



THE REEL NEWS



SILVERS ARE SHINING

IN THIS ISSUE

- SILVERS ARE SHINING2
- ITS COHO TIME, BIG TIME!4
- OFFICERS NOTEBOOK.....5
- COLUMBIA RIVER REGION - BOUY 10.....7
- DRAGINFLIES GO CRAZY 11
- FISHING CLUBS 12
- SPORTFISHING BC 15
- MARKET PLACE 15
- CRAB INVASION 16

Karsten McIntosh of Everett holds up a nice coho he caught in Puget Sound during the 2023 fall salmon season. The 2024 coho forecast should generate decent catches in open areas of Puget Sound. For more on coho go to pages 2 and 5.

Dedicated to providing truthful, precise and accurate communications to the outdoor enthusiasts.

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KENT, WA
PERMIT NO. 71

The month of September marks the beginning of autumn when colorful leaves begin to adorn tree limbs, kids heading back to school, hunters prepping for hunting seasons, and watching football games becomes a weekend priority.

But, for many it's also a time to seek out catching coho salmon – commonly referred to as silvers for their shiny dime-bright colored bodies – that have started to arrive in large numbers in marine waterways from the Strait of Juan de Fuca clear into Puget Sound.

Salmon chasers should find decent fishing as the run peaks from September through October, and typically silvers average 4 to 15 pounds, with some exceeding 20-plus pounds.

Back in 2015 and 2016 Puget Sound coho returns took a nosedive due to drought issues, bad ocean conditions which in turn created poor survival rates.

Since then, Mother Nature has cooperated, and silver returns began to see a comeback by 2020. The combined 2024 Puget Sound hatchery and wild coho forecast is 722,134 compared to 760,029 in 2023; 666,317 in 2022; 614,948 in 2021; and 504,604 in 2020.

An early sign of just how good coho fishing could be this fall happened back in June and July when anglers saw a decent number of smaller resident coho caught in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton Area). Many of these coho have bulked up and will join their migratory brothers and sisters to hopefully some decent fishing action.

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Marine Area 5 (Sekiu-Pillar Point) coho fishery is open daily for hatchery-marked coho through Sept. 26, release Chinook, chum, sockeye, and wild coho. Then the area is open daily for all coho from Sept. 27-Oct. 15.

In Marine Area 6 (Port Angeles), the salmon fishery is open daily for hatchery-marked coho through Sept. 26, release Chinook, chum, sockeye, and wild coho. Then the area is open daily for all coho from Sept. 27-Oct. 15, release Chinook, chum, and sockeye.

In the Strait, the majority of anglers will concentrate their efforts in the shipping lanes, which is the main freeway path and is usually about one to two miles out in 200 to 500 feet of water and sometimes even deeper. The key is keeping an eye out for tide rips and current breaks where krill, baitfish and hungry birds tend to attract coho and look for schools of coho jumping on the surface.

In the eastern Strait, the Dungeness Bay hatchery-marked coho fishery is Oct. 1-31. The 2024 Dungeness River coho forecast is 14,305 compared to 14,654 in 2023.

Moving closer into the Puget Sound region, the Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands) coho fishery is open daily from Sept. 1-29. Look for coho staging along the outer sections of San Juan Island, Rosario Strait and Waldron and Orcas Islands.

If I had to pick two locations, it'd be Marine Area 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), which is open daily for all coho through Oct. 13, and Marine Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) open daily for all coho through Sept. 24.

Look for coho along the southeast side of Whidbey Island from the Bait Box Hole near Possession Point north to the Clinton Ferry



FISHING TAILS

Story & Photo by
Mark Yuasa, WDFW

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

SILVERS ARE SHINING

Terminal, the Langley and Sandy Point areas, Browns Bay, from Picnic Point to Mukilteo, Hat Island, Camano Head, the entire west side of Camano Island, and outside of Oak Harbor.

In Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet), you can find hatchery-marked coho fishing open daily through Sept. 23 and then it switches to all coho from Sept. 24-30.

Mainly stay out in the shipping lanes and channels where tide rips are commonly found around Midchannel Bank off Port Townsend; Point Wilson north of Port Townsend; east side of Marrowstone Island; Fort Casey to Bush and Lagoon Points; Double Bluff off the west side of Whidbey Island; Point No Point; Possession Bar; Scatchet Head; and Pilot Point.

There are plenty of coho fishing right in the front yard of the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. Marine Area 10 (Seattle-Bremerton Area) and Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island) are both open daily for coho fishing through Nov. 15.

Try the deep-water shipping lanes off Jefferson Head, Richmond Beach, Meadow Point near Shilshole Bay, Shilshole Bay south to West Point, both sides of Vashon Island, Redondo Beach to Dash Point and the Tacoma area of Commencement Bay, and Point Defiance Park from the Slag Pile to the Clay Banks.

Two popular fishing events are the Edmonds Coho Derby on Sept. 7. For details, go to <http://edmondscoherby.com/>. That will be followed by the 31st annual Everett Coho Derby on Sept. 21-22. For details, go to <https://everettcoherby.com/>.

Marine Area 13 (South Puget Sound) is open daily for hatchery-marked coho and hatchery-marked Chinook. Look for fish from the Tacoma-Narrows Bridge south to Fox Island and as deep as the Anderson Island-Olympia area. In recent years, Squaxin Island has become popular area for those targeting coho. The 2024 Squaxin Island net pens coho forecast is 48,081 up from 45,417 in 2023.

If you're looking for a late Chinook or coho then head to the Bellingham Bay Terminal Fishery, which is open daily through Sept. 30. Sinclair Inlet and Port Orchard are open daily for coho and hatchery Chinook through Sept. 30, then Oct. 1-Nov. 15 for coho only.

A freshwater coho salmon fishing option

in Seattle's backyard is Lake Washington north of the Highway 520 Bridge and is open daily from Sept. 16 through Oct. 31 for coho only. The Lake Washington coho forecast is 24,090 compared to 21,554 in 2023.

Those without a boat can find coho lurking at the Westport Boat Basin, which is open daily for coho only through Jan. 31. The best time is from September through October as coho raised in the marina's hatchery net pens begin to return.

Anglers should check the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/> for any emergency regulation changes and updates.



Coastal Razor Clam Watch Has Begun

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is in the process of completing their summer evaluations and the initial outlook calls for a razor clam digging season similar to last year.

"Judging from what we've seen in our early population assessments is possibly a digging season similar to 2023-24, which was pretty decent," said Bryce Blumenthal, a WDFW coastal shellfish biologist.

No digging dates have been set yet, but the first digs of the fall season should happen in early October. There appears to be some good minus low tides to provide some opportunity right after Thanksgiving and around New Year holidays although the Christmas timeframe is doable.

Razor clam digging is a huge money maker, and the 10-year total value average is

SILVERS ARE SHINING | Continued on Page 3





EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS

PUBLISHED FOR:

All outdoor enthusiasts that share common goals of preservation and enhancement of quality fisheries and wildlife.

THE REEL NEWS is published monthly by Coordinating Services, Inc., P.O. Box 69732, Seatac, WA 98168, (425) 344-6288. Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. Publisher reserves the right to accept or reject all advertising materials and articles, whole or in part, that are submitted. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of advertising, manuscripts, art or photographs. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of Coordinating Services, Inc. Established 1988. Printed in the U.S.A. Yearly subscription rate, print version...\$25.00.

Advertising and editorial correspondence may be addressed to The Reel News c/o Coordinating Services, Inc., P.O. Box 69732, Seatac, WA 98168 or call (425) 344-6288, Email: thereelnews@comcast.net.

JAMES A. GOERG
PUBLISHING EDITOR
(425) 344-6288



NATIONAL OFFICE
P.O. Box 69732
Seatac, WA 98168
(425) 344-6288

JIM "TUG" TUGGLE
MARKETING/SALES
tugtours@comcast.net



ACCOUNTING, FINANCES
& SUBSCRIPTIONS
LAURIE GLASS-GOERG
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
9010 Market Place PMB 27,
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
(425) 263-9610



GEOFF ALLEN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
CAMPFIREPNW.COM
(POWERED BY)
GTIERAN DESIGN SERVICES
geoff@gtierandesign.com

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

Coastal Conservation Association • Fish Northwest • Northwest Marine Trade Association • Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association • Northwest Outdoor Writers Association • Outdoor Writers Association of America • Puget Sound Anglers

COLUMBIA RIVER REGION

TERRY W. SHEELY
EDITORIAL

P.O. Box 86, Black Diamond, WA 98010
tsheely@tnscommunications.net

SEPTEMBER 2024 CONTRIBUTORS

TERRY W. SHEELY MARK YUASA JOHN KEIZER
BECKY ELDER OWEN BIRD

NOTE: Due to the increasing number of "Letters" we receive, only a percentage can be published. Letters become property of T.R.N. and may be edited or re-written or condensed as necessary. Please keep letters under 300 words and they must be accompanied with your name, address and phone number. Only in some cases will you be called for verification.

Send Letters to the Editor to: thereelnews@comcast.net.



EDITOR'S CREEL



JIM GOERG, Publishing Editor

SILVER SLAM

Welcome to Prime-Time for the summer/fall coho salmon season.

We anxiously wait for this every year in the salt off the coast of Oregon, Washington, and into Puget Sound.

The Edmonds Coho Derby, coordinated by the Sno-King chapter of Puget Sound Anglers (PSA), takes place on September 7th with both adult and kids divisions. Prizes for the adults total \$9,000 and prizes for the kids total \$2,000.

Two weeks later, September 21st and 22nd, the Everett Steelhead & Salmon club (PSA Everett), celebrates their 31st year with the largest salmon derby on the West Coast. The Everett Coho Derby offers over \$26,000 in cash and prizes with first place being a healthy \$10,000!

You can go to both of their websites for more information and tickets. Hurry! Hurry!

This month on page 2 Mark Yuasa gives us an update on the September/October salmon fisheries. Then on page 4 John Keizer gives you coho fishing targets all the way from Ilwaco, through the Strait and down Puget Sound to south Tacoma area.

In Terry Sheely's Columbia River Region you'll get the salmon low-down as well as other fisheries on the Big C for September. See page 7.

There are still some salmon fisheries

coming in October but for now, get on the water in September with blue skies, family and friends, plenty of fish and maybe even a little cash if your luck holds up for derby dollars.



For the last 41 years my co-partner, Laurie Glass-Goerg, has been the Director of Finance and subscriptions under the corporate name of Coordinating Services, Inc. In early August, she announced her wish to retire from her position and the corporation.

She has asked me to extend her thanks to everyone she has worked with over the years including the faithful readers, writers, advertisers and production specialists.

Thank you, Laurie for your years of dedicated service.

LEGAL NOTICE: All editorial copy within this publication is strictly the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the attitude or opinions of this publication or that of the supporting organizations. All material, pictures and content are copyrighted and you must seek permission from editor for any use or duplication.

SILVERS ARE SHINING

Continued from Cover Page 2

\$27.5 million for small coastal communities who rely on these opportunities during the lean tourist times in autumn, winter, and spring to help boost their economy.

The one wild card throughout every digging season is a marine toxin known as domoic acid – a natural toxin produced by certain types of marine algae – which can be harmful or even fatal if consumed in enough quantities.

So far, the Department of Health report marine toxin levels are well under the action level to close a beach.

Final approval of each digging series is dependent on weekly marine toxin testing. The green light is usually announced one to two weeks prior to each series of digs. Look for a preliminary announcement of fall seasons to come out very soon or go to the WDFW's razor clam webpage at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations/razor-clams>.



STOP the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species
Inspect everything on your watercraft

for more information
wdfw.wa.gov/ais

Why Print Publications, Like The Reel News, Still Matter: The Enduring Value of Tangible Media

We offer a tactile and distraction-free reading experience that many people value. Additionally, we provide a tangible, often collectible record of information and culture that digital formats can't fully replicate.

TRN has been one of the best local sources of fishing and outdoor news for over 41 years! We provide monthly delivery to your home via USPS for reading in the comfort of your easy chair. When you're done you can share it with your neighbor or fishing partner. You might even have a fish that needs to be wrapped in it. Mail or email the subscription form below with a check, money order or simply call us to start your journey with us.

Only \$25 for 12 months

- I like a printed subscription of The Reel News
- I want to send a friend or family member a gift subscription to The Reel News



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Send with payment to: The Reel News, P.O. Box 69732, Seatac, WA 98168 or call (425) 344-6288, Email: thereelnewsjim@outlook.com



Story by
John Keizer

ITS COHO TIME BIG TIME!

