake runs from early spring to late autumn. During these months, the water temperatures are optimal for trout activity, and the fish are more likely to be found near the surface. The early mornings and late afternoons are particularly productive times for fishing, as the trout are more active in these cooler hours.

Due to its large size and regulations by the tribe that protects the shallow shorelines in the northern part of the lake during the May spawning period, this is primarily a boat fishery. As the lake begins to thaw in March and warms up through May, the regulations change from a catch and keep to a catch and release fishery, which means using fly gear or

single barbless hooks on lures and no bait. Just like the other popular Lahontan waters in Washington, the fish start cruising the shallows and shorelines looking for creeks and sources of cold water for spawning.

Fly rod toting anglers usually target these areas with the same standard flies for Lake Lenore, another Lahontan Cutthroat producing lake in Washington. A black or green woolly buggler in size 8 to 4, or very small bead head chironomids in sizes 14 to 18. A heavy 6-weight rod is best since fish can be measured in pounds over inches, but some anglers will use a 5-weight or even a 4-weight. Sinking lines and the ability to cast in an afternoon thermal breeze are a must.

MOON'S
Guide Service LLC

**NOW BOOKING
SUMMER & FALL**

KING SALMON

SOCKEYE

**COME JOIN US ON A
GUIDED TRIP IN
EASTERN WASHINGTON**
BOOK NOW AT MOONSGUIDESERVICE.COM

OR CONTACT US AT
509.860.2539
MOON'S GUIDE SERVICE
2018 BOND RD, MOSES LAKE
WA 98837



**Record
Cutthroat
Caught from
Omak:**

18.04 lb

MENTION THIS AD AND GET \$10 FREE PLAY!

SMOKE'N SPIRITS
AT SHOALWATER BAY

**SHOALWATER BAY
CASINO**

swbcasino.com • 4112 Highway 105 • Tokeland, WA
Must be 21 or older. Must be a member of the Players Club. See Guest Services for details. Management reserves all rights.

For those who prefer to use a spinning or casting rod, using lures such as spoons, spinners, and soft plastics can be highly effective. These lures mimic the movements of baitfish and can provoke aggressive strikes from predatory trout. Top producing lures to try are the Luhr-Jensen Krocodile spoon in the frog pattern and Dick Nites in silver and chartreuse. Another option is to troll the F4 Kwik Fish in a frog pattern. For both fly fishermen and gear trollers can do very well using a Smile Blade Fly by Macks Lure, which is a whooly bugger with a smile blade in front as a "go to" fly. For the gear guys, simply put a few split shots a foot or two above the fly and troll at slow speed. The fly anglers should use a slow-sinking tippet line and strip it in slowly.

Fishing for Lahontan cutthroat trout at Omak

Lake is more than just a sport; it's an experience that connects anglers with nature. The serene beauty of the lake, surrounded by rolling hills and open skies, creates a tranquil setting for a day on the water. What makes this trip to Omak Lake unique is that you are fishing a part of history. First, the region itself should be explored. It is rich in Native American culture. In fact, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, who gave the famous surrendering speech "I will fight no more forever" died on the Colville Reservation in 1904 and is buried at Nespelem. The Grand Coulee Dam is bringing back its laser night show during the summer months, and just seeing this dam is worth the nearby side trip. There are also several trails to hike and, of course, the Columbia River to fish if you want to add other places to cast a line.

Omak Lake received its first plantings of Lahontan Cutthroats in 1968, which is noted in a report "Colville Lakes Compendium, Limiting Factors, and Management Plan" published by John Arterburn in 2003. These fish were a cross of rainbow hybrids from Lake Heenan in California and Lahontan's from Pyramid Lake in Nevada. The reason why these fish were put in the lake was due to its alkalinity. Back in 1953 a netting of the lake revealed only chum suckers lived there. The lake was stocked with rainbows from 1950 to 1960, and in 1956, brook trout were planted. None of these fish survived, so in 1968, they tried the Lahontan's which did well in the alkaline waters with successful fishing since 1975. A creel census that the tribes conducted from 1975 to 2001, over 26 years of data showed that the average fish caught weighed just under 2 ½ pounds, with most of the fish in the 19 to 20 inch range, but some fish were recorded over 30 inches, including that state record of 18 pounds.

You will need a fishing permit from the tribe. For non-tribal members, the cost is \$10 for a single-day

use permit, a three-day permit is \$20, a seven-day permit is \$30, and the yearly permit is \$40. Also, get a copy of the current regulations as it will describe the closed waters, closed shorelines to all access, and also give launch sites that can be used by non-tribal members. There is some camping available, but again, contact the tribe for more information.

Before going to Omak, you should contact the Colville Confederated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department for current regulations and also where to launch.

The Mission Bay launch was recently closed, and other launches are mostly for small watercraft. A launch permit is also needed in addition to a fishing license. The south end of the lake's shoreline is closed to non-tribal members, and the north end is closed to fishing.

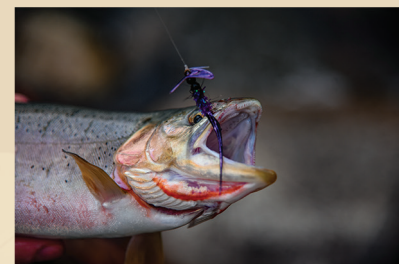
Colville Tribes Fish & Wildlife Department can be contacted at:

Front Desk:
(509) 634-2110


Main website:
<https://www.cct-fnw.com/>



**"...it's an experience
that connects anglers
with nature."**




Drifters Fishing Guide




Get Hooked Up With The Handyman
Trolling for Trout in Western Washington Lakes

Now Booking
SOUTH SOUND TROUT FISHING
In Mason, Pierce, & Kitsap Counties

\$150 per Person





Contact Us
(253) 224-6453
driftersfishingguide.com
Clients must follow WDFW rules and regulations.
See their website for more info.



THE DERBY MENTALITY

RANDY CASTELLO



A FISHING DERBY?

I'd better set up a team and sign up. I'm the "Fish Whisperer", my buddies and I can outfish anybody! Actually, that's not fair. Although the fame and money would be nice. Most people sign up for a derby just to participate in the event and to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship. Winning would be a sidebar to enjoying the fishing trip, enhancing the overall experience.

Fishing derbies and tournaments for just about everything that swims are organized throughout the country each year. In the US, there are 30,000-50,000 derbies and tournaments organized each year. In 2023, there were around 58 million licensed anglers. Even if only a small percentage of licensed anglers participate in an event, participation could range from 1.5 million to 5 million anglers annually.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, there are derbies for trout, kokanee, walleye, tuna, salmon, surf perch, halibut, razor clams, and chowder cook-offs. There may be derbies targeting other species, and those anglers will know the whens and wheres. The basics of this article will cover all species. Although, over the years the Castello clan has enjoyed occasional success while participating in various derbies, overall success has been metered. That said, I've had many "almost" in the money derby experiences.

Many years ago, while fishing in a big money tuna tournament out of Ensenada, Mexico, we hooked a large big eye tuna with just hours to go before the weigh-in. By the time the fish was secured on deck, we only had a short few hours to make a 40+ mile run back to the marina for weigh-in. Despite having one of the fastest boats in the tournament, we did not

make the weigh-in queue in time. We were quite the talk around town, but made the drive back to the border with nothing more than a stack of swag bags and my own flip-flop print on my board shorts. Then locally, with a derby contender, coho on ice, I've missed the weigh-in for the Everett Coho Derby by probably 15 minutes because of another last-minute fish. These were all skipper miscalculations where I knew the rules but pushed the time limit. The list goes on, but you get the idea. These kinds of errors can be minimized by creating a plan and then sticking with it.

