

DECEMBER 2019

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Mid-Willamette Valley



Angler's Club

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Club News

Board Meeting was November 17, nothing scheduled for December

- Membership: 9 new members so far this year. Dues are [past] due- forty nine have not paid, 51 did not pay in 2018; not paid up= no ticket in the drawing, no printed newsletter.
- Speakers for remainder of year/ early next: Ed Bowles, ODFW Fisheries Director for Dec, FishOnJohn for January.
- Derby info: The entry fee for derbies (in advance and at a monthly meeting) is \$10 and the payouts are \$100, \$50 and \$25.
- The Season long Steelhead derby runs from Jan 1, 2019 thru Dec 31, 2019.
- Yaquina Derby pending
- Sturgeon Derby pending
- Walling Pond cleanup held on 30 Oct- STEP award

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“All I can say to the kids is if you've a problem in fishing or life, if you talk to an older person, you're gonna end up alright, because nine times out of 10, they've been through the same thing.”

- Rex Hunt

ODFW Reports (as of Dec 6th)



Winter trout and steelhead are best bets for winter fishing

Anglers are starting to catch winter steelhead in mid- and north coast rivers. Fish low in the systems until there's some rain to get the fish moving.

Late fall/early winter can be a good time to target native redband trout in rivers like the lower Deschutes, Fall, Metolius, Crooked and Blitzen. The fishing is a little slower, but sharing the river with fewer people can make up for it.

Trout anglers also should consider the upper Willamette between Albany and Harrisburg. It's open for trout year-round and fishing can be very good when flows are cooperating.

Fishing: Willamette Zone:

Attention anglers – we want your photos! www.myodfw.com

Whether you're out after trout or bass, steelhead or salmon, surfperch or rockfish, we'd love to see photos of your adventure. When you submit your photos to ODFW they could appear on our website or signs, or in social or brochures. What a great way to share your experience with others!

Coho are beginning to show up in good numbers on the North Santiam, especially below Stayton.

It won't be long before snow will limit access to central Oregon's high elevation, hike-in lakes. Until then fish will be feeding aggressively as they get ready for the winter, and fishing can be good.

Willamette Falls fish counts (as of Dec 4, 2019):

Adult Spring Chinook- 18,882

Adult Fall Chinook- 1,471

Adult Coho- 7,386

Winter Steelhead- 22

Summer Steelhead- 5,362

“Once I retire and slow down, I don't want to be in New York. I want to be somewhere near a lake or a pond, so that on my days when I have nothing to do, I can go fishing.”

-Sharon Jones

When water conditions are low, clear and cold, like they are now, be sure to practice good catch-and-release techniques when releasing fish.

- Land fish quickly. Playing a fish too long reduces its chances to recover.
- Keep the fish in the water while landing and releasing it.
- If you can't remove the hook easily, cut the leader near the hook, which will eventually dissolve.
- Revive the fish in moving water before releasing it.

Oregon Take A Soldier Fishing: Next event July 10th & 11th, 2020. Shelter Cove Resort and Marina, Odell Lake.



Fishing Notices:

KILCHIS RIVER: The Kilchis is low and Chinook fishing is slow. Some Chinook have moved up, but in small numbers. That said, the Kilchis has one of the later Chinook runs on the North Coast and therefore is one of the better bets for Chinook this late in the season. The Kilchis is a mostly wild fish river for steelhead, and as such won't really kick off until late December. It will also take some rain to get fish moving in. The catch-and-release fishery for chum salmon is over; there are still a lot of chum around, but they are actively spawning, so anglers should do their best to avoid them and their redds (spawning nests).

NECANICUM RIVER: Fall Chinook fishing is slowing down for the year; there's a few fish around but most of these fish will probably be dark and more interested in spawning than biting. It's still early for steelhead, but the Necanicum does get an early run of hatchery steelhead. The river is low and clear making for challenging fishing conditions, but for anglers wanting to get an early start on steelhead fishing this is one of the better places to try on the north coast this early in the season. Small presentations, dark colors, and light line will provide the best chance of success under these low, clear water conditions.

NEHALEM RIVER: Fall Chinook fishing is slow, and is mostly done for the season.

NORTH FORK NEHALEM RIVER: A few steelhead have been caught on the North Fork, but the water is low, clear, and cold making for challenging fishing conditions and not much fish movement. Numbers will be small for now, but if you are wanting to be one of the first to catch a winter steelhead on the North coast, than fishing the North Fork after a rain and while the river is dropping is probably your best bet. Hatchery coho are mostly done, and Chinook will be winding down as well.