September is coho time in the NW and here are some of my favorite spots to target them in September and October.

Ilwaco

The bulk of the largest coho runs will be in the Columbia River system. Trust me, I have been fishing here since June and there are schools of coho out in the ocean every day! The Buoy 10 crowds go home after Labor Day, but the lower Columbia still sees some great coho fishing all month long and even into October in the river. From Marine Area 1 outside the river mouth by the CR buoy to anywhere above and below the Astoria bridge down to Buoy 10 can all be very productive for targeting the big fall runs. One of the best producers is trolling a Pro Troll lighter flasher with a spinner or a Spin-N-Fish. One of the key elements to trolling spinners for coho on the Columbia River is that you need a spinner that is light enough not to interfere with the action of the flasher. I prefer spinners with the #3 or #3.5 Colorado blades. My other coho favorite is the Yakima Bait Spin-N-Fish which trolls well behind a flasher or a Fish Flash. The Spinfish is a killer on coho, just tie it on, fill the bait cavity with your favorite bait or scent, and standby for lots of action.

Grays Harbor

The ever-famous Grays Harbor located on the coast East of the Johns River is noted for large fall kings will only be open for coho starting September 16th for a two fish limit.

So, what's the good news? Well retaining two coho a day that run up into the teens, while releasing 30-pound kings is not what I call bad fishing.

This is shallow water fishing, 10-15 feet average, with a deep spot being 20 ft. You don't need downriggers here; a 2-4-oz. sliding dropper weight is all it takes to reach the bottom.

Motor mooching or slow trolling is the key to targeting these fish.

Over the years I have had the best luck trolling the middle water depth, or just off bottom. Rig up with a Fish Flash with a green label cutplug herring. I rig this with 4/0 Mustad Octopus hooks on a 7 ft 30-pound Seaguar fluorocarbon leader attached to the Fish Flash.

Troll 1.5 -2.5 mph. If you start hitting dogfish or bottom feeders pick up the speed.

The bite usually happens just before or just after a tide change here.

You can launch at John's River Ramp just past the Ocean Spray Company. This will put you out in front of one of the top areas, or you can run east from Westport. The river can be tricky make sure you stay in the channel or you will end up on the sand bar.

Willapa Bay

Farther south on the coast at Willapa Bay the fall coho runs will be starting in and are the main targets of anglers fishing this inlet near Tokeland, just south of Westport.

Best action typically has been near North River between buoys 13-19. To have a shot at these fish you need to be motor mooching in the 10-25 ft. water. Cutplug herring rigged on super sharp 3/0-4/0 hooks and long 7-8 ft. leaders dominate here.

Keep your bait near the bottom; 2-6 oz. sinkers will usually do the trick. This is a two-rod endorsement area.

Best fishing happens on the flood tide and the slack. One hatchery coho daily is the limit.

Launch at Tokeland Marina as it's the nearest to the fishing, but expect delays when fishing is at its peak. You can only keep hatchery coho.

Strait Coho

Head out into the Strait north from Sekiu all the way to Port Angeles to target fall hatchery coho. Start looking for the tide rip. The rips look like slick water and then rough areas. It looks like its percolating and forms when two currents come together, usually 1-3 miles offshore. The bait gets trapped in there and that's where you will find the most silvers. Other things to look for are diving birds, floating debris caught in the rips and just jumping fish.

The time of day is more important than tides when it comes to coho fishing.

Cut plugs are easier to fish when the coho are up shallower, so if you don't have downriggers plan on being on the water at sunrise. They will bite all day but the morning hours are usually the most productive. Silvers are vicious strikers and love a fast trolled bait. Many anglers biggest mistake is trolling too slow.

For herring rigging go with 3/0-4/0 Mustad hooks tied on Seaguar fluorocarbon leader they tend to stick better, because of the speed you're trolling. Make sure your bait spins well at high trolling speed.

Trolling almost everything works. Squids in green and blue, spoons with and without flashers. One of my favorite techniques is to run Pro-Troll flasher off my downrigger weights and then fish a Silver Horde Kingfisher spoon off the release clip a few feet above it. This way you get the attraction of the flasher but can run ultra-light rods to enhance your fishing fun. Fly rod action can also be great fun early in the morning or longer on overcast days. Take an eight-weight fly rod and let out 30-50 ft. of line and wake a bushy coho fly on top of the water. You want to go fast enough to see it form a V-wake in the water. Just watching the silvers clear the water trying to hit it is fun by itself. Flies tied in a bushy pattern, with lots of pink, green and blue produce well.

Possession Bar

I would be fishing the west side of Possession Bar and up towards Double Bluff. This is where you will start seeing the migratory coho first. Out in that the deep water around the bar is typically better fishing for coho than the Bar itself.

Fish will suspend in the deeper water out toward the shipping lanes.

I like to start on the East Side and troll the deep-water edge out to the west concentrating on the rips that form there. One of the best rips is on the southwest side of the bar, this is prime coho water.

Experiment on your fishing depth. Start early in the morning at the 20-30-foot depths, and then go deeper as the sun gets brighter. I have taken plenty of coho trolling downriggers at 120-150 feet later in the day.

Top coho producing tackle is a Pro-Troll lighted flasher with a green spatter back squid or a Kingfisher spoon. Trolling a herring in a helmet has also worked well.

Trolling speed can be critical, coho like fast baits at 3 knots or faster.

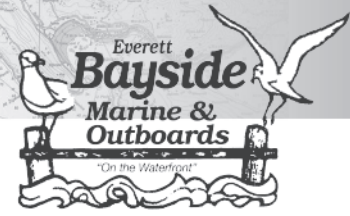
Later in the season try trolling the shipping lanes right down the center of the sound south of Possession.

Jeff Head

Point Jefferson is a well-known salmon producer along with its cousins Possession Bar and Point No Point. The troll in predominantly forms north near Presidents Point on the incoming tide south to Jefferson Head. Start trolling for coho on the 120-140ft line with itself.

COHO TIME | Continued on Page 11






Everett
Bayside
Marine &
Outboards

"On the Waterfront"

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIR

DRY STACK BOAT STORAGE UP TO 36'

SINCE 1972






Proud supporter of
NORTHWEST SALMON DERBY SERIES

YOUR FULL SERVICE MARINE FACILITY


LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR BOAT!

Boat Brokerage • Indoor Showroom
Drystack Storage • Outboard Motor Sales • Parts • Service

Enjoy the luxury of the Bayside Drystack!

Inboard/Outboard Specialist • Dockside Service



YAMAHA

Bayside


"Your Complete Marine Center"

425-252-3088

1111 Craftsman Way • Everett, WA 98201

ON THE WATERFRONT

www.baysidemarine.com



Always wear a personal flotation device while boating and read your owner's manual.



Reports by
Becky Elder
Community Outreach Liaison

WASHINGTON STATE FISH & WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

OFFICERS NOTEBOOK CRIME REPORT

The following are real life events meant to provide a snapshot of fish and wildlife police activity for the past month. These examples were selected to show the diversity of issues Fish and Wildlife Police Officers encounter while in patrol protecting our natural resources. All violations are considered "alleged" unless a conviction has been secured. Becky Elder can be reached at becky.elder@dfw.wa.gov

Sol Snagger

On the Sol Duc, after receiving reports of snagging, Sergeant Cilk was able to get into a position to observe the activities, upon contacting one group of two fishermen, one was found to be using barbed hooks and fishing without a catch card while in possession of a chinook salmon. When confronted about his fishing technique the fishermen admitted he was attempting to snag the salmon in the river, multiple citations were issued.

Don't look

Officer Tupen patrolled the docks in Neah Bay. During one contact, Officer Tupen asked two anglers if they had any fish in their possession. The anglers were hesitant to answer this question but kept looking at their cooler. Officer Tupen asked them to open the cooler and discovered they were in possession of two closed season copper rockfish. Citations were issued. Additionally, several warnings were issued for minor violations while at the docks.

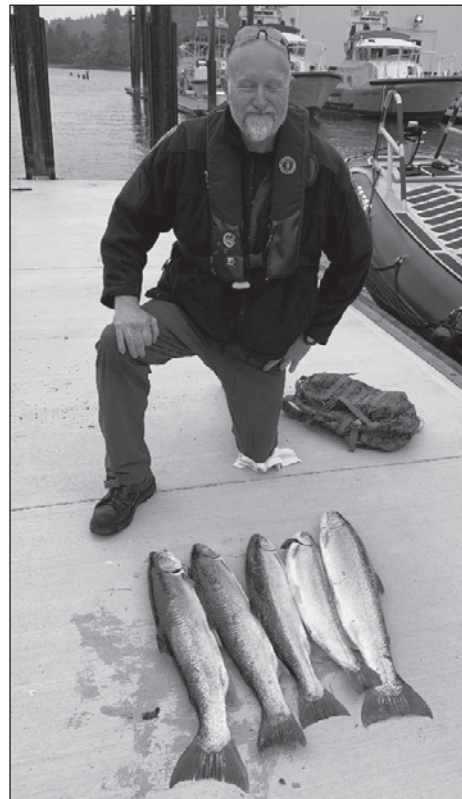
Crab Overboard

Officer Izatt and Sgt. Jewett conducted a boat patrol of MA 6. One boat was contacted and upon approach tossed a crab out from the boat. The two adult subjects (one of which had no license) were in possession of 13 additional Dungeness crab, 6 of which were females with 6 total being undersized. The subjects had also failed to record the crab as the one subject with a license did not have a CRC. The vessel was also unregistered and failed to have a noise making device. Multiple tickets and warnings were issued.

Uh Oh

Officer Hoffarth arrived just in time to observe three subjects at Anderson Cove dropping oysters in the shell by the double handfuls into a cooler to top it off and carry it to their truck. Upon Officer Hoffarth rolling up to their vehicle just as they arrived, the subjects had an all too familiar look of "Uh oh". Officer Hoffarth contacted the subjects, identifying many violations including (for all subjects) No License, Over 2x Limit, Shared Container and Failure to Shuck. Not too surprisingly, Officer Hoffarth selected door #3 and also found a

large number of oysters already previously loaded into the back of their pickup. In total, approximately 500 oysters in the shell were recovered and the subjects carefully placed them back onto the beach and departed.



Steelhead Suspects

Officer Ariss assisted Officer Jacobson and Sergeant Dielman when they had a hunch about a vessel tied off the wall fishing for steelhead. Officer Ariss stumbled down a steep and brushy clearcut to perch on the edge of the cliff to watch the vessel fish. She watched them retain their second and third fish... motor away leaving their anchor behind... and return to continue to fish and retain an overlimit of steelhead. She called Sergeant Dielman who swooped in quickly as they were packing to leave, and Officer Jacobson was finally able to elicit a confession. See Officer Jacobson's account below:

While on a river patrol for steelhead fishermen Sgt Dielman and Officer Jacobson contacted a fisher with a steelhead on board. They also suspected the man had been fishing with two poles. The two officers cleared the contact and called in their secret weapon in the form of Officer Ariss. Officer Ariss hiked through some very difficult terrain and positioned herself out of sight but close to the boat. During several hours of observation, she observed the man, now joined by another adult male and his two small children harvest and retain four additional steelhead putting the boat over limit. During Officer Ariss' observation the boat left to an unknown location. Sgt Dielman and Officer Jacobson contacted them and both males denied

being overlimit. Both continued to lie and deny being in violation. The suspects were followed back to land and split up. While Officer Jacobson was listening to the father of the two very young girls continue to lie, one of the girls interrupted, and it when something like this, "excuse me officer my dad and us went fishing and it was fun, my dad gave some of our fish to a friend he works with". Officer Jacobson pulled the suspect aside and reminded him how extremely embarrassing and inappropriate it was his young daughter (6) was more honest than her dad. Eventually he came clean and confessed. At the same time Sgt Dielman obtained the truth from the other suspect. When the suspects left during Officer Ariss' observation, they shuttled the overlimit fish to a Port of Portland dredge that the men are employed on that was anchored in the Columbia River a short distance away. After clearing the contact Sgt Dielman and Officer Jacobson contacted the dredge and recovered the overlimit steelhead. The steelhead were donated, and the suspects face numerous criminal charges for failing to submit catch, providing false misleading statements, overlimit, fail to record, and two pole violations. Great teamwork by all of those involved.



Adipose?

