

Web site: www.mwvaclub.org Email: mwvaclub@gmail.com
 Facebook: MWVA Club - Mid Willamette Valley Angler's Club of Salem, Oregon

CLUB NEWS

- Membership: Normal dues began again in 2022.
 - o # Members paid up for 2023
- ~~Walling Pond clean up - Fridays at 8:30 - bring gloves and a trash picker.~~
- Derby info: The entry fee for derbies (in advance and at a monthly meeting) is \$10 and the payouts are \$100, \$50, and \$25 (dues must be current to win).
- The 2023 Steelhead Derby is open now and runs through Dec 31, 2023.
- Speaker forecast/ tracker:
 - o July- Jason Albee, Jason's Fishing Adventures
 - o August- No Meeting
 - o September- ~~ODFW Fisheries Biologist~~ Club member on Surf Perch
 - o October- No Speaker ~~Santiam Rod or Pro-Cure Representative~~
 - o November- Dennis from Dennis' Boat Shop (Winterizing your boat and boat maintenance) ~~ODFW Fisheries Biologist The Fallen Outdoors Representative~~
 - o December- Ed Bowles, Lobbyist, previous ODFW Fish Division Director (Dam breaking on the Snake River)
 - o January- ODFW STEP Biologist, ~~Ron Bird, Nestucca Anglers (Volunteer Program)~~
 - o February- TBD
 - o March- Ron Bird, Nestucca Anglers (Volunteer Program)
- **Board meeting during Oct (After Oct club meeting)**
 - o Election, derbies, speakers, and other information.
 - o Membership- Bring a friend to a meeting and get extra raffle tickets, improve social media, etc.
 - o Reciprocal agreements w/ clubs- CCA, NW Stldhdrs, etc.
 - o Activities/ outings under development:
 - Jan- Club Swap meet
 - Feb- Pizza feed, Sportsman's Show
 - Mar- Herring jigging

- Apr- Surf perch, Walleye, Kokanee
- May- Teach a kid to fish, Devil's Lake, Pikeminnow, Walleye
- Jun- Fin clip, Olalla, Springer, Walleye, Club brood trout derby
- July- Shad, Picnic
- Aug- Salmon
- Sep- Siletz, Nestucca
- Oct- Yaquina
- Nov- TBD
- Dec- Netarts crabbing
- o Be on the lookout for a member survey (type of fishing, have a boat, have an RV, etc.) to aid in derby/ support planning

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ODFW Fishing Report (As of Dec 10th)

This weekend's best bets include :



- North Coast Rivers are at or near flood stage as of this writing and due to that, there will be limited opportunities this coming weekend.
- Once the rivers do drop, there will be opportunity for early returning hatchery steelhead in the North Fork Nehalem River, Necanicum River and Lower Columbia tributaries.
- There are still hatchery coho available in the North Fork Nehalem and Trask Rivers, and with the new wild broodstock program there will still be a few bright fish coming in throughout December.
- Catch-and-release fishing for chum CLOSED on Nov. 15.
- Finally, we have had a steady amount of rainfall the past few weeks. The Mid Coast rivers have been having steady increases in river levels that allow fish to move freely throughout the basins. As always this bodes well for fall fishing conditions moving into later October and November. Most of the fish that have been kegged into lower tidewaters have spread out. Fish have moved higher up into all of the Mid Coast systems.
- The Siuslaw has slowed down the past few weeks as fish are moving up. The Siletz has remained fairly steady and the Alsea has remained fair. The Yaquina has finally started to see a bit more fish, but overall it's remained quite slow throughout the season to this point.
- Coho fisheries are now closed in most of the Mid Coast basins.
- Beaver Creek will be closing for coho on Nov. 30.
- The coho fishery has opened on both the Tahkenitch and Siltcoos lakes check their section for the most recent update!
- Over 30,000 coho have passed Willamette Falls, suggesting there could be good fishing in upstream tributaries and are sometimes concentrated at the mouths of tributaries systems such as the Yamhill, Rickreall, Molalla and Luckiamute.
- Foster Reservoir was recently week with 3,000 rainbow trout.
- We're on the tail end of the coho run on the North Santiam, but there may still be fish to catch once water levels drop to fishing levels.
- This would be a good week for some trout fishing on Alton Baker Canoe Canal, which is getting a boatload of 1- to 2-pound fish.