NESTUCCA RIVER, LITTLE NESTUCCA RIVER, AND THREE RIVERS: The first winter steelhead of the season returned to the Cedar Creek Hatchery last week, and although numbers will be small there are probably a few early returning hatchery fish starting to show up in Three Rivers and the lower Nestucca. The water is low, clear, and cold, so fishing conditions are challenging. Small presentations, dark colors, and light line will provide the best chance of success under these low, clear water conditions. Fall Chinook should definitely be winding down with the majority of fish on the spawning grounds by now. That said, we've seen bright Chinook come out of the Nestucca all the way into December, but it will be low numbers.

SALMON RIVER: Winter steelhead fishing is open on the Salmon River and will pick up once we get some much-needed rain. The majority of the winter steelhead on the Salmon River are wild and the run usually peaks around mid-December through February. Expect the first few winter steelhead to show up after the next big rain event.

SILETZ RIVER: Winter steelhead are starting to show up in the Siletz River. The low water and cold temperatures are not ideal conditions but a few fish are starting to move up the river. The next big rain event expected next week \ should kick off the winter steelhead season on the Siletz. With the next big rain event, fish will be found throughout the river from the gorge down to the head of tidewater.

SILTCOOS & TAHKENITCH LAKES: Coho fishing has been slow in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch so far this year. The dry, clear and cold weather pattern will slow the number of fish coming into the lakes. Fishing should pick up when the next big rain storm is expected to arrive next week. After the next big rain, fishing should improve and be good through December.

SIUSLAW RIVER: Winter steelhead typically show up on the Siuslaw River in December and peak January through February. The next significant rain event will have fish on the move headed upriver to the popular Whitaker Creek fishery on the Siuslaw River. Time to get the steelhead gear out for the season. Lake Creek opened for winter steelhead fishing on Dec. 1. Expect the steelhead fishing to be slow until we get some rain to bring in more fish. Fall chinook retention remains closed on Lake Creek for the remainder of the season.

TILLAMOOK BAY: Chinook fishing on Tillamook Bay is slow and pressure is light. While we are definitely well past the peak of the fall run, Tillamook Bay is known to get some late fish (mostly headed for the Kilchis and Wilson Rivers) and there will be a few fresh Chinook moving through well into December.

TRASK RIVER: It's an in between time of year on the Trask. Chinook and coho are mostly done, steelhead haven't quite started yet. There's always a chance of catching a late Chinook or an early steelhead, but numbers are going to be very low right now. For anglers planning to fish the Trask River at the popular "hatchery hole," be advised the hatchery grounds are currently closed to the public. The hatchery grounds closure does not affect fishing on the river itself, only access through the hatchery grounds. During the hatchery grounds closure, all vehicle and angler access is prohibited until further notice to ensure public safety while the construction is in progress. Parking is available to anglers on Chance Rd. near the entrance to the hatchery, and anglers can continue to access the river on the trail from the parking area but from there must remain on the riverbank without accessing the main hatchery grounds.

WILSON RIVER: Effective Dec.7 through the end of the year, the Wilson River will close to Chinook fishing due to low water conditions. See more information about the need for this closure. The Wilson's popular winter steelhead run doesn't really start to show up in any consistent numbers until we get into December, but if you're feeling lucky there's always a chance of getting an early fish. That said, for the time being numbers will be very low.

YAQUINA RIVER: Winter steelhead is open on the Yaquina and Big Elk systems for the season. With the next big rain, winter steelhead will start to show up in the Yaquina/Big Elk systems. January through March is the typical peak for winter steelhead in the Yaquina/Big Elk.

MWVA Dec 2019

ODFW Trout Stocking Snapshot

MORE AT: [HTTPS://MYODFW.COM/FISHING/SPECIES/TROUT/STOCKING-SCHEDULE](https://myodfw.com/fishing/species/trout/stocking-schedule)



No ODFW Remaining 2019 Free fishing days

Week of	Waterbody	Zone/Office	Legals	Trophy	Brood	Total
Dec. 08, 2019 - Dec. 13, 2019	ALTON BAKER CANAL	Willamette / Springfield	0	500	0	500
Dec. 08, 2019 - Dec. 13, 2019	ROW R NATURE PK-Fmr Cott. Grv. Pd	Willamette / Springfield	0	400	0	400
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	HUDDLESTON PD (FMR HAMPTON PD)	Willamette / Clackamas	0	350	0	350
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	TIMBER LINN LK	Willamette / Corvallis	0	500	0	500
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	JUNCTION CITY PD	Willamette / Corvallis	0	1,000	0	1,000
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	WALTER WIRTH LK	Willamette / Corvallis	0	1,000	0	1,000
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	ARIZONA PD	Southwest / Gold Beach	0	887	0	887
Dec. 16, 2019 - Dec. 20, 2019	WALLING PD	Willamette / Corvallis	0	550	0	550
Dec. 23, 2019 - Dec. 27, 2019	ROW R NATURE PK-Fmr Cott. Grv. Pd	Willamette / Springfield	0	400	0	400
Dec. 23, 2019 - Dec. 27, 2019	ALTON BAKER CANAL	Willamette / Springfield	0	500	0	500