In another Steelhead case, Officer Tupen contacted an angler targeting steelhead on the Calawah River. When checking the angler's catch, Officer Tupen found a wild steelhead in his possession. When confronted with this, the angler advised he thought the dorsal fin looked small and thus he believed it to be a hatchery fish. Officer Tupen explained to the subject that the condition of the dorsal fin has nothing to do with origin and showed the angler the intact adipose fin on the fish. The angler was also found to be unlawfully fishing with bait and barbed hooks. The fish was seized, and the angler was cited for the multiple violations.

No Idea How They Got There

Officer Summit patrolled the Tacoma area for crabbers finding decent success along the waterfront and among anglers returning to Point Defiance. One notable contact came after the officer observed a subject crabbing from the docks for over an hour, along with many other subjects. With nothing standing out at first, no contact was made. The officer then left the area returning shortly thereafter finding the subject packing up his gear into his vehicle, quickly closing the trunk as the patrol vehicle approached. The subject was contacted and asked for his shellfish license. The subject promptly stated that he was not crabbing. It took some time, but the officer was able to convince the guy that he knew he was crabbing. At this point, he moved on to the second lie... That he didn't have any crab. Knowing that there were coolers in the trunk the officer made him pop the trunk for inspection. The subject popped the trunk, still sticking to the story that he had no crabs. The officer then instructed him to pop the cooler at which point he advised that he had three crabs, but he didn't catch them, they were given to him by someone else. Who? He didn't know... The subject was found to have no shellfish license, no Puget Sound Dungeness crab endorsement, possession of three unrecorded Dungeness crabs, possession of one undersize male Dungeness crab, possession of two female Dungeness crabs and found to have failed to submit his catch for inspection. The subject was issued several infractions for the laundry list of violations.



Cascara Carnage

Officer Dean responded to a call informing of a rudimentary encampment that was erected on WDFW land at the Elk River Wildlife Area. Upon arrival, a pile of Cascara bark was found along with numerous peeled cascara trees surrounding the encampment. It was obvious the individual inhabiting this camp had been there for quite some time. Other violations encountered were destruction of department lands and littering. It appeared the area had been cleared for the camp with numerous trees cut down along with a fire pit made. Officer Dean searched the area numerous days with Officer McOmer and a GHCO Deputy but was unable to find the individual associated with the encampment. Officer Dean seized the pile of Cascara bark and left his business card at the entrance to the tent. Sergeant Alexander and Officer Dean made another visit to the encampment and continued searching the area. Numerous fresh peeled Cascara trees were found along with a saw. Further search of the area revealed more bundles of freshly peeled Cascara bark. Officer Dean seized the Cascara bark and filled the back of his patrol truck. A short time later, an individual was observed riding down the trail

OFFICERS NOTEBOOK

Continued from Cover Page 4

on a pedal bike. Officer Dean recognized the individual was wearing items the officer had seen hanging in a tree at the encampment the day prior. The individual first advised he was passing through the area on his way to his mother's house. Sergeant Alexander noticed the individual was covered in dirt and had stains on his hands consistent with peeling Cascara bark. The individual eventually confessed to harvesting the Cascara bark and showed the location of his bark stash. The individual was ordered to clean up his camp and vacate WDFW property. The individual was cited criminally for disobeying posted signage on WDFW lands, theft 3rd, and no specialized forest products permit.

You Caught Me

While in Marine Area 5, Officer Tupen and Sgt. Cilk contacted a subject who was sorting through a crab pot. Upon boarding, Officer Tupen noticed the angler had already set aside his limit of 5 Dungeness crab in a cooler. When asked why he was still sorting crab, the subject advised he had his nephew's license on-board and was going to retain another limit of crab. Officer Tupen asked where the nephew was, and the subject advised he was currently in Sea-Tac but would be returning later in the day. Officer Tupen then discovered seven more crabs on the vessel contained within a five-gallon bucket. When asked about this additional crab, the subject replied, "you caught me." Overall, the subject was found to be in possession of twelve crabs (over 2x the limit), none of the crab were recorded, and three of the twelve crabs were found to be undersized. Additionally, the subject was fishing with four crab pots. The over limit was seized, and many citations will be issued.



Rent and Grab

Officer Olds and Officer Hillman responded to a call for service regarding Airbnb renters who were harvesting oysters from the private beach. Upon arriving on scene multiple oyster shells were observed on the grill outside. Additionally, a tote full of oysters in the shell as well as bags of steamer clams next to yet another pile of oysters in the shell was observed near the grill. The renters were contacted and at first stated some of the oysters had been purchased in Seattle. They soon admitted to harvesting the oysters on the private beach. Officers seized the clams and oysters. There was just over 185 pounds of unshucked oysters (approximately 60 dozen) as well as just over 8 limits of steamer clams, including a significant portion of undersized clams. The suspects stated they had harvested the steamer clams from another beach. Only 2 of the 7 adults (there were 2 children) had shellfish licenses. Charges will be filed with the Jefferson County Prosecutors office.

The Truthful Silence

While in Marine Area 4, Sgt. Cilk and Officer Tupen contacted a vessel with three anglers actively trolling for salmon in an area well-known for good Chinook fishing. The Chinook season in this area recently closed. When contacted, the anglers advised they had two Chinook onboard, but they claimed to have caught the fish approximately 8 miles West of where they were currently fishing, in an area open to Chinook retention. Officer Tupen observed two wild Chinook salmon in their cooler. Officer Tupen asked the anglers how long ago the fish were caught, and they advised around 1.5-2 hours prior. Officer Tupen observed that both salmon appeared very fresh. When picked up, one salmon began to move its fins. Officer Tupen confronted the anglers about the freshness of the fish, as it did not lineup with the timeline the fishermen had provided. The anglers continued to be adamant the fish were caught in a different area, despite many inconsistencies being observed by the officers. Sgt. Cilk advised the anglers they would have one last chance to tell the truth about where the fish were caught. The anglers looked at each other in silence for a moment, and then finally admitted to the officers the fish were caught within the closed area. In addition to possession of two closed season wild Chinook salmon, the anglers were also found to be using unlawful gear and had failed to record their fish. Many charges will be referred for this case.

Coho No-no

Officer Dean performed compliance checks for recreational crabbers, bottomfishermen, and salmon fishermen within the Westport Marnia. Officer Dean contacted one vessel returning to the sport ramp that was discovered to have a coho salmon not recorded on

FISHCOP
Written by TRN contributor J.W. "Tug" Tuggle, this 206-page, 23 chapter paperback delves into some of the accounts and episodes of life as a Fisheries Patrol Officer in the Pacific Northwest, dating back to 1971.

As reviewed by Terry W. Sheely, "It's a story of ambushes, strategy, hide-and-seek, murder, snaggers, thieves, boat rammings, midnight confrontations, survival, good guys, bad guys, real bad guys and a state agency that often as not, operated with confusing agendas. The officers who enforce fish and game laws operate in a world that few outsiders are aware exists, and most insiders rarely talk about except among themselves."

\$8.99
Kindle version
From Amazon.com
(Not yet available in bookstores)

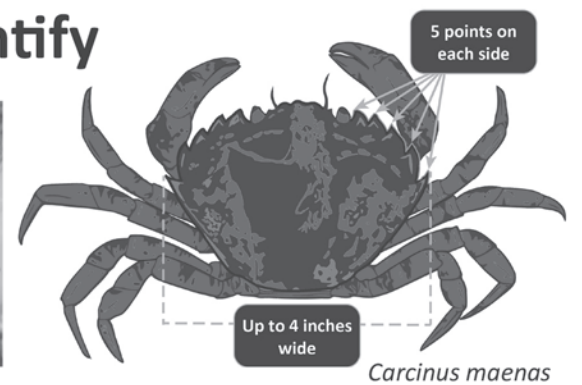
\$20 Includes tax & shipping
Autographed copies

Thanks! To all the readers who have bought my book directly from the ad in THE REEL NEWS or from Amazon Kindle Books, thank you so much. Your kind comments and personal letters regarding the book honor me. "Fishcop" is about to go into its third printing. I've been proud to record this part of Northwest history.
~ Thanks, Jim "Tug" Tuggle

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

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 here to report!

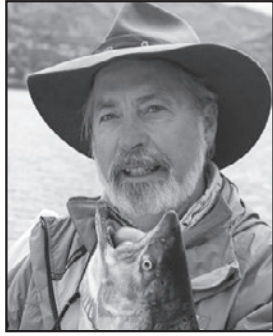
wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab



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



Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or Title6@dfw.wa.gov.



COLUMBIA RIVER REGION

Report by
Terry W. Sheely

BOUY 10 UPSTREAM

**If It's September It's.....
Salmon, Smallmouth, Tuna,
Steelhead, Kelts and Bounty Bucks**

With this summer's hot ocean salmon fishery at Westport either closed or about to be, and salmon quotas already filled, and fishing ended from Ilwaco south to Manzanita, September anglers are shifting fish trips into the Big C's bi-state border water or Oregon's s ocean coast south from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain near Port Orford. Both areas have a lot of good salmon prospects for September.

But that's not all that's on the table this month.

Oregon's wild coho season gets underway in select coastal rivers,

Albacore tuna are running strong following the wandering offshore warmwater current, and when boating weather cooperates Sep-

tember could offer some of the best albacore catches of the year. Unfortunately, this year it's been a long boat run—60 to 90 miles typically—to find warm tuna water, but the action has been outstanding.

We're also looking at aggressive smallmouth bass fishing around mid-Columbia, rocks and reefs, and in the lower Willamette, and Umpqua systems especially early in the month. Also on tap is fast action pan-fishing wherever panfish are found, and some of the best summer-run steelheading in years—including a rare September opening on Oregon's popular Deschutes River. And bounty fishers have one more month to cash in on the Big C's cash rewards for northern pikeminnows.

Buoy 10
When Ilwaco hit its season quotas for cohos (39,000 hatchery) and were bearing down

on kings (12,510) and fishing closed in mid-August, it pushed a surge of sport boats into the Buoy 10 area for the August 1 opener. Buoy 10 officially runs from the ocean east to the west end of Puget Island at Cathlamet.

About mid-month fall king anglers will be heading further upriver to where upriver Chinook schools concentrate in the cooler water off tributary mouths at Wind River, Klickitat, Deschutes rivers and Drano Lake at the mouth of the Little White Salmon.

Attracting all those salmon trollers, jiggers and hover anglers is an optimistic forecast for 551,800 fall kings and a not-so glowing prediction for 279,900 coho. That's a good king forecast and while the coho prediction is south of good, combine those two and this month we'll be fishing over more than three-quarters of a million-fall salmon in the Columbia. That's plenty of reason to turn old freezer salmon into crab bait and get the boat wet.

The Buoy-10/Puget Island opening has a daily bag limit of two hatchery salmon however only one can be a hatchery Chinook through Sept. 3. From Sept. 4 through Dec. 31, only hatchery coho may be retained with a limit of two. Anglers must release all wild salmon and steelhead.

WDFW's explanation is that by implementing the hatchery-only restriction it allows them to "offer more fishing days; a non-mark fishery would result in few available fishing days." Hmm.

Words to the wise: This is a fluid fishery, and it pays to check for emergency restrictions, closures and changes before dropping a line.

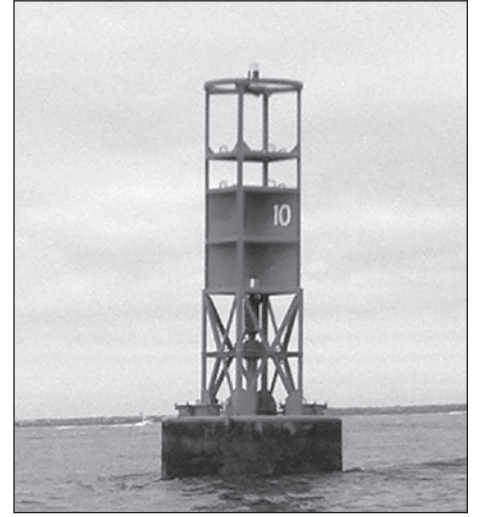
All-Important Tides

Tides. That's the key word for the Buoy 10 success. Incoming tides bring cool water and bait and produce best the first hour after high slack.

The favorite rig for lower river fall Chinook starts with an in-line triangle flasher and cut plug herring trolled with a diver or off down-riggers. Hot spots are congested. Keep lines close to the boat to avoid tangles use 8 1/2- to 9-foot rods with baitcasting reels loaded with 20- to 25-pound line, 4- to 8-foot leader, and either a cut plug herring, trolling spinner, plugs, or bait.