If you plan to fish a derby or tournament, have a plan! Although it doesn't hurt, your plan does not need to be written out. Either way, you and your fishing partners need to sit down and come up with a plan for derby day. In working out a plan, consider basic things like getting enough sleep, being on time, and

TALON
talonrods.com



FREE HAT



Use Code:

NWFISHING

and get a **FREE HAT*** on your next order at
Talonrods.com

*Hat style will vary based of inventory



**Fishing Rods & Net Handles
Built for PNW Fisheries**

not showing up at the dock hung over. One of the first items to discuss is how to handle winnings. On my boat, there is usually an agreement that all winnings are split evenly. Occasionally, we just let the prize go to the person catching the fish, but either way, this should be agreed upon before Derby morning. If a juvenile is part of the team, they always get their winnings in full.

There are many variations of how to distribute derby winnings. The team should consider a means of covering the day's expenses, such as fuel, launch fees, and moorage.

Back to my boat, I usually cover the boat-related expenses, fuel, bait, and provide all the gear, but this is a team decision. Again, discuss winnings as an element of your derby plan, friendships depend on it!

In your derby plan, you should also discuss your catch rotation. Again, on my boat, we do a rotation through solid hookups with the skipper being last. Many teams will take a more traditional route where each angler runs with their personal gear, but this is a team decision. Your derby plan needs to address technique, gear, and location.

It is important that the boat fishes as a team, and everyone knows what to expect. At the end of the day, you want everybody to have fun and feel like they had an equal say in your potential success or if so, disappointment. The plan should include an agreement for a meeting place, time, and ensure the skipper has everyone's phone numbers. Also, decide what each angler should bring. Example: ice, lunch, derby tickets, license, and gear if required. Maybe also discuss parking and usage fees at the launch area. For derby day, you want your deck as clear



NJORD GEAR
FISH LIKE A GOD!
WHERE REFINED DESIGN MEETS RUGGED RELIABILITY.
MADE TO LAST AND BUILT TO FISH.

Father's day sale
10%off Promo Code: DAD10
Valid thru the month of June 2025

WWW.NJORDGEAR.COM

 NJORDGEAR  NJORDFISHINGGEAR

CONTACT US
INFO@NJORDGEAR.COM
(250) 754-4171



as possible, so it could be a good idea to address storage space and limit personal items. Use a common ice chest for fish. I have a case of fish bags, and each angler gets 1 for their Derby catch.

Back to location, your derby day plan should include an agreement regarding fishing location throughout the day or changes required for changing conditions. This is especially important when fishing in marine areas influenced by the tides. The skipper is responsible for making sure the boat and gear are ready for derby day. This includes a rod and reel check, replacing line and or top shots as required. I always have a backup rod or three on the boat.

Typically, I have two nets on board anyway, but having two nets available is especially important on derby day.

Depending on the derby, it is also important that at least one other team member can run the boat, drive the tow vehicle, and be familiar with the boat's electronics. (Mostly in case the team gets tired of the skipper and the flipping plan, thus throwing the skipper overboard.)

As the skipper, I find Derby days pretty stressful. To be honest, I experienced this for any fishing trip, but for me derby day is worse. It's not that I'm not having fun, but I feel a true responsibility towards my crew's success.

That said, don't forget to have fun. Turn setbacks into opportunities and laugh in the face of calamity. Winning is icing on the cake of an otherwise enjoyable fishing trip. By developing a derby day plan, the skipper and crew are more likely to enjoy the day, even increasing their chances of putting a fish on the leader board.



FISH INTIMIDATORS

**COLUMBIA RIVER
LAKE ROOSEVELT
POTHOLES RESERVOIR**



**NOW BOOKING
SUMMER CHINOOK
SOCKEYE**

BOOK NOW AT
FISHTHECOLUMBIA.COM

CONTACT US
(509) 750-6809
 Fish Intimidators
Fishintimidators@gmail.com

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





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

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

Reel Obsession
SPORT FISHING



Located in Zeballos, BC

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

AS SEEN ON
NW FISHING TV



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

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



WASHINGTON

SALTWATER SALMON

OPPORTUNITIES

BY MARK YUASA



The list of saltwater salmon fishing options in early summer are far and wide, and in this column, I'll break down the path to success around Puget Sound and off the Washington coast.

One important factor to keep in mind, when planning a fishing excursion is that the entire 2025-2026 season package won't be officially adopted until sometime in early to mid-June. What tends to happen is that these early-season summer fisheries will require emergency opening approvals, so anglers should regularly check the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) website (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/>) for possible updates and changes.

Back in mid-April, the Pacific Fishery Management Council held meetings in San

Jose, California, and the 2025-2026 tentative statewide salmon fishing seasons were adopted by the Council. The season recommendations set forth by WDFW are then moved forward for federal approval by NOAA Fisheries.

While we wait for the ink to officially dry on the approval process, let's visualize the possibilities of where to go and wet a line in the upcoming weeks, as well as a few pro tips to improve your chances of hooking a fish.

Since no salmon fishing season mirrors another, anglers have learned to become more adaptable to the constant ebb and flow of change. First off, anglers should be mobile and willing to move from location to location to maximize their time on the water.

Don't focus all your time on one specific area. By doing a little bit of homework and reading this column below, you'll likely find more choices by going outside of the box. Second, since many seasons are driven by catch quotas/guidelines, it is wise to go sooner rather than later.

Next, build a communication network to stay informed about the latest fishing trends, including the WDFW website and blog posts. Many other social media platforms can be used to gather this kind of information. Attending fishing seminars is another good avenue to gain more knowledge.

Other tips include reading blogs and watching YouTube videos from fishing influencers, especially publications like this magazine, which provide a plethora of information.

THE ELEPHANT BOYS
FISHING - CAMPING

STOCK UP FOR SUMMER

ROD & REEL COMBOS

SLEEPING BAGS & COOLERS

FISHING BAIT

INFLATABLES & TOWABLES

ONE LOCATION - TWO STORES Authorized Minn Kota/Cannon Service Center.

14811 E. SPRAGUE AVE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99216
509 443 3686 FISHING & CAMPING
509 926 6894 BOATING

WHERE TO GO IN JUNE

For the past several summers, Marine Area 10 (Seattle-Bremerton Area), mainly the northern portion, has been good for early coho and is open daily beginning June 1. The resident coho average 2 to 4 pounds, along with a few larger ones, and are fairly snappy. Their bright red-orange meat is excellent for the BBQ grill. This is due in part to the abundant schools of krill: small, microscopic, shrimp-like crustaceans found in Marine Area 10 during the summer. Most will target coho in the shipping lanes off Jefferson Head to the Kingston-Apple Tree Point

boundary line, and from the Edmonds oil dock to Richmond Beach. Other locations worth a try are Point Monroe off the north side of Bainbridge Island, West Point south of Shilshole Bay, Blake Island/Southworth area, and the entire eastern side of Bainbridge Island.

If you're looking to catch an early summer hatchery Chinook, then Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island) is an option and open Wednesdays through Saturdays only from June 4 to 30. These hatchery kings average 8- to 15-pounds along with some topping exceeding the 25-pound mark.

WDFW will regularly monitor the Marine Area 11 fishery and could close sooner if the quota or other guidelines are attained. The Chinook catch quota for June is 1,423 (1,423 in 2024 and 2023, 580 in 2022, and 431 in 2021) with a total unmarked encounter of 818, and a total sublegal encounter of 1,601. The Chinook fishery is managed under two separate summer quotas, and a second window of opportunity happens in late July. Commencement Bay east of the Cliff House Restaurant/Sperry Ocean Dock boundary line is closed to salmon.



CONTACT US
(503)956-5489

DOUBLEMOUTDOORS.COM

NOW BOOKING

COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON



**MARK YUASA
WITH A BLACKMOUTH
SALMON**

Those who fish for salmon regularly in Puget Sound marine areas – especially in the Tacoma region – know that dogfish can be an issue in the summer. To avoid pesky schools of dogfish, anglers will jig or troll with downriggers and meat liners using plugs, spoons or a plastic hoochie squid. If you drop a whole or cut plug herring, make sure you've got plenty of extra leaders tied. The sharp teeth and abrasive sandpaper-like skin of a dogfish will fray leaders. Lesson learned, I've burned through more than a dozen in a matter of a couple of hours.