Jones Creek railroad culvert before improvement.



Salmon and Steelhead habitat improvement

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught. ~ **Anonymous**



Fishing Notices:**ALSEA RIVER:** fall Chinook

Fall Chinook is open on the Alsea, but the season is beginning to wind down. With the fall rains we have been getting the fish have moved upstream away from the bay. There are still a few later fish coming into the basin, but most fish have moved upstream.

We are still getting a few reports of fish being caught higher upstream in the system with few reports of fish being caught lower. The bite has been fair But most of the fish will be moved high into the system and on to spawn. Fishing for wild coho is now closed on the Alsea. Coho increased their biting aggression in the last week of the season and we saw a decent amount of fish being caught throughout the season.

Crabbing is still going strong into December. Some nice-size crabs are being pulled, so toss a pot while you troll, and go home with a seafood feast! Last updated 11/29/23.

NESTUCCA BASIN (Nestucca, Three Rivers, and Little Nestucca): steelhead,

The Nestucca River peaked right at action stage, and although it's dropping, it probably won't get into good fishing condition this week. It may be fishable early next week for those who don't mind fishing high water.

The Nestucca gets one of the North Coast's largest releases of hatchery winter steelhead and whenever it does get back in shape there should be a few around. Hatchery steelhead on the Nestucca are from wild broodstock and as such peak January through March. but there are always a few fish caught in December. Last updated 12/6/23.

SILETZ RIVER: Chinook

The Siletz has been a strong fishery moving into the later fall season, but like the rest of the mid coast Rivers it's starting to wind down! The bite has slowed as fish are racing higher up into the system.

Fish have moved upriver and have been caught near the deadline. A few later fish have been seen rolling between Old Mill and Illahee on town loop.

Wild coho retention is now closed on the Siletz. Overall, it was a decent fishery with lots of coho being caught throughout tidewater and above.

Trout fishing closed Oct. 31. Last updated 11/29/23.

WILSON RIVER: steelhead

The Wilson crested in moderate flood stage yesterday. It's dropping fast and may be fishable Friday before going back up with Saturday's rain. If predictions are correct, it should be in prime fishing condition early next week.

The Wilson gets the North Coast's largest release of hatchery winter steelhead and once the water goes down there should be a few of those fish showing up. Hatchery winter steelhead on the Wilson are from wild broodstock and as such the run peaks January through March, but there are always some fish caught in December. Last updated 12/6/23.

DETROIT RESERVOIR: trout

To avoid downstream flooding, the reservoir is currently capturing and storing some of this water from these rainstorms. The water elevation has risen about 30 feet since last week, making it possible - at least temporarily - to launch boats at Mongold boat ramp. Anglers can bank fish from access points such as Mongold State Park or Detroit Flats Day Use area. For the latest information

on water levels at Detroit Reservoir check with the Army Corps of Engineers' website <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/wm/teacups.html> for more information.

Detroit Reservoir is one of the premier kokanee fisheries in the state. As a reminder, anglers are allowed to keep up to five trout, with an additional five kokanee bag limit. Trout are available year-round and should be trying to fatten up before the lean months ahead. Pretty much all techniques will catch fish, but it might take some experimenting to find out what is most effective on the day you're out there. Now that the busy season is over, anglers that venture up there will find good conditions without the crowds. Last updated 12/6/23.

SANTIAM RIVER (NORTH FORK): Steelhead, trout, coho

River levels best for fishing are at or below 3,000 cfs, and the river is currently running at around 7,400 cfs at the gauge in Mehama.