By the numbers we will find 77,100 hatchery tule Chinook mixed in with 87,127 wild kings. If it happens that will be similar to last year and about 14% higher than the five year average. Lower river wild brights will be similar to last year's actual return, but only about half of the 5-year average. Upriver Brights are expected to come in at the end of the month or later with lower run counts than last year but it could still be a good fishery with 258,000 headed for the Hanford Reach near Vernita.

Watch the Chinook counts over Bonneville Dam and somewhere around mid-month



you'll want to trailer the boat to Drano Lake, mouth of the Klickitat or the Deschutes. Pay attention to the tribal net dates and schedule your Big C king trips well before or up to a week after the nets are pulled.

Summer Steelhead!

After too many years of September closures Oregon's premier Deschutes River is open-again along with steelheading in several smaller rivers after September 15 when thermal closures are lifted. The Big C steelhead run is up, but still way short of where it should be, yet enough to allow September steelheading.

By mid-August the summer steelhead count over Bonneville Dam was 80,551 including 44,340 hatchery steelhead. That's the highest count by that date in nearly 10 years, although it's still well below the 20-year average. But the run is not continuing down and we'll take it!

The John Day, Umatilla, Grand Ronde and Imnaha Rivers are also on track to be open later in the year.

Thermal angling sanctuaries are in place, meaning angling is closed through Sept. 15 in the Deschutes River mouth and other areas on the mainstem Columbia River. New this year, the Walla Walla River is closed to steelheading.

In mid-September when the hot weather steelhead closures are lifted steelheaders will be looking at the best run in 10 years according to fish managers in both states. While the uptick prediction reverses a multi-year downward spiral and is cause for celebration, fish managers point out that the run has been at historically low levels for more than a decade and is still well below the 20-year average.

Expect the steelhead increase to greet Willamette River anglers as well.

COLUMBIA RIVER REGION | Continued on Page 8

IZORLINE
PREMIUM CO-POLYMER FISHING LINES,
SPECTRA AND FLUOROCARBON

CLAY BLAKE CAUGHT THIS BEAUTIFUL SUMMER CHINOOK ON 50LB IZORLINE SPECTRA WITH A LEADER OF 25LB TEST IZORLINE FLUOROCARBON. CLAY WAS HOVER-FISHING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WHITE SALMON RIVER WHEN HE CAUGHT THE BRUTE!

www.izorline.com | (800) 634-7454 (6-FISHLINE)
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

Proud Sponsors of NSIA, CCA Oregon, Washington and California
Make A Wish Foundation

TIME TO TWITCH

MACK'S LURE

ROCK DANCER BUCKTAIL JIG
The Rock Dancer is a highly effective jig that produces with Clo eyes, high-quality bucktail and premium hooks. Add some scent to its chemiles scent collar and watch it come alive when twitching in the river this fall.

SONIC BAITFISH TROLLING SPOON
The Sonic Baitfish can be cast, swim, jigged, twitched or trolled and features three attractant points, enabling flutter and vibration and includes two hooks. Sawtooth. If any, provide the kind of versatility. Available in seven colors and seven sizes.

CRIPPLURE INCREDIBLE ACTION
The Crippure is a proven trout, kokanee and salmon lure featuring a specially designed ring chamber that emits a low frequency vibration in the water that creates strikes when trolled, jigged, casted or twitched for any species of game fish.

NEW! SMILE BLADE SD DRIFT JIG + SD HITCH
A dynamic new hybrid jig-spinner featuring the Smile Blade SD Hitch, which can be attached to any presentation. Available now at MacksLure.com.

GET 10% OFF AT MACKSLURE.COM
USE CODE: REEL10

FOLLOW & LIKE | @MACKSLURE SHOP AT MACKSLURE.COM ENTER CODE AT CHECKOUT TO UNLOCK DISCOUNT

COLUMBIA RIVER REGION

Continued from Page 7

Oregon Wild

Again, ODFW is set to open a wild coho fishery in several coastal basins.

Check the ODFW web site for open streams/ rivers. The season limit is 5 wild adult silvers regardless of where they were caught.

By mid-month the ODFW website will list which rivers are open. Last year several new rivers were added, including Siuslaw, Coquille and Floras/New.

Northern pikeminnow \$\$

If you're a bounty fisher this is your last month of the year to cash in on the Northern Pikeminnow bounty program. The annual bounty pay-out ends Sept. 30.

Catches have been steadily moving downstream. In August Cathlamet Marina station saw the highest number of Northern Pikeminnows turned in, with 114 anglers checking in 1,614 fish.

Rainier Marina came in second with 1,038 for 51 anglers. Kalama Marina 477 for 15 anglers and Ridgefield Marina added 983 pikeminnows for 38 anglers.

Northern pikeminnows will be following the salmon runs feeding on spawn and decaying spawned out fish.

Bass On The Rocks

If you're a bass fanatic, drop the boat in the Big C between Hood River and Tri-Cities and throw white or red grubs, spinner baits, and plugs at rock piles, reefs and rip-rap.

Early September, before the water cools, ignites some of the hottest smallmouth bass fishing into the country. Target the rocks with lures that resemble shad fry, crayfish, mice and yes—salmon smolts.

A few years ago, above Arlington, a friend and I were pounded by big bass engulfing—

believe it or not—rat lures on the surface. Resembling field rats including swishy tails and feet, these foot-long surface lures were clobbered by smallmouth attacking along rocky shorelines. Don't laugh until you try it.

Big C bass grow big, concentrate in thick schools and are aggressive. If you see a rock island or reef you'll be looking at a September smallmouth hot spot. The bite tends to dump when rains cool off the river, but it'll continue to rock until October.

Sockeye Explosion

While a good Lake Wenatchee sockeye run was predicted, no one expected it to rocket off the planet this year-but it did.

The 2024 run saw eight times as many fish as the Lake Wenatchee spawning escapement goal was needed and was close to a staggering 140,000 fish before the season closed.

That's Wenatchee's share of a record Columbia River return of 755,203, which is 92,000 more fish than the previous record set just two years ago.

There may be a few straggler sockeye left in the Brewster Pool this month, but for all intent and purposes this historic sockeye year is history.

Holy Catfish

After a decade off, WDFW has found a source for channel catfish and is stocking 48 lakes scattered across the state.

In Southwest lakes to be planted with channel catfish include: Kress, Swofford Pond, I-82 Ponds #1, #2, #3, #4, and #6; Rotary Lake, and Sarg Hubbard Park (Reflection Pond).

The mainstem Columbia is a channel catfish sleeper—with big fish caught from Vancouver east. The further east you fish the better the catfishing. Fish around the mouth of the Yakima, Tucannon, Walla Walla and you'll go back for more.

Channel cats are plentiful in the Big C but absolutely undiscovered. And they eat good!

Kelts Rehabbed

After 16 years of planning the Nez Perce Tribe is ready to start construction of a Kelt (spawned out downstreamers) Reconditioning Facility at the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery in Cherrylane, Idaho. The goal is to increase the number of steelhead that spawn more than once.

Snake River wild steelhead populations have declined significantly over the past several years, and this facility will be the first hatchery project in the basin aimed specifically at recovering this threatened run.

The Nez Perce are in partnership with the Yakama Nation, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the University of Idaho to improve steelhead kelt survival. The project, operated in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, collects downstream migrating kelts at Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental dams on the Snake River.

Only about two percent of the Columbia Basin steelhead population successfully spawn twice. Since 2017, releases of reconditioned kelts have increased the number of wild B-run steelhead available to spawn naturally in the Snake Basin by 2% to 10%.

FACTOID: The Departments of Commerce and Interior have announced \$240 million in funding to support Tribal hatcheries that produce Pacific salmon and steelhead. Tribes on the list include . Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama, Warm Springs, and their consortium the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission. The Nez Perce produce 30% of the salmon and steelhead in the Snake River basin. The bad news is that there is currently \$1 billion in fixes backlogged and waiting.



**WANTED:
ADVERTISING
SALES ASSOCIATE**

The Reel News is looking for an enthusiastic Advertising Sales Associate to handle print and online advertising sales in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and British Columbia. This role offers flexible part-time or full-time hours. Ideal candidates should be self-motivated and comfortable working independently. While knowledge of the outdoor industry (fishing, hunting, camping, RVing, etc.) is a plus, it is not required. Independent contractors will earn a share of the ad profits.

Email: thereelnewsjim@outlook.com
or call Jim at (425) 344-6288
IN PRINT FOR OVER 41 YEARS

UNFORGETTABLE
GRAYS HARBOR
WASHINGTON

FISHING | WILDLIFE | CAMPING | HIKING | BEACHES

800.621.9625 | visitgraysharbor.com

Be Whale Wise

Follow boating and kayaking regulations to help protect endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

bewhalewise.org



Fall kings draw crowds, like this Klickitat River mouth fleet, for big reasons.
(Photo by: Terry Sheely)



For smallmouth aficionados like Dan Harry, September means big, aggressive bass.
(Photo by: Terry Sheely)




Day of Honor Sponsors

- Kitsap Marina Trident Seafoods Harbor Marine
- JP Landscape Silver Horde Fishing Supplies
- Fleet Service Auto and Truck Repair Gold Star Families
- Seattle Yacht Club Batson Enterprises Bayside Marine
- The Outdoor Line Airstream Renewables Blue Seas Fabrication Northwest
- Pepsico RMEF MSC Industrial Supply
- 4-22 Veterans Motorcycle Club Heroes Café
- Brothers In Arms Motorcycle Club
- Puget Sound Anglers Cabela's Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
- Port of Everett Tacoma Vet Center Seattle Seahawks Task Force 12
- Alfa Marine and Protein Pump Industries Logo Unlimited
- Dunlap Industrial Hardware Morgan Sound

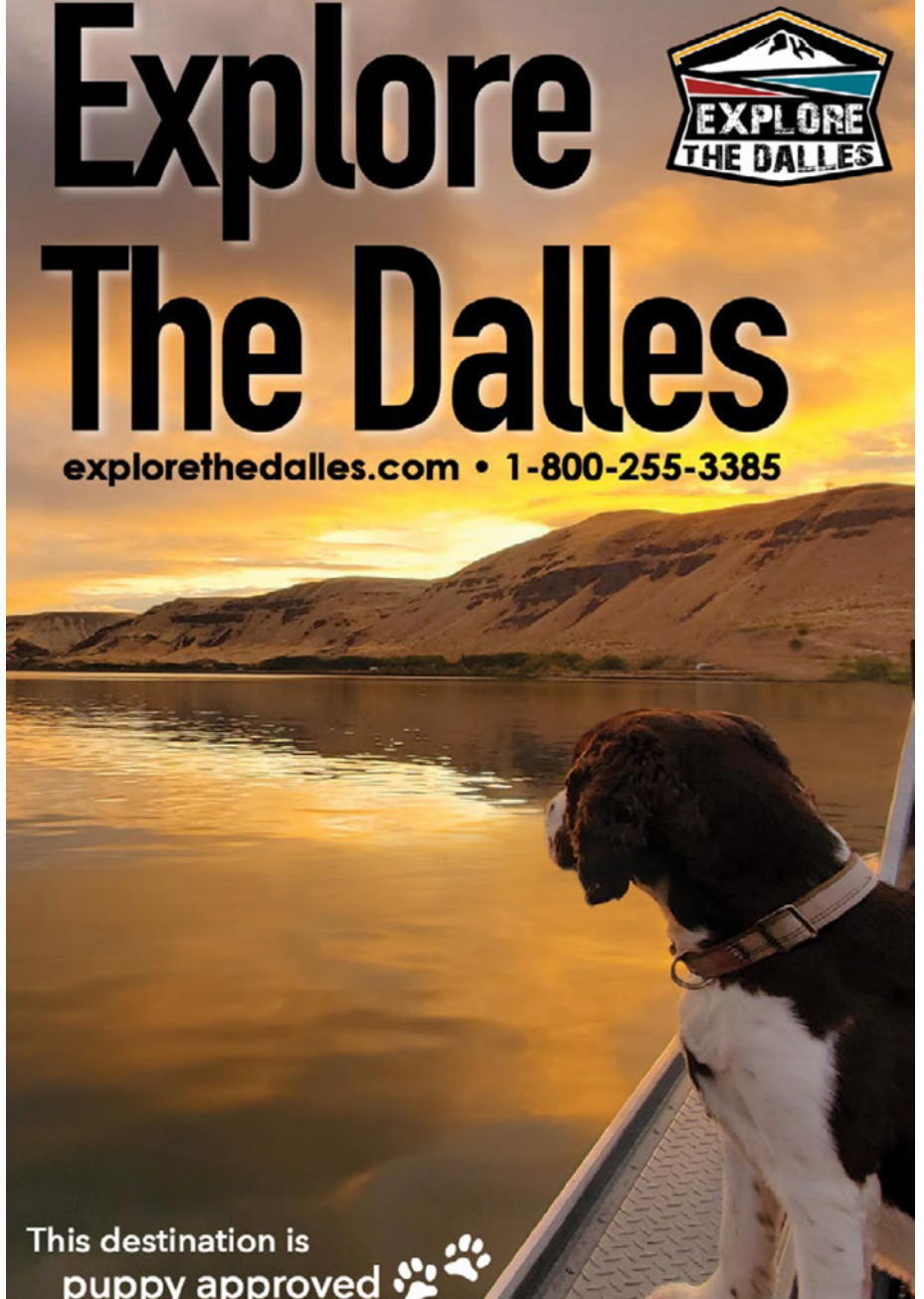
Salmon for Soldiers Volunteers


Thank You



Explore The Dalles

exploredalles.com • 1-800-255-3385



This destination is
puppy approved 

Everybody is hooked up, straining over bent rods, gaffs are flying and it's crazy in the back of the tuna boat, crazy going on insane.