20 | NWFISHING.net

In Marine Area 11, look for Chinook lurking around the Clay Banks to Owen Beach at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, the Slag Pile off the Tacoma Yacht Club, the "Flats" outside of Gig Harbor, Quartermaster Harbor, and Point Dalco on the southwest side of Vashon Island.

In the northern part of Marine Area 11, try Dolphin Point and Point Robinson on the northeast side of Vashon Island, south of the Southworth Ferry Landing, Colvos Passage, Dash Point, and Apple Tree Cove to Redondo Beach. Keep in mind that the salmon fisheries mentioned

above for Marine Area 10 and Marine Area 11 are only for June, and that additional salmon fishing opportunities will occur in both areas. Anglers should check the WDFW North of Falcon webpage for additional season information.

Another June option for hatchery Chinook is south of the Tacoma-Narrows Bridge in Marine Area 13 (South Puget Sound), which is open seven days per week. Look for fish are Gibson Point, the concrete dock off Fox Island's east side, Hale Passage, Johnson Point and Point Fosdick.

BOOKING KINGS & SOCKEYE



Austin's Northwest Adventures
Call **509-669-3557** to book!

Austin Moser,
Professional Guide & Instructor

www.austinsnorthwestadventures.com

The Tulalip Bubble Fishery (Marine Area 8-2) is open through Sept. 1 with fishing allowed from 12:01 a.m. Fridays to 11:59 a.m. on Mondays of each week, and closed June 21. Before going, anglers should check the WDFW website as intermittent closures may be needed to ensure the hatchery is meeting spawning escapement goals. Fishing is also open Sept. 6 to 21 and allowed Saturdays and Sundays of each week. The bubble fishery is open within the terminal boundary only – closed east of a line from Mission Point to Hermosa Point – and can be decent

for summer Chinook in the 10- to 20-pound range, and is mainly a trolling or jigging show.

You can jig drop down a glow, chartreuse, pearl-white, green-nickel, blue-pearl or blue-gold pattern in three to six-ounce sizes depending on the current and wind. Remember, store-bought jigs have a treble hook, and they're illegal for salmon in all marine areas. Only single-pointed barbless hooks and one fishing line with up to two hooks may be used.

Trolling is the popular method with downriggers and a flasher combined to

plug, spoon, and/or a plastic hoochie squid. Before or at daybreak, the fish tend to be found from the surface down to 90 feet, and as the sun rises, they'll go deeper up to around 100 to 175 feet.

Many anglers are making plans to visit the coastal ports where Chinook and hatchery coho fishing get underway in late June.

The ocean salmon season includes a recreational Chinook quota of 53,750 (41,000 in 2024) and a hatchery-marked coho quota of 99,720 (79,800 in 2024).

MARINE AREA 1

(Ilwaco) _____ is open seven days per week from June 25 through Sept. 30, all salmon, with a subarea guideline of 16,600 Chinook (12,510 in 2024) and a subarea quota of quota of 49,860 marked coho (39,900 in 2024). The daily limit is two salmon and one Chinook only. Columbia Control Zone closed.

MARINE AREA 2

(Westport-Ocean Shores) _____ is open seven days per week from June 21 through June 28, with a subarea guideline of 22,270 Chinook (17,430 in 2024), and the daily limit is one salmon, release all coho.

Open seven days per week beginning June 29 through Sept. 15, all salmon, with a subarea quota of 36,900 marked coho (29,530 in 2024). Beginning June 29, the daily limit is two salmon, and only one may be a Chinook.

MARINE AREA 3

(La Push) _____ is open seven days per week from June 21 through July 3, with a subarea guideline of 2,280 Chinook (1,630 in 2024), and the daily limit is one salmon, release all coho. Open seven days per week beginning July 4 through Sept. 15, all salmon, with 2,590 marked coho subarea quota (2,070 in

2024). Beginning July 4, the daily limit is two salmon. No chum retention beginning Aug. 1.

MARINE AREA 4

(Neah Bay) _____ is open seven days per week from June 21 through July 3, with a subarea guideline of 12,600 Chinook (9,430 in 2024), and the daily limit is one salmon, release all coho. Open seven days per week beginning July 4 through Sept. 15, all salmon, with a subarea quota of 10,370 marked coho (8,300 in 2024). Beginning July 4, the daily limit is two salmon. No chum retention beginning Aug. 1. Beginning Aug. 1,



WALLEYE FISHING

NOW BOOKING

POTHOLE'S WALLEYE ADVENTURES.

CALL FOR DETAILS.

CENTRAL WA'S PREMIER GUIDE SERVICE

509.750.7763

ROSSOUTDOORADVENTURES.COM

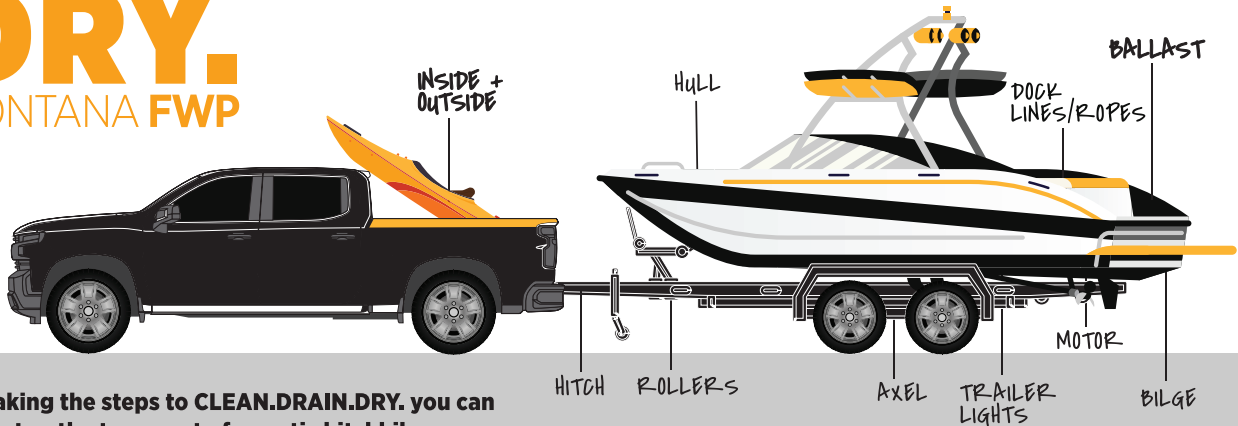


CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

MONTANA FWP

STOP AT ALL CHECK STATIONS

BEFORE YOU ENTER MONTANA WATER



By taking the steps to **CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.** you can help stop the transport of aquatic hitchhikers.

fwp.mt.gov/ais



NEVER TRANSPORT water, plants, fish, and or animals to different water bodies. Check all the above areas on your watercraft.

Chinook non-retention east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line during the managed ocean fishery.

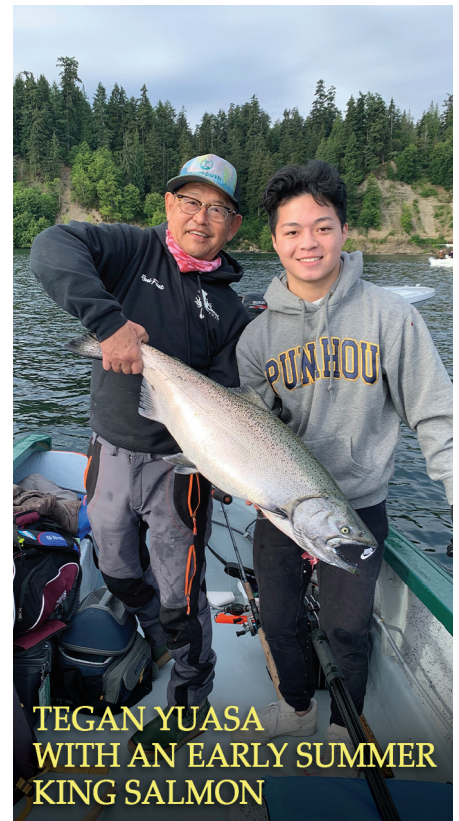
WDFW fishery managers will monitor the number of salmon caught in season and may close areas earlier if quotas or guidelines are met. In-season management may be used to sustain season length and keep harvest within the overall Chinook and coho total allowable catch.