CRAB:

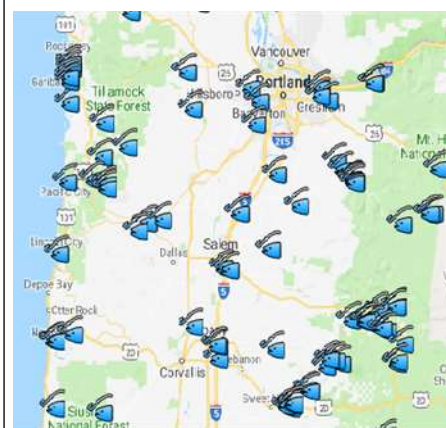
Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, recreational crabbers will need to mark all floating surface buoys with a name and other identifying information.

Crabbing in the Coos Bay estuary is picking up as we head into the winter months. Crabbing by boat and setting pots near the jetties yields the most crab. Dock crabbing in Coos Bay has been slow.

Central coast crabbing in Alsea has been moderate to good. Yaquina Bay has seen fair to poor returns by boat. Crabbers are landing fuller crab.

Crabbing in Tillamook and Netarts bays has been moderate.

Another Oregon native present in some of Oregon's estuaries is the red rock crab. Crabbers can retain 24 red rock crabs of any sex or size. There have also been higher numbers of Pacific rock crab in Yaquina Bay this year.



"There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind."

- Washington Irving

CRAB (cont'd) :

Some crabbers in estuaries may encounter non-native European green crab in their catch this year. While they look similar to Oregon's native shore crabs, they can be identified by the three prominent bumps between the eyes and 5 spines down the side of the carapace. They are not always green and color is not a good identifying feature. The daily catch limit for European green crab also falls in the "Other" shellfish category and is 10 in aggregate with other species that fall in this category (see page 82 of the fishing synopsis for more details). European green crab can be any size or sex.

Non-Club News and opportunities:

**Send in your fish/ fishing pictures to see if you make the newsletter!
MWVACLUB@GMAIL.COM**

**“I DO HUNT AND I DO FISH, AND I DON’T APOLOGIZE TO ANYBODY FOR HUNTING AND FISHING.”
– GENERAL NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF, US ARMY, RET.**



Support a Club Member:

G.I. Wilson, long time MWVA Club member, has published a humor book. It is a collection of magazine and newspaper columns that have been published. A number of the articles have won top awards in the Excellence In Craft competition of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association.

Take a Vet Fishing at Odell Lake:

We are requesting an earlier commitment from our boat captains so we may be better prepared for the event, our boat captain goals are; a dozen boat captains by the end of the year, and 30 boats committed the first of May. SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR THE FIRST 30 BOAT CAPTAINS TO REGISTER - A SPECIAL ONE OF A KIND SURPRISE GIFT FOR BOAT CAPTAINS ONLY. Make your arrangement for boat slips and then register as a boat captain. You will not get an email confirmation until after mid-April from Bernie Hoene. Register by going to: www.takeasoldierfishing.org. Official TAVF site for messages and news is: Take A Veteran Fishing at Odell Lake. Feel to use that FB site to post messages, reach out to others in the group and to view news and group information. Our secretary, Kimberly H, will administer our FB site.

Nestucca Anglers/ Rhoades Pond: Completed their final spawning of the Rhoades Pond Fall Chinook for the 2020 release. Cedar Creek Hatchery says " We have spawned a total of 40 pairs."

PNWSS- February 5-9, 2020: Pacific Northwest Sportsmen Show is the largest sportsmen’s show west of the Mississippi and undoubtedly the region’s most anticipated annual event for outdoor adventurers and sportsmen of all ages. Plus, it’s the Northwest’s premier Sports Fishing Boat Show, featuring sports fishing gear, drift boats and sledges, fishing equipment, demonstrations and much more. Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Dr Portland OR 97217



Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club

**MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM
AT THE 50+ SENIOR CENTER**

Next meeting: Dec 10, 2019

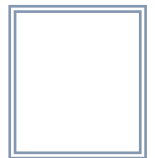
Presenter will be Ed Bowles, ODFW Fisheries Division Administrator

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.mwvaclub.org

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