Nine people jammed against the aft railing, dancing in a wild scramble of bent rods, white knuckles and red fingers clenched on black rods. Some are stagger-stepping port to starboard and back again, clutching bucking rods, ducking tight lines, slipping, sliding, stumbling past the next guy, screaming line warnings, "go under, over, over again, under, go under.....!"

The skipper grins, a little too maniacally I'm thinking. He charges up the metal steps to the flying bridge, slams a CD into the charter boat's music system and John Fogarty is suddenly on a rock-and-roll blast of "Run Through The Jungle" and "Bad Moon Rising" swamping the tuna craziness in a pounding roar of Credence Clearwater rasp.

We're 70 miles off the south coast of Washington, a little north of Oregon chumming live anchovies into the sultry stream of warm blue in the subtropical Japanese Current that's pushing smoking hot tuna action into the cold green salmon waters of the Northwest. I understand instantly why so many Northwest salmon diehards are going crazy for mid-July/September albacore. These fish are strong, fast, aggressive, a solid 12 to 30 pounds and attack in schools. Chaos becomes the new normal.

Tiger Ugly Stik rods with thick butts and fast tips are bent into 7-foot horseshoes, over the railing and pouring pink monofilament into the ocean. Pink? "Pink line outfishes other colors by a bunch," Sterling Santley, the alternate captain, explained while handing out breakfast tortillas bulging with potatoes, sausage, eggs and a few mystery ingredients

The first squadron of dragonfly (Thunnas alalunga) tuna, a descriptive Japanese nickname for the long-finned albacore, is exploding around the boat. "Tuna! Tuna! Tunnnnnnaaa!" screams the deckhand and we're running for rods. The skipper throws the 55-foot boat into a skidding stall, leaps atop the live bait tank and starts flinging anchovy chum into the blue water.

Within minutes the deck is blood red and slick enough to skate. Gaffed silver and blue tuna, rigid and cold, vibrate across the metal floor, sickle tails pounding like snare drummers gone mad, whacking us behind the legs, skidding into the scuppers. Lance the deckhand is gaffing and gill cutting on the run, spilled anchovies bounce under rubber boots, anchovies are flying, boiling tuna into a feeding frenzy, anglers are groaning and reeling.

Before the boat left the harbor in Westport round 6 last evening, the skipper laid it out. "Everything will happen fast," he warned, "I can't have hooks swinging at heads while the gaffs are flying. There's going to be blood on the deck and it'll be slippery. The fish are hauled out cut, poked in the brain and thrown aside as long as the bite holds up. We don't quit until the fish quit. Don't step on a tuna or you'll fall. If you fall and get hurt, we have to stop fishing. Nobody else is going to want to stop fishing."

It's essential not to use a dead or wounded bait. Hook it above the spine and keep it alive. If the bait doesn't run, tuna won't take it. A moving bait catches tuna, a sluggish bait catches blue sharks. Tuna are fast, sharks are lazy. If you're lazy you catch sharks. If you're fast you catch tuna. You don't want to be known as the 'shark guy.

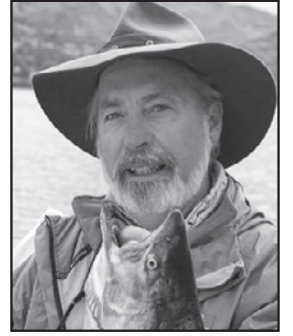
Troll to find tuna the skipper says, park the boat up-current slightly ahead of the school and chum. Start fishing on the upwind side and rotate toward the downwind side while chum drifts into the school. Lose the first fish and it'll dive and if it's a small school the rest of the school will dive with it.



WHEN THE DRAGONFLIES OF SEPTEMBER GO CRAZY!



Report by
Terry W. Sheely



Free-spool bait over the rail with the reel clutch off. Good bait will be squirming and running. Good bait will be eaten before it disappears from sight. Bad bite will catch a shark.

Get a strike let, the line peel off. Do a slow three count, flip the clutch, raise the rod tip to 45 degrees and hang on. The tuna will be going away and will set the hook

On both sides of the afterdeck, fishermen are pinned to the railings with elbows and knees, pointing their standup rods at the water and free-spool live anchovies, pinned lightly to No. 2, No. 4 and No. 6 live bait hooks, into the frenzied school of feeding albacore.

Chum hit the water disoriented, flounder and wobble out toward bright, impossibly fast flashes of big fish.

Someone yells, "Hookup, Hookup!" and incredibly the pandemonium accelerates into a whirl of flashing rods, crashing fish, nets, chum and tuna. Albacore fight to the gaff, are flipped onto the decking and then vibrate across the metal like stiff windup toys.

This is not fishing for the faint of heart. Nothing goes back.

Every powerful strike is life-and-death. Every 20-pounder is another four succulent fillets fit for the Table of the Gods.

"Twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five" the deckhand is shouting a running total, swinging the gaff, sticking and singing out catch numbers.

We're only a day-and-a-half into a scheduled three-day trip, there's an incredible 178 tuna crammed into the refrigerated hold, few are less than 20 pounds or more than 30 and the largest is a 33.7 pounder that will take the week's Westport derby pot.

We have earned, according to my calculator, 19.777 tuna each, 190 pounds of fillets apiece. A winter of feasts for the family freezer, food enough to feed the neighbors and relatives. It seems like a lot but compared to the commercial harvest it's a droplet.

In a five year study WDFW found the average catch is 8.4 tuna per angler.

The popularity of this fishery has soared and typical Westport charter boats are now joined by faster, smaller specialized day-trippers that can reach the fishing grounds in a few hours creating day-trip options.

The smaller lighter boats can reach tuna water off Oregon and Washington in hours, zero in on the schools, fish like mad men for up to eight hours and be back in port for a late dinner.

Most of the bigger charter boats in the Northwest, the standard, slower Westport-

style 45-to-60-foot salmon rigs, still offer overnight multi-day trips, giving tuna anglers a choice -day trip or overnight.

Tuna action starts the year in late June or early July in the south off Oregon as the big schools move north from California following the 60+degree-water in the 100-mile wide Japanese Current as it squirms and pushes like a river walled in by 50-degree salmon water. It arrives off Washington in late July, swells in August and runs strong into September. We can fish tuna until the first fall storms. Find warm blue water and sooner or later you'll find tuna.

And we've found a monster load. "POKE 'EM and SOAK 'EM," the skipper yells. Action is literally exploding in the water and on the deck. Silver blue streaks fly under the

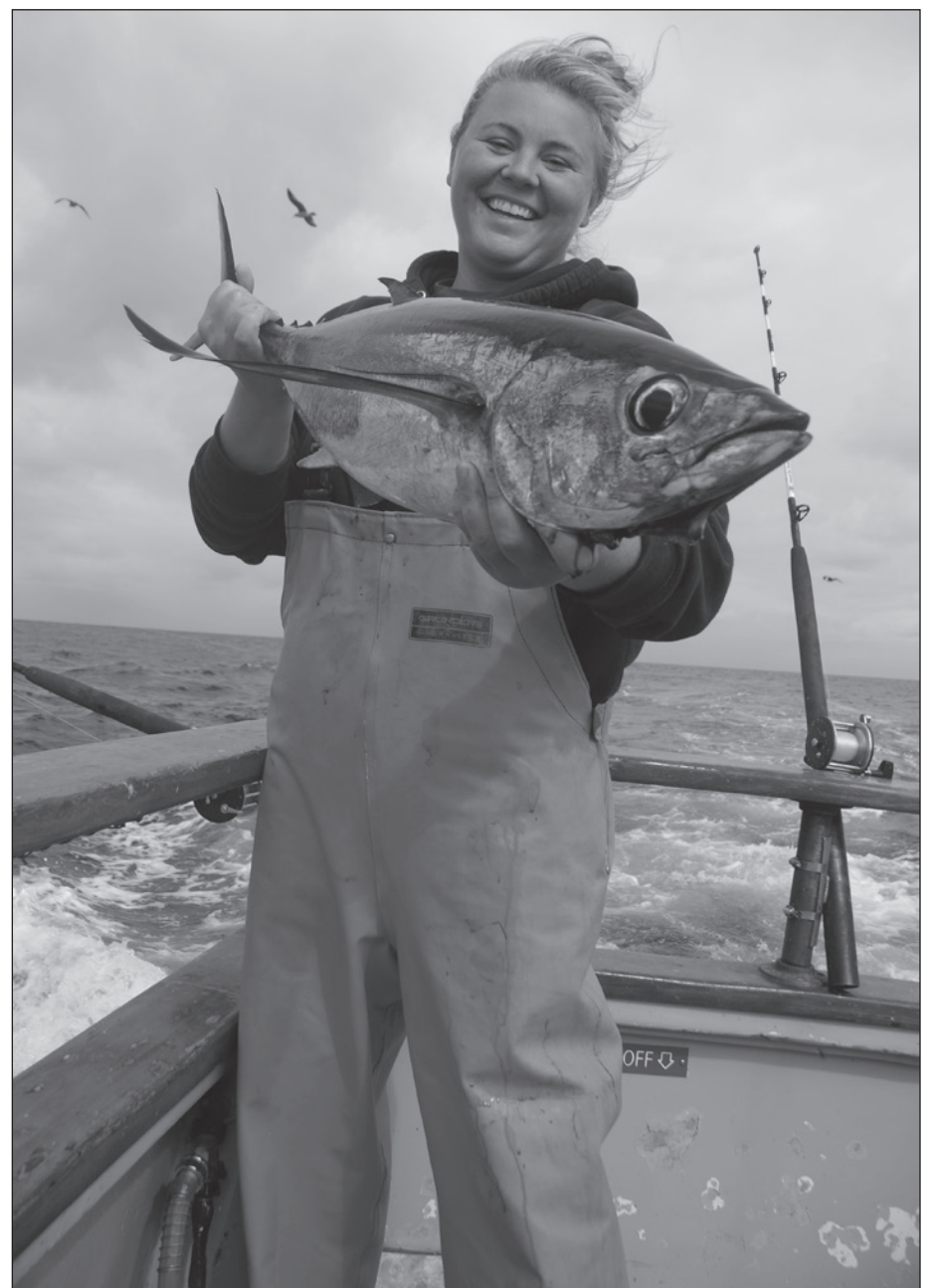
boat exploding on baits and chum, predators at their finest.

Rods are bent, anglers sliding, clinging to horseshoed Ugly Stiks, shouts, gaff, gaff, gaff on the corner, color, I see color. Lance is whirling dervish and a dead-eyed gaffer. Blue steel torpedoes slide around the deck. Red gushes. CCR is blasting.

Doubles. Triples. Quadruples. And then we're each hooked up, all rods simultaneously bent.

Tuna, though, can be surprisingly selective, almost as picky as a rainbow trout sucking in tail-water emergers. A quick anchovy, wiggling and healthy is inhaled in seconds. Cripples and limp-alongs are ignored.