Piers open year-round for salmon in Puget Sound include the Edmonds Marina (usually a good place for early summer kings in June), Fox Island, Mukilteo Ferry Landing,

Seacrest in West Seattle, Dash Point Dock, Point Defiance Park Boathouse, Les Davis, and Des Moines.

NOTE: *The salmon daily catch limits, species and size restrictions, and other regulations vary for each marine area. Emergency closures or adjustments to marine area seasons are also possible. Anglers should check for details on the WDFW website or the 2025-2026 regulation pamphlet.*

Mark Yuasa is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Communications Manager and a longtime local fishing and outdoor writer.



**TEGAN YUASA
WITH AN EARLY SUMMER
KING SALMON**

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



Tail



Fin



Blow



Whale
Warning Flag



Learn more at
wdfw.wa.gov/orca



Report Violations: **877-933-9847**
or online at www.bewhalewise.org



GEAR



CATCH MORE BASS

THIS SUMMER!

BY JOHN KRUSE

Summer is an exciting season for bass anglers. The bass are done spawning and are actively feeding in both the shallows as well as deeper depths. There are also a variety of ways to catch bass, both largemouth and smallmouth, this time of year.

Perhaps the most exciting way to catch bass during the summer months is using topwater baits. Watching a largemouth bass explode out of the water to smash your lure is always an exhilarating experience! Just make sure you don't set the hook when the bass comes out of the water. Pause and let them take it first.

Easy to say, I know, but hard to do. When it comes to topwater fishing, have a frog rigged up on at least one rod. Whether you use a standard frog or a popping frog, you have the advantage of fishing this weedless offering in heavy cover, whether it be weeds, grass, or lily pads.

If you are casting into more open water, I like to fish a topwater popper. My go-to popper is a Berkley Bullet Pop in either a bluegill, bass, or frog pattern. The Whopper Plopper made quite a splash in the bass fishing world when it was introduced in 2008, and many anglers insist it's still a great offering. However, this is a low-confidence lure

Since 1969



HOME OF THE
WEDDING RING®
& SMILE BLADE®



Fishing's best
kept secret

Shop online at
www.mackslure.com

for me, and while I've had a blow-up or two, I've yet to catch a fish with a whopper popper.

And then there are the classics. The Arbogast Jitterbug and Hula Popper have been around for over 70 years, but they still work, especially in the evening hours. Speaking of which, when is the best time to fish with a topwater lure? Conventional wisdom says you should fish topwater lures in the early morning and in the evening. However, if the weather is cloudy, you can experience good topwater fishing all day long.

LIPLESS CRANKBAITS

Lipless crankbaits like the original Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap or my favorite, the Berkley War Pig, are great search lures. You can cast them a "country mile" and retrieve at a fast or moderate pace, which means you can cover a lot of water while looking for schools of bass. Places to fish lipless crankbaits are in shallow water (two to eight feet deep), especially parallel to brush lines, weed lines, or near points of land. These lures also work well over submerged grass or weed beds. One thing that can be particularly effective is to pause your retrieve,

just for a moment, from time to time while you reel.

SPINNERBAITS

The spinnerbait, like the lipless crankbait, is used to search for schools of bass. One advantage the spinnerbait has is that, by design, it is more snag-proof than lipless crankbaits or topwater

plugins with treble hooks. The spinner bait can be fished a couple of different ways in the summer. You can fish it mid-depth with a moderate retrieve, just under the surface of the water, creating a wake, with a fast retrieve. Or slow roll it, letting the spinnerbait sink to the bottom in six to 15

LEWISTON, ID | HCGRANDHOTEL.COM



**HELLS CANYON
GRAND
HOTEL**

GRAND ADVENTURES START AT THE GRAND

- Store fish in our cooler
- Free hot breakfast
- Expansive free parking
- 2 onsite restaurants + bars
- On-site entertainment
- Indoor/outdoor pool, gym

SAVE 15%
[QR CODE]

NOW BOOKING BREWSTER SUMMER CHINOOK & SOCKEYE COMBO

REEL TIME FISHING
IDAHO, OREGON
& WASHINGTON
FISHING OUTFITTER



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



REELTIMEFISHING.COM

FROM THE WATERS OF ALASKA TO SOUTH PUGET SOUND, THE OG2 CATCHES SALMON!



GET'EM WITH THE GOAT!



OLD GOAT LURES™

WWW.OLDGOATLURES.COM

LIPLESS CRANKBAIT

SHALLOW WATER

**COVER LOTS OF
WATER**



SPINNERBAIT

MID-DEPTH / SURFACE

MORE SNAG-PROOF



DEEP DIVING CRANKBAIT

DEEPER WATER

**GOOD FOR
HIGHER TEMPERATURES**



feet of water and bringing it slowly back just off the bottom. While $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ -ounce spinnerbaits are widely sold, I prefer to use a $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce spinnerbait, especially if I am fishing deep.

DEEP DIVING CRANKBAITS

High summer temperatures will drive those bass into deeper waters, especially smallmouth bass. So, how do you reach them? With a deep diving crankbait! Rapala and Berkley are two lure companies that make quality deep-diving crankbaits. I tend to use two types of crankbaits in the summer months.

That would be lures that dive 8 to 12 feet deep and lures that will dive to 25 feet deep. Once you locate the fish, you can stay put and cast to them or switch over to a jig to pull bass out of the deep. As for crankbait colors, I try to “match the hatch” and use patterns that are forage for bass. Trout, perch, bluegill, and largemouth bass patterns all work well if these species live where you are fishing.

JIGS

I always have a weedless jig with a crawfish trailer tied on to one of my rods because they catch bass in the spring, summer and fall months.

SOFT PLASTICS

TRIENNIAL

WORKS GREAT FOR HEAVILY PRESSURED WATER

JIGS

TRIENNIAL

GOOD FOR STRUCTURES

“ AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO CATCH A BASS. ”

They can be fished in partially submerged brush, under docks, around beaver huts, trees and other areas where bass live, but other lures would get hung up.

Jigs can also be fished in deeper water on sloping banks, on underwater humps and other structure. Your choice is also wide. In addition to weedless jigs, you can fish neko rigs, which work great for smallmouth bass, and swim jigs, which have become a favorite for many bass anglers.

SOFT PLASTICS

You can't go wrong fishing soft plastic baits. Drop Shot fishing with a weight a foot or two below a hook tied on the same line can work great, especially on heavily pressured waters. Put a small 4-inch worm or other small plastic grub or swimbait on your hook and just drop it to the bottom. Texas-rigged worms still work great for bass on the bottom, as do the tried-and-true Carolina rig, where a weight and glass bead are placed above a swivel. A foot to 18 inches of leader with a worm is tied behind that.

TORREY'S SPORTFISHING ADVENTURES

425 - 345 - 6232

LET'S GO CATCH SOME FISH!!!

MAY-JUNE: KOKANEE
JULY-AUGUST: SOCKEYE
LATE AUG-SEPT: HUMPIES
OCT-NOV: SILVERS

FOR INFO AND PRICING
CALL OR TEXT
425-345-6232
OR
SCAN QR CODE

TORREYSSPORTFISHINGADVENTURES.COM

Finally, tube baits, which were all the rage 25 years ago, still work fine today for bass.