Fishing for coho salmon is just about over with most fish busy spawning and few new arrivals expected. Besides coho salmon there are a few summer steelhead around, but it was a very disappointing year overall for steelhead. Anglers can also target trout for catch-and-release.

Fishing for hatchery steelhead is open year-round. Any unclipped (wild) steelhead or trout that are caught must be released unharmed. Last updated 11/29/23.

The gate at Green's Bridge is open again. Anglers can bank fish or launch and retrieve boats there without needing a key.

There are several large, downed trees in the river creating some dangerous hazards for boaters in the lower river. For more information check out the Oregon State Marine Board website.

SANTIAM RIVER (SOUTH FORK): steelhead, bass, trout,

Fishing is generally best when flows are below 3,000 cfs. Currently flows are around 7,400cfs at the Waterloo gauge as of Dec. 5. The river is very turbid due to high sediment load caused by the drawdown of Green Peter reservoir. It's likely this will persist for the next several weeks until the drawdown is complete, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins storing water again. Fishing success will be extremely low during this time. A better bet is the North Santiam.

Anglers are reminded that only fin-clipped trout may be kept. Last updated 11/29/23.

WALLING POND: trout, panfish

This eight-acre privately-owned pond will be **closed** for the next six months or so for maintenance. During this time the pond will not be stocked. Fish that were scheduled to be stocked into this pond have been diverted to other ponds such as Walter Wirth, Turner Lake and Timber Linn Pond. Last updated 11/8/23.

WALTER WIRTH LAKE: trout, bass, panfish

This urban lake usually gets stocked from about Thanksgiving through May. The rest of the year anglers can target bluegill and bass. It was stocked before Thanksgiving with 1,500 hatchery trout.

Walter Wirth is a 20-acre lake located within the City of Salem's Cascades Gateway Park with good access all the way around. Last updated 11/29/23.

WILLAMETTE RIVER: catch-and-release sturgeon, steelhead, spring Chinook, coho, small and largemouth bass

The upstream section between Albany and Harrisburg is open year-round for trout fishing, which can be very good when flows are cooperating. Look for deep slot pools and the tail-end of long riffles and the head of pools where the fish are likely stacked up in feeding lanes.

Smallmouth bass can be a lot of fun to catch and are plentiful between Salem and Corvallis during the spring and summer. Trout prefer the cooler temperatures upstream of Corvallis. From Salem downstream there are plenty of largemouth bass in the deeper, quieter sections.

Coho are now plentiful in the river and are sometimes concentrated at the mouths of tributaries systems such as the Yamhill, Rickreall, Molalla, and the Luckiamute. Anglers may keep up to 2 adult salmon per day (also 5 jacks per day).

Buena Vista boat ramp is still listed as closed, but should be open soon.

OCEAN:

HALIBUT- Pacific halibut fishing season is now closed for the remainder of 2023. Season options for 2024 will be proposed in mid-February.

BOTTOMFISH-

Depoe Bay: Fishing effort was slow last week; however, anglers who made it out saw limits of rockfish and cabezon. Lingcod was quite productive with most anglers reaching their daily bag limit of 2 fish (reminder that the minimum size for lingcod is 22 inches).

Newport: Fishing effort is still quite slow with variable weather and ocean conditions. Landings were fair with some boats bringing in close to limits of black and deacon rockfishes. The lingcod bite has improved with limits brought in by most anglers.

Brookings: The weather kept anglers in port most of the week. Those who fished found the fishing quite slow.

DUNGENESS CRAB- Ocean crabbing open. Crabbing in Newport has been fair. Crabbing in Waldport has been great, but expected to decline due to heavy rains.

RAZOR CLAMS

Razor clamming is now closed from Cape Blanco to the Oregon/California border. Recent razor clam samples indicate levels of domoic acid (a marine biotoxin) are above the safety threshold.