DRAGONFLIES | Continued on Page 15



OFFICERS NOTEBOOK

Continued from Page 6



Not The Easy Way

Officer McOmber patrolled a problem littering area off of O'Leary Creek Road where a large pile of trash was observed dumped in the woods near a private timber company lands gate. In sifting through the trash numerous documents identified a potential suspect that resided in Westport. Multiple photographs of the trash pile and identifying documents were collected, and the individual was later located in Westport. When confronted with the violation, the individual initially lied and claimed he had no idea who had dumped the trash or where the dump site was. When questioned further, the individual changed his story to claiming that he was aware of the trash, but that it had been given to a friend to dispose of. Finally, the individual confessed to dumping the trash "because it was easy" compared to disposing of it in a proper garbage receptacle. The individual was cited accordingly and ordered to pick up the trash immediately. Later that day, the individual was contacted leaving the area of the dump site with only two thirds of the trash being picked up. Upon seeing the officer, he turned back around and finished cleaning the mess he had created.

Torched

Sgt. Alexander was first on scene of a reported brush fire north of Humptulips along Hwy 101. Upon arrival citizens were trying to put out the 8-10 square foot fire with water bottles and doing a great job at it. Sgt. Alexander used his fire extinguisher to quell the remainder of the fire which had been rapidly spreading towards a stand of timber. A Tesla with a dead battery was at the location and the driver ultimately admitted to adding fuel to an existing fire that he had miraculously stopped right next to on the side of Hwy 101. Sgt. Alexander and Deputies were not buying this ridiculous claim, especially since he had small pieces of cut firewood in the Tesla consistent with the neatly piled firewood that had been ignited literally on the side of the highway in the brush line. He was briefly taken into custody and eventually cited and released.



Wallace Snag

Officer Peters contacted two subjects pre-dawn Sunday that were attempting to snag fish on the Wallace River. The officer watched the subjects for a few minutes before they got spooked and hid their gear and fish. Officer Peters contacted the men, who denied fishing. When she told the subjects to retrieve their fishing gear, they stated they had cut their lines and hid their gear before walking up because they did not have fishing licenses. The subjects denied having any fish but admitted to attempting to snag them. The subjects' fishing rods were seized. Officer Peters went back down to the location later and

located three chinook salmon-two hatchery and one wild in the bushes. She also located treble hooks and 6/0 hooks that were thrown in the bushes. Charges will be referred to the Snohomish County prosecutor. Both subjects were previously involved in a deer poaching case up Green Mountain Road in 2023.



The mission of the WDFW is to protect our natural resources and the public we serve.

To report a violation or dangerous wildlife please contact:

WILDCOMM Communications Ctr. at
WILDCOMM@dfw.wa.gov or
(360) 902-2936 Option #1

Fishers must have a current Washington fishing license, appropriate to the fishery. Check the WDFW "Fishing in Washington" rules pamphlet for details on definitions and regulations. Fishing rules are subject to change. Check the WDFW Fishing hotline for the latest rule information at: 360-902-2500, press 2 for recreational rules.

For the Shellfish Rule Change hotline call toll free 1-866-880-5431.

COHO TIME

Continued from Page 4

your tackle just down 30-60ft. As the tide switches reserve your course a troll north back towards Presidents Point. Start shallow in the morning and keep adding depth as the day gets brighter. Then move out in the middle and troll coho in the deep water. You may end up fishing 90-120ft on the downrigger in 200-300ft of water in the shipping lanes. Best access for trailer boats is Kingston or across the sound from Shilshole Marina in Seattle.

Tacoma

Some of the top choices to target returning slivers will be off the Slag Pile, Browns Point and near the mouth of the Puyallup River. Check regs. As of this writing there should be a season 1 Oct. for coho.

The Slag Pile located just around the corner from the Pt. Defiance boat ramp is one of

the top holding and feed areas for these fish. Trolling circular patterns off the steep drop-off here can produce speculator results.

Early morning the top water 20-30 ft. will be the best fishing, as the sun gets brighter keep going deeper. It's not at all unusual during mid-day to take fish down as deep as 120-140 ft.

If you want to run hardware, try small spoons like a Silver Horde KingFisher spoon or a Ace High fly. Trolling Browns Pt. just across Commencement Bay from Slag Pile is another good fall silver haunt.

The lighthouse back towards the Cliff House Restaurant (up on the hill) at Browns Point is all productive water.

Finally, the home waters for the Tacoma silver run is the mouth of the Puyallup River. Here trolling the same tackle off the river mouth can be very productive.

Best action will be one hour before to two hours after the tide change. Keep the boat speed up, 3MPH is about as slow as I troll for these fish.

The length of this fishery will depend on the rain; the more rain we get the faster the fish will hit the river.

You can also run into Marine Area 13 located just south of the Narrows Bridge and fish a daily limit of two hatchery coho. This is also a two-pole endorsement area.

Point Gibson is best fished on the incoming tide, as bait will stack up just around the point in the back eddy. The other good incoming tide fishery is Point Fosdick on Hale passage, trolling the edge of the drop off. Watch for rips and troll those for a shot at fall coho.

Season closing dates will change and limits may too so be sure to check the WDFW regulations for current status of any Marine Area or river you plan to fish coho in before you head out each time. In some areas they can change weekly. But there is still a lot of coho to target this year so make pans and get after them.

The V8 You've Been Waiting For!



The All-New Honda BF350 V8

The all-new Honda BF350 is our first-ever production V8 engine for use on either land or water. With impressive fuel efficiency and a range of features and functions found only on Honda outboards, the BF350 offers premium power and unparalleled performance for truly extraordinary experiences.

Learn More At Your
Authorized Honda Marine Dealer



ANACORTES
Seattle Yachts Service 360-293-3145
www.seattleyachts.com/service

OLYMPIA
Tom's Outboard 360-754-3882
www.tomsoutboard.com

EVERETT
Boat Country 425-259-6126
www.boatcountry.com

TACOMA
King Salmon Marine 253-830-2962
www.kingsalmonsales.com

MOUNT VERNON
Tom-n-Jerry's Boat Center 360-466-9955
www.tomnjerrys.net

TACOMA
Tacoma Boat Sales 253-777-1330
www.tacomaboatsales.com

PUGET SOUND ANGLERS



WWW.PUGETSOUNDANGLERS.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM RON GARNER

Just finished another stellar Westport fishing season! The kings and coho were big and fat this year. We landed three 30 pound kings and a couple just under. Not to mention some high teens to mid 20s. Most of these kings were red meat. Coho were nice and fat too. We landed a 14 and 15 pound clipped fish on the same day. Bait in their bellies was huge. 7-9+” long herring. When was the last time we saw that? Two days we fished the shallow waters (beach) at Westport. No one else was doing it. Bait was thick from 60’ and shallower.

One day we crossed the south jetty at the notch and I had no good fishing reports from the prior day. We saw bait so stayed close instead of the 15-20 mile runs. There were huge flocks of birds there. If there’s birds there’s bait. If there’s bait, there’s salmon. Everyone went out to 250-300’. We set the two downriggers and two Dipsy divers with bait heads and fresh bait. (Hungry Whale guy is selling fresh bait again in a different location!) All 4 rods were on fire. We ran beside the flocks of birds out to the GH Buoy. We landed the last two fish beside the buoy. We were only out 2-3 hours and had all 10 fish.

Called others in. Next day we decided to do the same. Birds were not in big flocks anymore. They were in small group and no massive bait

PRESIDENT: Ron Garner
VP EAST: Karl Brackmann
VP SOUTH: Larry Bucklin
VP NORTH: Meryl Herrett
VP WEST: Dave Croonquist
VP OCEAN: Dave Johnson
SECRETARY: Brad Ridgeway
TREASURER: Mike Gilchrist
RESOURCES: Clint Muns
www.pugetsoundanglers.org

balls anymore. We worked hard with no luck. Got on the phone and buddies told me go out to the deep. I decided to do the opposite and go really shallow. It was lumpy water to go shallow but did anyway. When we got below 50 feet of water we started seeing small schools of bait. I worked those bait balls and worked the kicker throttle. We would get two to three fish per bait ball. But there weren’t many of them and we had 5 people on board again. We were near tide change and had 8 fish in the baitwell. We decided to call it a day and left with 8 fish being 2 fish short of full limits. This last weekend the kings were scarce and we got one at 240’ on the wire early. Got another at 80’ and two others on the divers later! If you don’t fish divers you don’t know what you are missing!

We really enjoyed this fishing season. We work so hard all year just to do this. Coho are coming on strong and there are three PSA Derbies coming up for you to fish along with Salmon for Soldiers, Sept 14. Edmonds Coho Derby Sept 7, Whidbey Island Coho Derby Sept 14-15, Everett Coho Derby Sept 21-22. Get the kids and grandkids out to fish them and join your local PSA Chapter.



Salt Patrol
Destination Fishing, Hotspot Maps, Fishing Articles and Information
~ Hosted by Captain John Keizer
www.saltpatrol.com



PO BOX 1446, EVERETT, WA 98206

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FROM DAVE MILLER

For our August meeting, the ESSC had an “open” conversation about this year’s Coho season. This included a slide show of gear, bait and areas to fish. It was great to hear other members’ techniques for Coho. With 722,000 of them starting to come down the Straight, it should be another great season. A Summer Salad theme was our choice for a meal where members brought in some tasty delights to share.

As of this writing, Matt Kennedy our Hatchery Chairman had scheduled the fin clipping date of August 24th. 60,000 Coho were expected to be removed from the small pond, clipped by the 60+ volunteers and placed in our large pond until late March or April before being released. More on this in next month’s issue of THE REEL NEWS.

Several of our members took full advantage of the “Extra” days on the water for the local King fishing. Nice reports of not only fish, but of some family and friend fun filled days on the water. Crabbing continues to be good with the final days of summer approaching.

PRESIDENT: Dave Miller
VICE-PRESIDENT: Steve Strong
SECRETARY: Deana McGrew
TREASURER: Rich Braun
WEBSITE: www.essc.com

This is the last push for the Everett Coho Derby to be held September 21st and 22nd. This marks the 31st year of the largest salmon fishing derby on the West Coast! There will be over \$26,000 in cash and prizes given away and someone is going to walk away with the \$10,000 1st place prize! Tickets are out at our usually outlets and online at <https://everettcoholderby.com/>. Please check our Facebook page and help- support all our sponsors for making this Derby the success it is!

Come on down and see what you have been either missing or looking for! The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club has been around since the 50’s. Its members do an amazing job in supporting our passion for fishing and more importantly, our community. The club usually meets at 6:30 the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Firefighters Hall on Hewitt. Check our website for details. The door is always open! <http://www.everettsteelheadandsalmonclub.com>



GENERAL MEETING:
3rd Thursday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:
7pm Fireman’s Hall, 2411 Hewitt, Everett

BOARD MEETING:
1st Thursday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:
7pm Langus Park Meeting Room



P.O. BOX 647 • ANACORTES, WA 98221-1513

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM KAREY SMALL

Hello from the San Juan Islands and our best month of the season. Our King salmon season kicked off with a three day opener followed by some additional random days over the next few weeks. Club members made the most of the time and got out on the water every chance they had.

As I write this our Resurrection Derby is in full swing. Chair for the event, Jamie Propst, has worked tirelessly to bring this derby back by working to gather prizes, venues, weigh-in locations and an awards ceremony space that will prove that we know how to host a derby. Our primary sponsor Tom and Jerry’s boat center not only donated cash towards the prizes but also brought some boats down to our ceremony for all of us to do our dream building on.

Anacortes and surrounding area sponsors continue to support these events and although I cannot list them all here we will be sure to give them all recognition and thanks at the event and our meetings. We are thankful for the generosity of all that make these events possible. Special shout out to Mark Schinman

PRESIDENT: Karey Small
VICE-PRESIDENT: Darin Small
SECRETARY: Jennifer Price
TREASURER: Scott Propst
WEBSITE: www.psafidalgo.org

for handling all of our rules and simple derby details, Scott Propst for handling all of the finances, Darrin Small and Chrystal Delphia-Ramos for gathering all of the donations, Amy Lowman and Will McCombs for serving on the committee and assisting with weigh in and awards activities. We hope to continue this event and the success of this derby sets the stage for how we approach future events that fund our club.

We continue to look for ways to engage a net pen program and have plans to meet with the local tribes about opportunities to support the unique challenges with a program in the islands. The Oak Harbor net pen coho should be returning next year and we have been a proud sponsor of this program. We hope to do more with fish enhancement in the coming years. If you fished our derby we thank you for the support! If you weren’t able to, we hope to see you in one of the other upcoming derbies or the Salmon for Soldiers event in September.

Until then tight lines and calm seas.