The bottom line is this: When it comes to catching bass this summer, you have a lot of options. Don't get stuck on one or two baits. If they are not working, try something new. As you can see, there is more than one way to catch a bass.

John Kruse
northwesternoutdoors.com

the art of finding KOKANEE

by gary gordon



In the years since Kokanee University was written, many wonderful developments have happened. The tackle designs, for example, are way different now as technology has made available vast improvements in action and color. What has not changed are the concepts outlined in previous articles. Let's take a look at fishing strategies to catch more kokanee!

COLOR FISH FINDER

No doubt, the very best piece of electronic equipment is the color fish finder-sonar. Color is better because of the unique biology of the kokanee, which have an unusually large air sac, and sonar cannot penetrate air. Because of this, kokanee can be seen on the fish finder, usually as bright orange (the default color on many systems). No other freshwater fish has this distinct detectable characteristic, so you can

easily tell the depth of kokanee by this method.

The fish finder will let you know the current depth. Knowing the depth of the bottom is essential, especially if your lake has varying contours. On more than one occasion, I have raised downrigger balls "just in time" to avoid getting hung up on a bottom that suddenly came up, seemingly out of nowhere. Your fish finder will track your downrigger ball, and you can use this to verify the accuracy of the

counter on the downrigger.

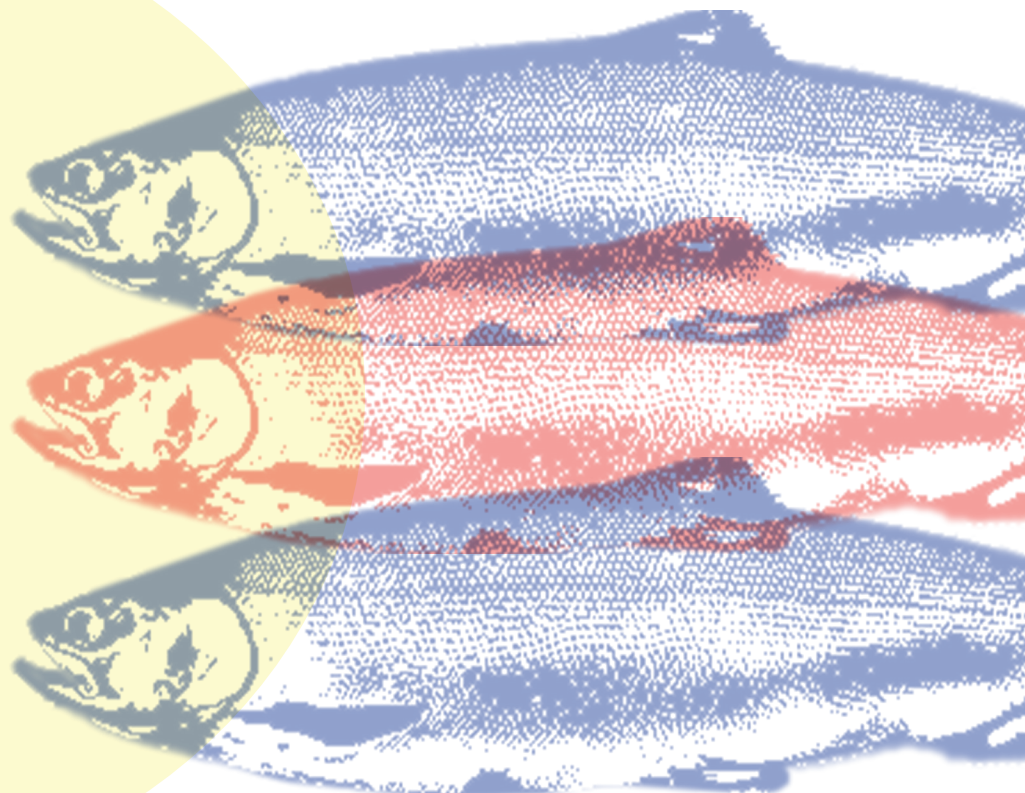
One factor to consider is how large a viewing area there is. The larger the viewing area, the higher the cost. Screen resolution is another factor to consider – will your viewer be viewable in sunlight and with polarized sunglasses? Another critical factor is the location of the fish finder in relation to where you are sitting while fishing. You need to be able to see the details on the screen.

GPS

GPS serves many useful functions. One of the best is showing accurate boat speed. (The little paddle wheel on the fish finder is unreliable and next to useless.) If you are targeting a speed of 1.4 MPH, you will be able to know when you are going 1.4 MPH. You will also be able to know when you are NOT going 1.4 MPH.

GPS will display a track of where you have been, and the memory will store those tracks until you erase them. I have had these tracks for years on the same device, showing both where I have been and also where my favorite and most successful areas have been.

Another fabulous feature is the cartography, which shows the contour depths of the lake you are on. You can either purchase the SD card, or many now come with the cartography pre-installed. My SD card covers all the lakes in the western US. You can get these cards to cover your region as well. Knowing the depth contours is a tremendous help. For example, it will allow you to stay on course within a former river channel. It will show points of land that are underwater



and which could be a problem in navigation when the downriggers are out.

TEMPERATURE AT DEPTH

One of the very best recent developments in technology is the ability to accurately measure the temperature of the water at depth. While the temperature function on your fish finder only tells you the surface temperature, the simplest device for measuring water temperature at depth is from FishHawk Electronics. This little device is called the FishHawk TD. It is easy to use by simply attaching the device to your fishing line, pressing

START, waiting for READY, then lowering it into the water. I send it down deep, then retrieve it, then press view, and it shows the water temperature in 5-foot increments down the water column as far as you have lowered the probe. This is extremely useful, particularly when looking for that 54-degree temperature depth in kokanee season.

I have also used the device to understand what was going on underwater. During one early September outing on a high mountain lake, I could see on the fish finder a few scattered kokanee at 40 feet, and a whole bunch of kokanee at 60 feet.



EXTEND YOUR STAY MON - WED W/ A REDUCED RATE

BOOK NOW
FOR THE SPRING SEASON



MINI GOLF

ON-SITE FISHING

RESTAURANT

CAMPING

CONTACT US

8198 HWY 262 SE,
OTHELLO, WA 99344 **509.346.2651** MARDONRESORT.COM

*SOME CONDITIONS APPLY. DEALS VALID MONDAY-WEDNESDAYS ONLY.
ROOFED RENTALS & RV SITES ONLY. CALL FOR MORE DETAILS.



NEW LAKE HOUSES



SPRING FISHING



MINI GOLF

Try as I could, no kokanee could be enticed from the 60-foot depth. The kokanee at the 40-foot depth were the only ones that would bite. I set out the FishHawk TD to determine if temperature had anything to do with it. Sure enough, it did. The fish at 40 feet enjoyed a temperature of 54 degrees. The fish at 60 feet were at 44 degrees. The deeper fish were already starting to settle in for the winter. Since it was September, I could tell these were the two-year-olds (next year's fish). Most of the kokanee I had caught at the 40-foot

level were either turned or were turning color. By combining what I learned from the temperature measurements with what I saw on the fish finder, I was able to figure out why I was not getting bit at the deeper depths.