Razor clam harvesting is open from the Washington border to Cape Blanco. Always call the ODA shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or ODA shellfish closures website before harvesting for the most current information about shellfish safety closures.

BAY CLAMS

Bay clam harvest remains open along the entire Oregon coast.

MUSSELS

The sport harvesting of mussels is open along the entire Oregon coast.

EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB This invasive species now has a limit of 35 per day to encourage harvest. While they look similar to Oregon's native shore crabs, they have three prominent bumps between the eyes and 5 spines down the side of the carapace.

Report a Wildlife or Habitat Law Violation or Suspicious Activity

Call 1-800-452-7888 or *OSP (*677) from a mobile phone

Email TIP@osp.oregon.gov between hours of 8:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday – Friday

9 Rules of Fishing on Another Person's Boat:

First time aboard? There are several unwritten rules of being a passenger on another person's boat. Whether you're new to fishing on a boat, or you're a seasoned angler, these are rules you should follow.

#1 – Do not bring bananas on the boat

Let's repeat that, do not bring bananas on the boat, ever! While this may seem silly to some, it is widely considered the worst thing anyone can bring aboard a boat. Bananas are said to bring misfortune and bad luck. Regardless of whether you believe in superstitions or not, respect the boat and bring an apple instead.

#2 – Compensate the captain

This should be a "no-brainer," but always offer the captain some form of compensation for their troubles. Whether it's paying for gas or bringing the drinks and food, this will give you a better shot at getting a second invite.

#3 – Buy bait

This ties in with compensating the captain, but make sure you offer to pick up bait for your trip. If you know what bait you need and the captain says not to worry about it, buy some anyway as a backup in case you run out.

#4 – Prepare for motion sickness

If this is your first time going on a boat or you know you might get sick, do everyone a favor and prepare beforehand. Whether you need to take Dramamine or eat hours before you go, don't cut the day short for everyone else or make it a miserable trip for yourself by getting sick.

#5 – Clean up

If there is garbage on the floor, find a bag and clean up. Offer to help put the boat away to make it go faster. Don't be the person that just says "thanks" and leaves.

#6 – Be the first mate

The captain is most likely taking you to his spot and using his gear. Whether it's running a trolling program, dropping anchor or just asking the captain what he needs from you, this will speed up the process and put fish in the boat faster.

#7 – Listen once

This is a big one for a lot of people, but keep your ears and eyes open. Make sure it sticks when the captain teaches or tells you something new. You are the copilot, so keep your eyes open for floating debris and anything else that could ruin an otherwise great day.

#8 – The captain is always right

The only reason this would not be true is if they put you in danger. When it comes to the fishing and layout, follow what the captain says. It's their boat and that gives them the power. If you have a disagreement, talk about it when you're on dry land.

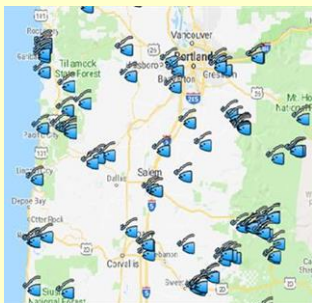
#9 – Enjoy the trip!

No one wants to fish with the sad guy or be stuck on a boat with him. Everyone is there to enjoy a day of fishing, so stay happy! (How could you not?)

ODFW Trout Stocking Schedule:



Week of	Waterbody	Zone/Office	Legals	Trophy	Brood	Total
Dec. 18, 2023 - Dec. 22, 2023	WALTER WIRTH LK	Willamette / Corvallis	1,600	0	0	1,600
Dec. 18, 2023 - Dec. 22, 2023	TIMBER LINN LK	Willamette / Corvallis	1,000	0	0	1,000
Jan. 06, 2024 - Jan. 12, 2024	HUDDLESTON PD (FMR HAMPTON PD)	Willamette / Clackamas	232	0	0	232
Jan. 29, 2024 - Feb. 02, 2024	SHERIDAN PD	Willamette / Clackamas	232	0	0	232
Feb. 05, 2024 - Feb. 09, 2024	ALTON BAKER CANAL	Willamette / Springfield	743	0	0	743
Feb. 05, 2024 - Feb. 09, 2024	SUNNYSIDE PARK PD	Willamette / Corvallis	1,000	40	0	1,040
Feb. 05, 2024 - Feb. 09, 2024	WAVERLY LK	Willamette / Corvallis	900	0	0	900
Feb. 05, 2024 - Feb. 09, 2024	TIMBER LINN LK	Willamette / Corvallis	800	40	0	840
Feb. 12, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024	HENRY HAGG LK	Willamette / Clackamas	0	1,000	0	1,000
Feb. 12, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024	SALISH PD, W	Willamette / Clackamas	0	600	0	600
Feb. 12, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024	SILVER CR RES	Willamette / Clackamas	0	1,000	0	1,000
Feb. 12, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024	MT HOOD PD (MHCC CAMPUS)	Willamette / Clackamas	666	0	0	666
Feb. 12, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024	ST LOUIS PD	Willamette / Clackamas	0	1,000	0	1,000
Feb. 19, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2024	ALTON BAKER CANAL	Willamette / Springfield	743	0	0	743
Feb. 26, 2024 - Mar. 01, 2024	SHERIDAN PD	Willamette / Clackamas	666	0	0	666
Feb. 26, 2024 - Mar. 01, 2024	HUDDLESTON PD (FMR HAMPTON PD)	Willamette / Clackamas	1,001	0	0	1,001



No Remaining ODFW Free fishing weekends for 2023.

Send in your fish/ fishing pictures to see if you make the newsletter! mwvaclub@gmail.com

Non-Club News and opportunities:

Nestucca Anglers/ Rhoades Pond:

Collection and spawning was in October. [Nestucca Anglers](#) for more information about upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer. Next is cleaning the pond in January and March.

SOLVE: Beach & Riverside Cleanup locations here: [SOLVE | Beach & Riverside Cleanup \(solveoregon.org\)](#). Club members are cleaning up Walling Pond area on Fridays.

Angler Education Training and Volunteer Opportunities- ODFW Volunteer Instructor Amanda Boyles, Angler Education Coordinator for ODFW. Thank you all and please give me a call (503-580-5102) or email Amanda.M.BOYLES@odfw.oregon.gov if you have any questions!

Coastal Conservation Association (CCA): Salem Chapter Banquet Mar 16, 2024- There will be a Club table. New CCA Oregon Executive Director Pat Hoglund [Who we are | CCA OREGON](#)

ODFW: Program to Restore Oregon's Chum Salmon (PROCS) is seeking volunteers to assist with spawning chum salmon at Big Creek Hatchery (near Astoria), which includes measuring fish, collecting biological samples, and recording data. Volunteers would also help with transporting Chum Salmon to nearby streams, which requires the safe handling and release of fish. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to learn more about Chum Salmon life history, their importance to the ecosystem, and how PROCS uses science to manage the species. [PROCS information and volunteering](#)

NW Steelheaders (Salem Chapter): <https://salemnwsteelheaders.org/> for more info. Chapter meets the 3d Tuesday of the month at Keizer City Hall. Dues \$40/yr. Fishing related information from the Oregon legislature and ODFW: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/docs/23-25_EBAC/2nd%20EBAC%20Meeting_POP%20Handout.pdf.

Mid-Willamette Outreach Group: [Mid-Willamette Outreach Group - Marion SWCD](#) – Our River- the Willamette!

Salmon Watch: World Salmon Council: Want to help kids learn about salmon? Check out this volunteer opportunity: [New Volunteer Registration | World Salmon Council](#)



Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at Center50+ in Salem at 7 PM

Next meeting: Dec 12, 2023
Ed Bowles, prior ODFW Fisheries Director

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.mwvaclub.org

Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club
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**Customer Name Street Address City, ST ZIP
Code**