GENERAL MEETING:
3rd Tuesday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:
6:30pm - Secret Cove Restaurant - Room 2009 T Ave., Anacortes, WA 98221

BOARD MEETING:
2nd Tuesday Odd Months @ 6pm



PO BOX 1942, BELLINGHAM, WA 98227

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM HENRI VANDERHAGE

The Bellingham Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers did not hold a meeting in August. In the past we took August off because we hosted a big derby in July and everyone needed a break. Now the Marine Area 7 Chinook quota is so small that we cannot hold a derby (even though we impact very few sublegal or unmarked fish). We still take August off because fishing Marine Area 7 Chinook in July under the current management structure is exhausting. A three-day season is formally announced only a handful of weeks before it begins. After the initial three-day opening, we must be ready to re-arrange our schedules and cancel obligations to fish a Tuesday, Thursday, or Sunday opening on a day or two of advance notice. What’s next ... four hour openers? No hooks? There are a lot of words that can be

PRESIDENT: Hank Vanderhage
VICE PRESIDENT: Robert Rotz
CO-SECRETARIES: Cindy Geri, Fred Cruz, Phil Helms
TREASURER: Roy Lentz
WEBSITE: www.bellinghampsa.com

used to describe WDFW’s Marine Area 7 chinook season management, but I’m sure THE REEL NEWS would not publish our message if I used them.

Our next event is our annual Warrior Service veterans’ fishing trip on September 7. This year we are planning to take 50 veterans fishing in the San Jaun Islands for a day. We are still looking for a couple of volunteer captains and boats, so please contact us if you are available or know someone who is. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, 6:30PM, at Round Table Pizza in Bellingham. Email BellinghamPSA@gmail.com for more information.



GENERAL MEETING:
3rd Thursday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:
6:30pm - email bellinghampsa@gmail.com for location and time

The Washington & Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating each state’s fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities. To learn more about them, programs, employment and activities scan with your smart phones the QR codes below:



PUGET SOUND ANGLERS



PO BOX 55158, SHORELINE, WA 98115

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM ERIC SATHER

August Meeting:

Connor Martinis of John's Sporting Goods was our speaker for August. He presented a great talk on coho and how to boat a money fish for the upcoming coho derbies in Puget Sound.

September Meeting:

Brianna Bruce is our guest speaker at the September meeting! Brianna is a sought-after guide on local waters and has forgotten more about fishing than most will ever know. Come hear about the best tip and tactics for boating coho. Whether you're in the fight for a derby winner or just want to load up the freezer, you don't want to miss this meeting!

We'll have some coho related gear to raffle that anyone can win, and we always have a Members-Only prize for the raffle.

Pizza or Hot Dogs for \$2 if you're coming hungry.

Outings

Labor Day – September 2, 2024 – Now open to ALL PSA members from all clubs!

It's still a ways off, but it's never too late to book a Deep Sea Ling trip! Especially when it's on Slammer, one of our favorite big boat charters! Sno-King booked the whole boat, so let's fill it up with PSA members! We have all the details up on the website and club

GENERAL MEETING:

2nd Wednesday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

6:30-8:30pm Mountlake Terrace Community Senior Center, 23000 Lakeview Drive, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

PRESIDENT: Eric Sather
VICE PRESIDENT: Dan Stauffer, Ed Chapman
SECRETARY: Mitch Rice
TREASURER: Ed Chapman (206) 372-1196
DERBY CHAIRMAN: Ed Chapman (206) 372-1196
MEMBERSHIP: Walt Wojcik
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: Shari Stoican (206) 552-5898
WEBSITE: hwww.psasnoaking.com

Facebook page so you can reserve your spot. **This event is open to all PSA chapter members!** Let us know if you want a seat and we'll get you set up!

Edmonds Coho Derby – September 7th, 2024

Cash prizes for top finishers!

Adult Division:

1st Place \$5,000
 2nd Place \$2,500
 3rd Place \$1,000
 Mystery Fish \$500

Kids Division:

1st Place \$1,000
 2nd Place \$500
 3rd Place \$250
 Mystery Fish \$250

Get your tickets online or visit our retail ticket sellers. Ticket info: edmondscohederby.com

Check out our club web site!

Sign up for membership at <https://psasnoaking.org/membership>

Let us know if you have ideas for meeting topics or speakers!

Let us know if you have an idea for a club outing our members would enjoy!

BOARD MEETING:

1st Thursday of each month,
 6:00pm Willows Creek Hatchery



P.O. BOX 4152 • RENTON, WA 98057

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM BRAD RIDGEWAY

Our next meeting is September 11th and it will be our Annual Fish Fry and Auction. The Yanak clan will be on site frying up some of the best halibut and onion rings known to man. This will be a potluck and we are asking that members bring a side dish, the club will be providing the salmon and the S.E Alaska Outdoor Adventures lodge in Sitka will be providing the halibut.

There will be a live and silent auction with lots of goodies to choose from as well as some games. Proceeds from this event help us with our projects throughout the year like

GENERAL MEETING:

2nd Wednesday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

7:00pm - Kenneydale Memorial Hall

PRESIDENT: Brad Ridgeway
VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Siegrist
SECRETARY: Jan De Felice
TREASURER: Drew Edwards
RAFFLE CHAIRMAN: Bob De Felice
 Kenneydale Memorial Hall
 2424 N.E. 27TH St. Renton

the incubator program and donations we make to Salmon for Soldiers and NW Straits Foundation and others.

We will be having the annual club coho outing on September 8th at Don Armeni Park and boat launch is in West Seattle. This event is open to PSA members and friends. There will be awards and a BBQ following the day on the water. More information will be sent out on the derby in the coming days. I hope to catch up with everyone and hear about your fishing adventures at the Fish Fry.

BOARD MEETING:

1st Wednesday of each month

TIME: 6:30pm



P.O. BOX 13191 • DES MOINES, WA 98198

CHAPTER MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL GILCHRIST

In August, Tommy Donlin spoke to the chapter about tuna fishing and other subjects. Due to the timing of this submittal I will recap next month in THE REEL NEWS.

Our July meeting was club members sharing a meal at the club barbeque. The author of this message was out of state and missed the fun but I got word that all had a good time sharing fishing info and telling stories.

For September, we are looking forward having John Fiskum speak. John is the organizer for activities out of the Kent Senior Center which is targeted at ages 50+. They offer much more than fishing, but obviously

GENERAL MEETING

6pm-9pm - 3rd Wednesday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

6pm to 9pm - IBEW 46 Union Hall - 19802 62nd Ave S, Suite 105, Kent, WA 98032

PRESIDENT: Sean Finney
VICE PRESIDENT: Terry Stout
TREASURER: Trina Wilson Finney
RAFFLE CHAIRMEN: Greg Voss

we will be concentrating on the fishing outings being organized. A quick look at the schedule shows several guided fishing trips planned September through December and John will have other local events to discuss.

We welcome all members and first time guests to join us once again on the third Wednesday of the month for our general meetings. Membership is only \$35.00 dollars for the year and is good for an individual or family. Doors open at 6:00 PM & the meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Every club meeting we run our raffle open to all and we go around the room sharing our recent fishing reports.

South King County PSA website:
www.pugetsoundanglers.net



PRESIDENT: Dan Miller (206-715-0497)
VICE PRESIDENT: Wes Hoppler
TREASURER: Russ Simonson

CLUB MESSAGE FROM PHILLIP FALLS

The Steelhead Trout Club of Washington held the August 13th meeting via zoom format. Yours truly missed the meeting, however Club President Dan Miller provided the high points. Big item was the upcoming Steelhead Trout Club Steak Fry held at Villa Boynton along the bank of the scenic Green River. Smaller turn out than expected as the freeways are almost completely impossible to navigate due to congestion. Those who did brave the travel had a great steak prepared to absolute perfection by the club president himself. Stories were told, reports given and lies exchanged. A great get together hosted by Hal at his resort like residence. Many thanks go out to Hal and a special "Shout Out" to President Dan Miller for his herculean efforts to single handedly shouldering the weight. The Club thanks you!

On a Saturday the club get together at Chalet Hill at the confluence of the North and South forks of the Skykomish River. Great gathering of club members and guests with

GENERAL MEETING:

2nd Tues of month. Meeting place TBA in President's Monthly Message.

TIME: 7pm

all enjoying the hot sizzling beef burgers accompanied by tasty sides and desserts. No big fish award as the Skykomish/Snohomish system completely closed to fishing. Absolutely criminal. Next club event will take place Sept 14 at Shilshole boat launch. Fish all day for coho then meet at the residence of club member Tom Wallace to enjoy tasty offerings and boast of your day's effort in pursuit of the wily Puget Sound Silver Salmon. More on this as the date approaches.

And not to be forgotten is the Annual Steelhead Holiday party scheduled, at this time, for December 1st at the famous Ivar Salmon House Lake Union. Square cake, every one's a winner raffle, along with much camaraderie. Event specifics to be determined. As always remember to take a son, daughter, parent, grand parent or especially a veteran along on your next river trip.

BOARD MEETING:

4:30pm (same day as above)

PUGET SOUND ANGLERS



PO BOX 2726, SEQUIM, WA 98382

**CHAPTER REPORT BY
VP KEN TOWNSEND**

The Board of Directors got their first look at the new logo embroidered coats and hooded sweatshirts to be offered for sale to the membership. The coats and sweatshirts with the embroidered logo look great. The membership will get their first look at the new merchandise at the next general meeting. Purchase and ordering information will be available to the membership at that time.

Preliminary planning has begun for the chapters annual Christmas Dinner/Fund Raiser that will be held on December 14th at the Sequim Elks Lodge. There will be more information to follow as we get closer to the date.

There have been disturbing reports coming out of the Sekiu area concerning the WDFW Fish Checkers being verbally assaulted when it was announced that the Area 5 season would be closing because the quota had been reached. Apparently, some of the confrontations have been bad enough that they have caused Fish Checkers to resign. The WDFW Fish Checkers do not set policy or establish seasons or quota numbers. They are there only to collect data that will assist WDFW

PRESIDENT: Bob Keck
VICE PRESIDENT: Ken Townsend
SECRETARY: Sherry Anderson
TREASURER: Steve Ackerman

in evaluation of current quota numbers that have already been set. If someone feels that strongly concerning an issue that is this complicated, then they should research and join a group that will have their sporting interests/concerns as part of their mission statement. An individual's intimidation or voice being raised at a launch ramp dock or cleaning station is useless and does nothing to solve or better the issues/problems that the sport fishermen and women face. It only continues to give the sport fishing group, as a whole, a bad reputation. We as sport fishermen and women do not deserve that. One should be part of the solution, not add to the problem.

The chapter's guest speaker for the month of September will be will be announced at a later date. If you can find an opportunity to take someone fishing or crabbing, do so. If you are in a boat be sure to wear a life vest / jacket.

GENERAL MEETING:

3rd Wednesday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

6:30pm Sequim Elks Lodge
143 Port Williams Rd., Sequim, WA

BOARD MEETING:

1st Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm



P.O. BOX 1002 • OLYMPIA, WA 98503-1002

**MESSAGE FROM BOARD MEMBER
KEN TACKETT**

The South Sound chapter had no scheduled speaker for our August meeting, so club President Jason Dunham gave an excellent talk on fishing in the ocean at Westport and LaPush. A number of club members also shared their knowledge and experience, and a lot of good information was shared on techniques and safety on the water.

I wanted to welcome back long time club members Dee Glenn and Mike Silvers, you have both been missed.

Club members Steven Andrews, Allen Morrow and Mike Silvers spent a few days up at Neah Bay and managed to catch 17 Chinook and 10 coho between them including a 25 pound white king. They also found out just how expensive downrigger balls are to replace in Neah Bay. Steve Cummings caught some halibut and ling cod at Westport and Darwin Kumm took a trip down to the Lewis River.

I also want to welcome 3 new members to the club, Roseann and Wayne Rankin and Jeff Walker. We had two winners in our monthly drawings. Allen Morrow won the members only drawing, only \$50 this time since some-

PRESIDENT: Jason Durham dunhamj22@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Jason Anderson
anderson_jj@yahoo.com
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Jonathan Farney
tworiders@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.sschapterpsa.com

body won last time and I won the raffle for another \$50. See, it pays to attend the meetings ! At our September meeting we will have Mike Borland, President of the Walleye Club as our scheduled speaker.

The South Sound Chapter was founded in 1999. Clint Muns was elected as the first chapter President. Eventually the club grew into the largest recreational fishing organization in the South Sound.

GENERAL MEETING:

1st Thursday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

7 to 9pm - Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey, WA 98503

BOARD MEETING:

Second Thursday of each month

TIME/LOCATION:

6:30pm - Mayan Restaurant
6729 Pacific Ave SE 4520 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503 Lacey, WA 98503




This project is funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program

partners in marine conservation

FREE Crabbing Videos...