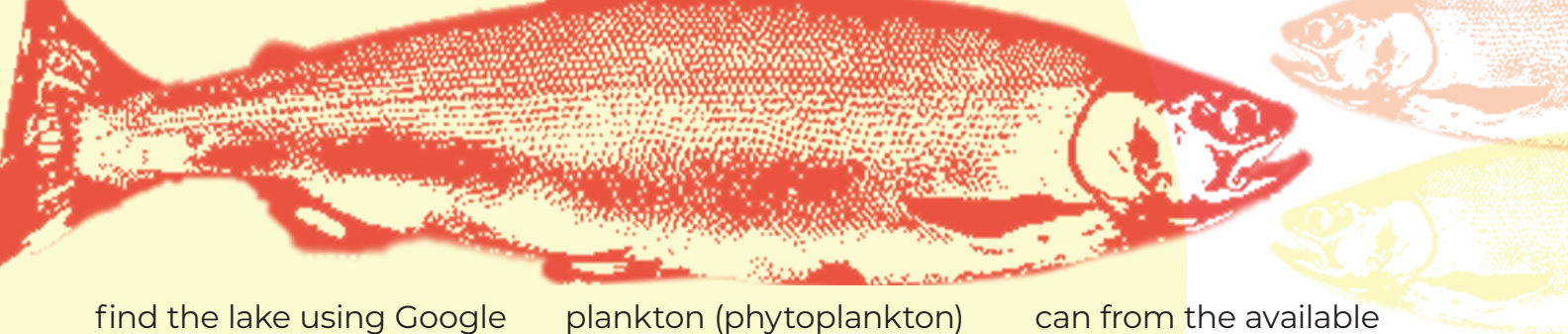
ELECTRIC TROLLING MOTORS

The single best advantage of the electric trolling bow-mounted motor is the ability to steer the boat by wireless remote control from wherever you are in the boat. I simply strap the small control on my wrist, and that lets me easily

control the boat's direction and speed, even when I am fighting a fish or setting the downrigger.

SCOUTING A NEW LAKE

Once you have enjoyed some success fishing for kokanee, you can have confidence in fishing any lake with a kokanee population. Kokanee are kokanee regardless of whether they are in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, British Columbia, Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, or California. When I know I am going to fish a new lake, the very first thing I do is to



find the lake using Google Earth. I need to know the shape of the lake, where the deep water is, and where the shallow water is. I need to know what feeder streams come into it and where the outlet(s) are. I need to know the structure of the surrounding terrain, such as whether one side coming into the lake is steep and the other side is gentle.

I also check out the lake using my GPS cartography. I can sit in my boat in Central Oregon and study lakes in any other location simply by moving the cursor on my GPS.

Generally, what I am looking for is where the current might be and where feeder streams come into the lake. Those are two locators of what I call "active" water. This is where water mixes with the regular lake water, adding oxygen to the water. Fish need oxygen. This is also where trace nutrients come into the lake from feeder streams. These nutrients act like fertilizer to the

plankton (phytoplankton) that the zooplankton, kokanee, and other baitfish feed on.

I look for drop-offs, where the lake suddenly gets deeper. Recall that as you go deeper down the water column, the water gets colder. It cannot get colder unless it gives up heat that rises to the surface. This process causes mixing - water movement up and down. This process is also good for the plankton and, hence, good for the kokanee.

If I am fishing early in the season, I look for structures, such as points of land coming into the water. I have found that in the early season, kokanee relate to structure.

Finally, using the internet allows you to research in ways we never could years ago. Don't limit yourself to fishing forums. Searching and finding hidden gems can give you inside information that many anglers have overlooked.

The whole idea is to learn as much reliable information about the new lake as you

can from the available sources. Be assured, what has worked for you on your local lake will also work on the new lake.

THE SCIENCE OF SCENT

All fish have nares, which are scent-detecting tubes on the snout of the fish. A fish's ability to detect scent is flat out amazing, often measured in parts per million. And salmonids are probably near the best in scent detection. For thousands of years, fishermen have used bait on hooks to persuade fish to bite.

Some awesome kokanee fisherman or fisherwoman discovered a long time ago that kokanee will bite a lure baited with white shoepeg corn. And that discovery has been passed down for many years to the present time. What has not been passed down is why white shoepeg corn works so well.

It turns out that white shoepeg corn has an amino acid that is a bite stimulant for kokanee, something that yellow corn does not have. White shoepeg corn also manages to stay on the

hook fairly well at kokanee trolling speeds. My research has revealed another interesting characteristic of white shoepeg corn: it stays white down the entire water column without any fade. As such, it presents a clearly defined target for the fish to attack. (For doubters, take a kernel of white shoepeg corn into a dark closet and shine a black light on it.)

Over the years, it has become popular to add additional scent to the corn by brining it first. Such scents have included anise, garlic, vanilla, and a host of others. Savvy kokanee fishermen would have more than one type of scented corn to entice the kokanee; in case the first one didn't seem to work, they would have a backup. I know that making up different scent combinations is part of the wonderful pre-fishing ritual. Some even dye the corn different colors. More ritual.

In the past, I endorsed using two kernels of corn on each of the tandem hooks in the lure. I have changed my philosophy a bit over the years. I found out that putting corn only on the leading hook helped prevent that dreaded "short" bite.



**CLEARWATER RIVER
SNAKE RIVERS
AMERICAN
SALMON**

JONES SPORT FISHING
The Northwest's Premier Outfitter offering guided fishing trips

CONTACT US
☎ (208) 669-1569
🌐 JONESSPORTFISHING.com
✉ jonessportfishing@gmail.com



Classic Creations
**WILDLIFE SCULPTURES IN GOLD
BY FRANK MCCUBBINS**



(360)765-3110
WildlifeInGold.com

A "short" bite is where the fish targets the trailing hook, hits it, and does not get hooked. The same concept is where the fish will take a bite out of a worm that extends beyond the hook. Either way, the fish wins, and you get that wonderful, frustrated feeling.

Placing the corn on the leading hook takes advantage of a fish's biology. Since a fish cannot see directly in front of its snout a distance of about two inches, placing the target scent corn on the leading hook will make the trailing hook invisible to the fish. The result is a higher percentage of hook-ups and deeper penetration of the hooks.

I have also studied the hydrodynamics of putting two kernels of corn on the leading and trailing hooks. At kokanee trolling speeds, using two kernels on each hook significantly dampens the action of the lure. This poses an issue. I want maximum action on my lure, and I also want to maximize the scent on my lure. Can I have both action and scent without compromising the action of the lure? And I also want to prevent the "short" bite.

34 | NWFISHING.net

The best solution finally emerges as being obvious all along. Many scents now come available with a sticky gel. In my opinion, these scents are more powerful bite stimulants than anything that corn can produce by itself. I now use only a single kernel of undyed, and otherwise unscented, white corn on the leading hook only, and place some gel on the beads of my beaded spinners. This gives maximum scent to my lure without interfering with its action. If I am using a squid or a hoochie, I place some of the gel inside the squid or hoochie body, again

using but a single piece of white shoepeg corn on the leading hook. I believe my success rate has increased using this setup.

At the end of the day, do your best to rinse off the gel on your lures. Using generous amounts of hot water will help. I have now substituted my pre-fishing "brine the corn ritual" for a post-fishing "clean the lures ritual." I have found the gel scents of anise, kokanee special, garlic, and especially bloody tuna to be excellent.

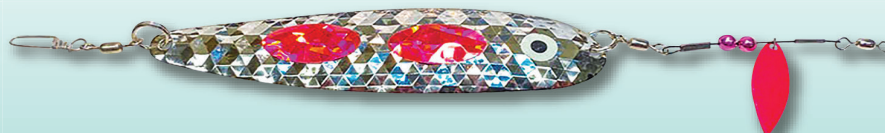
Next month, we'll look at the gear you need to catch more fish!

Celebrating Our 21st Year!
Updated website with new products



The very finest attracting dodgers and matching lures for

**KOKANEE — TROUT
LANDLOCKED SALMON**



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

FISH WITH GARY TACKLE CO.

La Pine, Oregon

www.fishwithgary.com 541.536.1002

Home of Kokanee University



FISHING PONTOON & CABIN COMBO DEAL

\$583

FISHING BOAT

22' Pontoon Boat
Hummingbird Fish Finder
Minnkota Trolling Motor
Livewell
Rod Holders

CABIN

Sleeps 5
Full Kitchen
Satellite TV
Laundry
Firewood

Limited Availability. Book Today!



Land and Water:
explore it all at Two Rivers!

6828 D. Hwy 25
South Davenport,
WA 99122

LAKE ROOSEVELT BOAT SLIPS OPEN NOW!

Two Rivers Marina on beautiful Lake Roosevelt has boat moorage available NOW! 24'-100'. Water, power, and covered slips. Choose your slip and explore the lake's 600 miles of shoreline this summer.



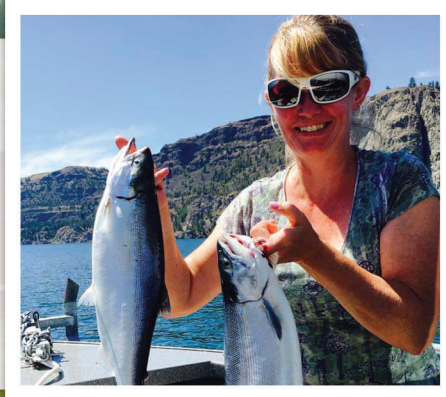
(509)722-5500

WWW.TWORIVERSRESORT.COM

BOOK TODAY!



TWO RIVERS RESORT



Two Rivers Resort, established by the Spokane Tribe in the 90's, is the place to come if you are trying to get away from the city. Whether you're staying in a spacious RV site or a cozy cabin, you'll be surrounded by stunning views and a peaceful atmosphere perfect for fishing, hiking, birdwatching, or simply unwinding. With full hook-ups, modern amenities, and easy access to the outdoors, it's an ideal retreat for both adventure and relaxation.

Two Rivers also features a full-service marina, pavilion, and a fleet of well-maintained pontoon and houseboat rentals, perfect for exploring the water or hosting unforgettable gatherings. Whether you're sailing, camping, or simply soaking in the scenery, Two Rivers Resort offers a refreshing escape into nature's best.

EVENTS

PLAYGROUND

SWIMMING

FISHING

WILDLIFE

RV-SITES

From \$72

CABINS

From \$72
a night

CAMPING SITES

From \$69
a night

PAVILLION RENTAL

From \$113

MARINA

Morage from
\$50.75 a day

PONTOONS

From \$450

HOUSEBOATS

Call for details

LAND & WATER: EXPLORE IT ALL AT TWO RIVERS!



EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY & TRANQUILITY OF NATURE

Our spacious RV sites are equipped with full hook-ups, modern amenities, and uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscapes. Two Rivers Resort RV Park promises a memorable stay amid the wonders of the great outdoors.

TWORIVERSRESORT.COM

RV PARK 509.722.4029
MARINA 509.722.5500

6828 D. HWY 25 South,
Davenport, WA 99122



EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS: What Anglers Need To Know

Article written by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE

If you fish, boat, crab, or just read the news in Western Washington, by now you've probably heard about the invasive European green crab. But how to identify this green menace, what are the rules if you encounter one, and what is the state doing about them? Read on for answers as well as tips to avoid spreading these and other aquatic invasive species.

Native to western Europe from the Baltic Sea to Morocco, the European green crab is a damaging crab that threatens native shellfish, estuary habitats, eelgrass, the aquaculture industry, and other recreational, tribal, economic, and environmental values. The European green crab first became established in the United States in the mid-1800s, arriving by ship to

New England, where they contributed to dramatic declines in the soft-shell clam fishery.

Studies have shown these voracious shore crabs (meaning they live in shallow, often intertidal waters, including bays, inlets, sloughs, and estuaries) can consume as many as 40 clams a day! In areas where European green crabs have established large populations for extended periods, they have had dramatic impacts on other species, particularly smaller shore crabs, clams, and small oysters.

In addition to preying on shellfish, European green crabs are vigorous diggers and have severely harmed New England's eelgrass beds and estuaries. If allowed to do the same here in the Pacific

Northwest, loss of estuary and eelgrass habitat would threaten the harvest of wild shellfish like geoducks and cockles, undermine shellfish businesses, hurt salmon and forage fish recovery, and disrupt complex native food webs. Research is also ongoing regarding potential impacts on juvenile Dungeness crab and crab fisheries.

Back to Washington state, European green crabs were first discovered on our coast in 1998 in Willapa Bay, remaining in small numbers but slowly spreading north over the following decades. European green crabs were first documented in Washington's inland waters in the San Juan Islands in 2016, and were confirmed near Victoria, British Columbia the previous year.

Beginning around 2018, state and federal agencies, tribes, and partners began to detect significant increases in European green crabs—likely linked to warmer water conditions, especially in 2021—in areas including Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, Makah Bay, and Lummi Bay. In just a matter of years, green crabs in these areas had exploded from a few hundred to tens of thousands of crabs; necessitating emergency control measures.

Since then, emerging “hotspots” have also been detected in Discovery Bay and Drayton Harbor, as well as smaller numbers of crabs in northern Hood Canal near Seabeck. Most recently, green crabs were detected in May 2025 near Port Gamble. Thankfully, European green crabs have not yet been confirmed south of Hood Canal and Whidbey Island, including no detections to date in Puget Sound proper.

HOW TO IDENTIFY GREEN CRABS

Don’t be fooled by the name; European green crabs can be green, red, orange, brown, or yellow. To identify them, look for five spines or teeth on each side of the shell. Guides and tips for identification are available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) European green crab webpages and Crabs of Washington identification guide, available online.

People are often surprised by how small these crabs are – the average green crab captured by WDFW is around 2 inches across the shell. They can get up to 4 inches wide, much smaller than mature Dungeness or red rock crabs. In Washington state, the European green crab is most often confused with the native hairy shore crab, helmet crab, or kelp crab.

They typically live in areas with less than 25 feet

of water. Beachgoers, waders, clam and oyster harvesters, and people crabbing off docks or piers in shallow areas are most likely to encounter these shore crabs. Recreational shrimpers or crabbers operating in deep water are unlikely to catch them.

RULES & REGULATIONS

If you find a suspected European green crab or its shell in Washington, take photos and report it as soon as possible at wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab or through the Washington Invasive Species Council’s WA Invasives mobile app. Depending on the area, WDFW or permitted partners will follow up with trapping to remove as many green crabs as possible and slow their spread. As a prohibited invasive species, it is illegal to possess a **live** European green crab in Washington. Currently, WDFW is not asking the public to kill suspected EGC.

FEMALE CRAB

MALE CRAB



This is to protect native crabs, which are often misidentified.

More information on EGC regulations is available on WDFW's webpage and in the Washington Sport Fishing Rules. Under Washington regulations, prohibited invasive species may be killed and retained if you are certain about species identification and assume responsibility for correct identification and adherence to state fishing rules.

Targeting European green crabs with traps requires a permit from WDFW. If you

own or manage shellfish beds, beaches, or tidelands, support and permits for European green crab control may be available. Learn more by contacting ais@dfw.wa.gov.

MANAGING GREEN CRABS

WDFW, tribes, shellfish growers, other agencies, and partners have made significant progress managing European green crabs. Since January 2022, more than one million have been captured and removed, most from Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and Lummi Bay. In 2024, WDFW published a long-

term management plan for European green crab after a year-long collaboration with tribal governments, U.S. federal agencies, Washington state agencies, shellfish growers, public universities, and additional partners.

The plan includes detailed guidance for European green crab early-detection monitoring, rapid response, ongoing control trapping, and other efforts across defined management areas and coordination zones for Washington's Outer Coast and Salish Sea.

Photo by:
Joe DesJardin

PROTECT OUR WATERS

Stop invasive species



CLEAN

- Boats
- Kayaks & SUPs
- Trailers
- Gear



DRAIN

- Boat
- Bilge
- Motor
- Live-wells



DRY

Fully before moving to a new lake, river, or waterway.

Invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels threaten our outdoor recreation, economy, infrastructure, environment, and public health. Help stop the spread by cleaning, draining, and drying your gear, equipment, and watercraft every time you leave the water.



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**



Learn more:
[dfw.wa.gov/
clean-drain-dry](http://dfw.wa.gov/clean-drain-dry)

Request this information in an alternative format or language at dfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requestsaccommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.

More information on green crab management, regular catch reports, and more ways to get involved can be found on the WDFW website.