If you enjoy crabbing then you should check out the videos released by the Northwest Straits Foundation. This video series, funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program, will teach you important tips such as how to weight your pot, rig your line, check tides and currents, and know when and where to set your crabbing gear. Following the tips provided in these videos will help keep your pots safe, bringing more food to your dinner table and providing a sustainable fishery for years to come.

This video series is part of the Foundation's efforts to eliminate harm caused by an estimated 12,000 crab pots lost in Puget Sound each year. A single lost crab pot can kill up to 50 crabs until it deteriorates, that adds up to 180,000 harvestable crabs lost each year. The Northwest Straits Foundation is tackling this issue through derelict gear removals, education, and outreach, Their goal is for Puget Sound to provide sustainable resources for all to enjoy.

Research show that many of the crabbers who lose their pots are following several of the recommended best crabbing practices; however it takes only one method to not be followed for your crab pot to become one of the 12,000 lost at sea. Follow these seven tips to keep your pot and catch more crab:

- Tip 1:** Avoid high traffic marine transit and ferry lanes.
- Tip 2:** Check tides and currents.
- Tip 3:** Use high visibility buoys to clearly mark your gear.
- Tip 4:** Use a weighted line to sink below the surface.
- Tip 5:** Weight your crab pots so they do not move with tides and currents.
- Tip 6:** Watch your pot.
- Tip 7:** Use longer line. Use 1/3 more line than the water depth to allow to changes in tides and currents.

Visit catchmorecrab.org to view the instructional videos and learn more about how to keep your pot and catch more crab.



Learn how to Catch More Crab!

Free Instructional Videos

12,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound each year. Learn how to keep your pots safe and catch more crab! Watch our videos at catchmorecrab.org

Follow these tips:

- Weight your pots
- Check tides and currents
- Use high visibility buoys
- Use weighted line
- Use longer line
- Avoid high traffic areas
- Watch your pot




This project is funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program

partners in marine conservation



SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Report by **Owen Bird**

While there is sure to be excellent fishing to be had all along the BC coast this month and into the fall, for many September signals the end of the saltwater fishing season. Weather will inevitably turn or be less reliable and the obligations of work and life often interfere for most of us. But most restrictions in the southern parts of the BC coast have eased and this year, halibut limits are more generous too. So, if there is time or plans to get up and fish in BC in September there are a lot of great options available.

From near the end of August, the daily limit for halibut changes from one to two. Halibut regulations, which are slightly different year to year, are as follows; 10 halibut annually with daily bag limits that started at one a day under 85cm allowing for a possession limit of 2 halibut or, one a day up to 126cm with a possession limit of one. From near the end of August the daily limit has changed and although the possession limits stay

the same at 2 halibut under 85cm or one under 126 cm. Chinook retention around Vancouver and the approach waters of the Fraser goes to two/day after September 1 and Coho fishing continues to improve right into October.

Looking back at the 2024 summer, the abundance of Chinook and Coho was remarkable, while it was unexpected, abundance of salmon in the south coast was even greater than what we saw in 2023. And what we saw in 2023 was characterized by many as the best in 30 years! That is not to say that there aren't stocks that need attention and care to aid in recovery - the low water levels and higher than normal temperatures of the Fraser River will likely cause some challenges through the fall and Chinook numbers in the Skeena continue to track much lower than anyone would like.

We will continue to seek improved marking practices of hatchery salmon in Canada and a confirmed and enhanced approach to releasing fish and Mark Selective Fisheries (MSF). Looking ahead these changes can provide reliable opportunity for anglers and a meaningful way to aid conservation and to recovery of stocks that recreational fisheries need to avoid.

Releasing fish is a part of all fisheries and for

many reasons. Whether it is a legal requirement or an encounter with a species not targeted, releasing fish properly and carefully is not only the right thing to do it is a critical component of good stewardship and to ensuring the sustainability of our marine resources. From 2022 to 2024, UBC and the SFI completed a study of the mechanisms of mortality on recreationally caught Chinook. While the details of the study and the results are academic and soon to be published, the findings and recommendations are straight forward, avoid touching a fish to be released and at the water line where and as practical. Use smaller single barbless hooks, avoid small fish, and avoid using a landing net for any fish that are released. Nets cause fin damage and scale loss. More details to follow in the coming months and for the 2025 season and beyond.

Tight lines and in BC waters this September.



and dive. Others squirm into the depths trailing pink line, disappear and suddenly line is power diving into the depths. Start the count. One, two.....

Albacore fins appear to be sharp but are actually soft and pliable. These fish are built for speed. And eating. They rocket in from nowhere; inhale the panicked anchovy and when the hook goes home they explode.

That first powerful run almost predictably ends in a long powerful sounding that evolves into a sweeping powerful spiral that can send the angler careening from one side of the boat to the other and back again, ducking rods, slipping on blood, dodging lines. Powerful is the key word in each phase of the fight. There is no quit in dragonfly tuna.

When each flurry ends the deckhand picks up the fish by their skinny tails and drops them headfirst into a barrel to bleed out, cleanse the meat until it's white and firm. Chicken of the Sea.

When the freezer is full, we call it quits and tuna are still boiling on the surface. Skipper radios another boat and gives them our leftover live anchovies.

Tuna are still ripping on the surface. They just won't quit so we have to.

Salmon fishing is never like this!



DRAGONFLIES

Continued from Page 10

Schools are busting loose, birds diving tuna are throwing wakes, careening into the air, inhaling anchovies, slamming fishermen into railings, testing old shoulder muscles.


Some of the anchovies are picked off the surface before they can collect themselves

PROMOTIONS | SERVICES

LEELOCK ANCHOR SYSTEMS

Measure & Crack your crabs with our...

Crab Cracker



EASY TO USE!

(360) 380-1864
leelock.com
MADE IN THE USA!

JOHN'S SPORTING GOODS
SINCE 1953

• Fish'n Is Our Mish'n Since 1953 •

John's Sporting Goods
specialists in fishing equipment for the serious angler.

- Salmon • Shrimping
- Crabbing • Freshwater
- Downrigger Repair
- Bait & Lures
- Rods & Reels & Accessories
- Terminal Tackle

Follow us on Facebook
Friday/Saturday 'Deal of the Day'
New product lines and so much more!
Post a question...we reply!

425-259-3056
1913 Broadway • Everett, WA 98201
JohnsSportingGoods.com

VACUPACK™

Commercial grade vacuum packaging for home use:

- Fish
- Game
- Produce
- And more


Several models to choose from!

800-227-3769
www.vacupack.com

MARDON RESORT
POPULAR FISHING DESTINATION

New Lake House's Large RV Pads
Miniature Golf
Restaurant & Tackle
Marina/Moorage

8198 Hwy 262, SE., Othello, WA 99344 | (509) 346-2561
mardonresort.com



Southworth Marine Service



Certified Repairs On:

- Evinrude, Johnson & Mercury Outboards
- OMC, Mercruiser & Volvo Stern Drives

We Specialize in Service Calls!

John Hager
(360) 871-5610
11113 SE Tola Road
Port Orchard, WA 98386
www.southworthmarineservice.com

BENTZ TACKLE/USA



TROUT KOKANEE DODGER

COLORS:
BTD-CHCHARTREUSE
BTD-GEUV GENESIS/UV
BTD-PKUV PINK SCALE/UV
BTD-SVUV SILVER SCALE/UV
BTD-GRUV GREEN SCALE/UV
BTD-CHUV CHARTREUSE/UV

MADE IN USA
PO BOX 758, MILTON, WA
BENTZ-TACKLE.COM

GLOW TUBE
UV FLUORESCENT LURE CHARGER

The most efficient, fast and brightest way to charge your glow lures!

12V. - 360 UV LED LIGHTS Starting at **\$125**

Patent Pending
GLOW-TUBE.COM DVR DESIGN & MFG. SERVICES, LLC



Yeager's SPORTING GOODS
3101 Northwest Ave, Bellingham
Your Bellingham headquarters for fishing gear and expertise since 1921.

- Largest Fishing Department in Whatcom County
- Rods • Line
- Reels • Tackle
- Tackleboxes & Cases
- Decades of experience & expertise to answer any question you might have!

www.yeagerssportinggoods.com
Save \$5
on a purchase of \$50 or more.
Excludes Sale, Clearance Items, Food & Beverages, Gift Certificates, and State Licenses. One Coupon per purchase, must present at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 12/31/2024

CRAB INVASION

European green crabs detected in Quillayute River estuary near La Push

as soon as possible. Public reports and photos of suspected EGC can be submitted using the form available at wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab or through the Washington Invasive Species Council's WA Invasives mobile app. Crab identification guides

Joint survey results in first time invasive species found on Washington's North Central Coast.

Invasive (EGC) have been captured for the first time in a new area of the Washington Coast.

The week of Aug. 5-8, the Quileute Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), and Washington Sea Grant conducted a joint survey for EGC near the port of La Push. Trap sites included the Quileute Marina on the Quileute Reservation, as well as nearby areas within the Quillayute River estuary.

Quileute, WDFW, NWIFC, and Washington Sea Grant staff removed 33 EGC using both traps and hand captures. This is the first time the small but harmful crab species has been detected in the North Central Coast Management Area.

"The detection of invasive crabs around La Push is not surprising given their populations to the north in Makah Bay and to the south in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay," said Chelsey Buffington, WDFW's European green crab project lead.

"Quileute Tribe has been deploying crab traps within the Quillayute River system since 2021 with no EGC captures," said Jennifer Hagen, Marine Policy Advisor/Marine Biologist with Quileute Natural Resources. "Since trapping efforts by others to the north and south along the coast have found crab populations that number in the thousands, Quileute Natural Resources proposed to team up with WDFW staff

and conduct what was dubbed a "bio-blitz". Now that we know they are here in the Quillayute River system, our management strategy will need to be revisited. Ultimately our concern is the displacement of native species and species that are of cultural importance to the Quileute Tribe."

"European green crabs do not respect jurisdictional boundaries," said Justin Bush, WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species policy coordinator and the state's EGC Emergency Incident Commander. "This is an excellent example of tribal nations, the state, and researchers working together to address a shared problem that threatens our environment and coastal economies."

"This detection provides an opportunity to keep EGC numbers low and avoid harm to tribal, cultural, environmental, or economic resources," added Buffington.

Dungeness crabs were also caught and released at numerous trap sites and Dungeness molts spotted throughout the survey area — positive signs that the native crab population is doing well.

The European green crab is a damaging invasive species that threatens native shellfish, eelgrass, and estuary habitat critical for salmon and many other species. The species is a type of shore crab found in shallow areas — typically less than 25 feet of water — including estuaries, mudflats, intertidal zones, and beaches.



Photo by WDFW

WDFW, co-managers, tribes, shellfish growers, and other agencies and partners have removed more than 258,000 EGC from Washington waters so far in 2024, most from Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor on the southern Washington coast. EGC numbers have decreased significantly in areas of the North Puget Sound Region in recent years due to sustained heavy trapping by WDFW, tribes, shellfish growers, and partners.

As capacity and resources allow, teams will continue monitoring the La Push area and trapping EGC to help prevent impacts on native shellfish or estuary habitat. Quileute Tribe intends to develop larger-scale plans for the 2025 trapping season in coordination with the WDFW and partners.

If you find a suspected European green crab or its shell in Washington, take photos and report it

and resources are also available on the European green crab online hub and the WDFW EGC webpage.

As a Prohibited invasive species, it is illegal to possess a live EGC in Washington. Currently, WDFW is not asking the public to kill suspected EGC. This is to protect native crabs, which are often misidentified. More information on EGC rules and regulations is available on WDFW's webpage and in the 2024-25 Sport Fishing Rules.

The public is asked not to tamper with EGC traps, which are usually deployed in shallow areas exposed at low tide. They are typically identified with a bright orange buoy and an official tag or permit.



Reservations Call: 877 777 8862 or 818 224 4744

(MX) 6241410044 - 6241410050

VAN WORMER RESORTS

VAN WORMER'S FISHING FLEET

Hotel PALMAS de CORTEZ

HOTEL PLAYA DEL SOL

Mexico's **Largest Sportfishing Fleet**

The Finest Resorts in Baja's East Cape

Located just 45 miles north of San Jose del Cabo in Los Barriles, B.C.S, Mexico.

www.vanwormerresorts.com info@vanwormerresorts.com