You can also help prevent the spread of European green crabs and other aquatic invasive species by practicing Clean, Drain, Dry methods with all your gear, equipment, and watercraft. Visit WDFW's webpage or search "Clean, Drain, Dry" for tips on ways to prevent green crab larvae, which can be very small and hard to see, and other invasive species from hitching a ride on your equipment.

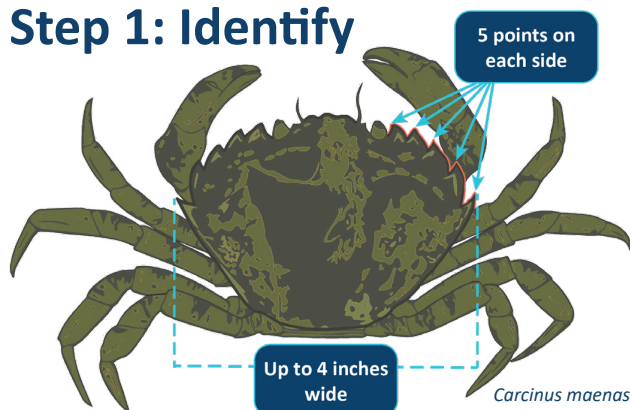


Large European Green Crab at Makah Bay

Report Invasive European Green Crabs



Step 1: Identify



Step 2: Report

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



Scan to report!

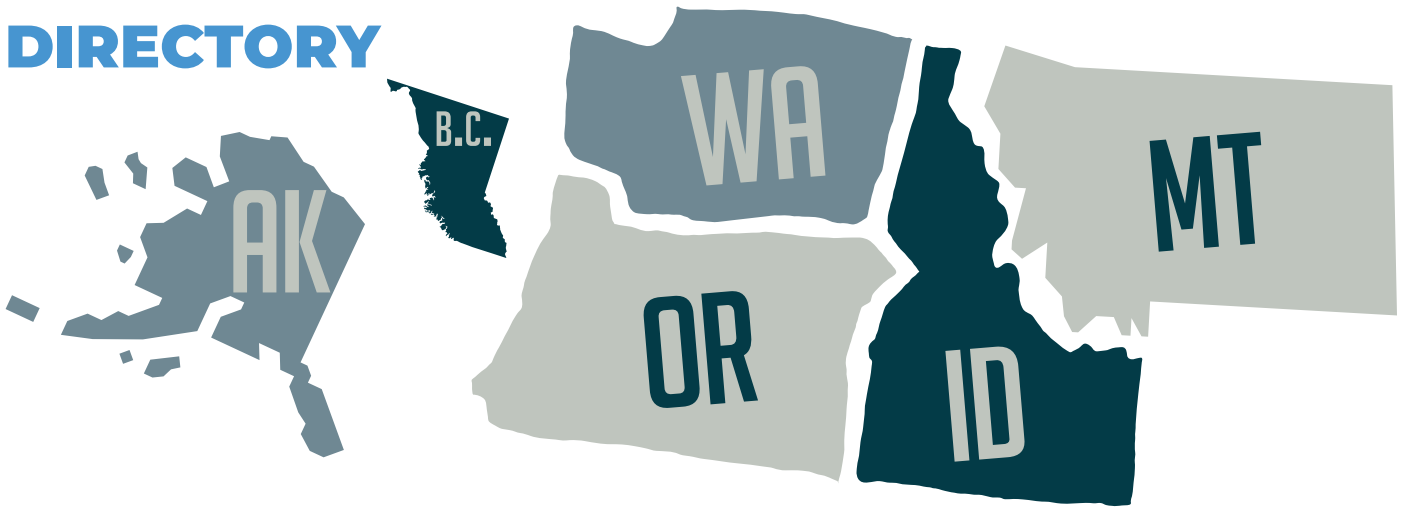


wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab

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

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

DIRECTORY



Destinations

Alaska Kenai Adventures

(907) 252-0705
akalodge.com
Kenai River, Alaska

Hell's Canyon Grand Hotel

(208) 799-1000
hellscanyongrandhotel.com
Clearwater River

Lenore Lodge

(208) 790-2128
lenorelodgeidaho.com
Clearwater River

Mardon Resort

(800) 416-2736
mardonresort.com
Potholes Reservoir

Rainbow Valley Lodge

(406) 682-4264
rainbowvalleylodge.com
Madison River

Shoalwater Casino & Hotel

(360) 267-2048
swbcasino.com

Two Rivers Resort

(509) 722-4029
tworiversresort.com

Guides & Charters

Austin's Northwest Adventures

(509) 668-0298
austinsnorthwestadventures.com
From Buoy 10 to Lake Roosevelt

D&H Sport Fishing

(509) 594-1754
columbiasalmon.com
Columbia River, Yakima

Double M Outdoors

(503) 956-5489
doublemoutdoors.com
Columbia River: Buoy 10, McNary Dam

Drifters Fishing Guide Service

(253) 224-6453
driftersfishingguide.com
Western WA Lakes

Jones Sportfishing

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

Fish Intimidators

(509) 750-6809
Columbia River
Hanford Reach, Snake River, Ringold

Moons Guide Service

(509) 860-6497
moonsguideservice.com
Columbia River, Brewster, Lake Chelan,
Moses Lake, Potholes, Hanford Reach

Reel Obsession

(888) 855-7335
reelobsession.ca
West Coast British Columbia

Reel Time Fishing

(208) 790-2128
reeltimefishing.com
Columbia, Snake, Clearwater Rivers

Ross Outdoor Adventures

(509) 750-7763
rossoutdooradventures.com
Potholes Reservoir, Moses, Banks Lake

Torrey's Sportfishing Adventures

(425) 345-6232
Western Washington

Outdoor Gear

Elephant Boys

(509) 443-3686
theelephantboys.com

Ghunders Performance

Base Layers
(360) 612-0506
ghunders.com

Njord Gear

(250) 754-4171
njordgear.com

Talon Rods

talonrods.com

Marine

Hewescraft
1(800)326-6594
hewescraft.com

Elephant Boys
(509) 443-3686
theelephantboys.com

Fishing Tackle

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

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

Old Goat Lures
oldgoatlures.com

Wigglefin Tackle
(208) 388-8539
wigglefin.com

Other

BECU
becu.org

Classic Creations
wildlifeingold.com

Mackenzie River Pizza
mackenzieriverpizza.com

Steelhead Expo
steelheadexpo.com

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

The Sports Shows
thesportshows.com

Email today for directory
advertising information.
advertising@nwfishing.net



D&H SPORT FISHING

EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF
THE COWLITZ RIVER

NOW BOOKING

- COLUMBIA RIVER
- COWLITZ RIVER



COLUMBIASALMON.COM



Hell Razor™

SWARM

Switchblade Flasher System

SALMON • TROUT • KOKanee

Build yours today at
wigglefin.com



Over \$54,000 in prizes!



APRIL 26 - OCTOBER 31

CATCH TROUT, WIN PRIZES!



**100+ STOCKED
LAKES STATEWIDE**



**OVER 1,000
PRIZES**



**MORE THAN 100
PARTICIPATING
BUSINESSES**

**Anyone with a valid 2025 WA fishing license is eligible.
Participation is free for kids ages 14 and under!**



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Visit **wdfwderby.com**
for more information



WE HAVE WHAT YOU WANT...
FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE



LOWE
BOATS



VISIT THEELEPHANTBOYS.COM
14811 E. SPRAGUE AVE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99216

GEAR UP FOR YOUR ADVENTURE



**KAYAKS &
PADDLEBOARDS**



**TROLLING
MOTORS**



**WATERSPORTS
& TOWABLES**

ONE LOCATION - TWO STORES

14811 E. SPRAGUE AVE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99216

509 443 3686 FISHING & CAMPING

509 926 6894 BOATING



THE

ELEPHANT BOYS

FISHING - CAMPING