

# Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club

Web site: [www.mwvaclub.org](http://www.mwvaclub.org) Email: [mwvaclub@gmail.com](mailto:mwvaclub@gmail.com)

Facebook: MWVA Club - Mid Willamette Valley Angler's Club of Salem, Oregon

## CLUB NEWS

- Board met on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, results as follows:
- Attending were:
  - o Jay W- President
  - o Dick W- Vice President
  - o Linda C- Treasurer
  - o Vacant- Secretary
- Board members (with duty specialty in parenst)-
  - o Robert M (Ticket Chair)
  - o Tim H (Ticket Asst)
  - o Larry N (Membership & Dues Chair, Prizes Asst)
  - o Ralph N (Prizes Chair)
  - o Dave W (Derby Chair)
  - o Pete F (Derby Asst)
  - o Robert B (Activities Chair)
  - o Vacancy 1 (Recently held by Steve W)
- Honorary members:
  - o Steve A (Past Pres)
  - o Craig N (Past Pres)
- Absent:
  - o Adam F (Social Media Chair)
  - o Norm M (Past President)
- Treasurer report: Balance of \$5989 (rent paid in March, new balance pending)
- Speaker forecast report:
  - o Apr- Mike Nelson, Nelson's Fishing Adventures. Guide raffle- Jason's fishing adventures

- o May- TBD
- o Jun- TBD
- o July- None, picnic Maud Williamson State Park
- o Aug- None, dark
- o Sep- OSU Extension service (food preservation- smoking, canning, drying
- o Oct- TBD
- o Nov- TBD
- o Dec- TBD

### Derby report:

- o Reiterated 1 prize per person (may have caught more than one fish)
- o Springer Derby- 5 Apr- weigh in at Fred's at 3 pm- Dave W POC
- o Devil's Lake in May- feasibility
- o Walleye in May- feasibility
- o Detroit- Rainbow only in June- feasibility
- o Willamette- July- feasibility
- o Siletz/ Nestucca- deconflicting for 20 Sep
- o Diamond Lake and Walling Pond are out for derbies
- o

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- Board notes:
  - o Quarterly Board meeting, not synched to club meeting (rec late Aug, Nov, Feb, May). Next Board meeting 1 May 2025 @ 6:00pm @ Center 50+
  - o If material support provided by a speaker or host (eg table space at a show, or donated guide seats), then they get mention in newsletters, on the website, on social media, and club membership for a year (Jason's Fishing Adventures, GDF most recent recipients)
  - o Add/ update board information to website and newsletter
  - o Need annual budget plan
  - o Approved \$600 quarterly for raffle prizes (about \$200/ month)
  - o Pizza feed- need event ticket clarity-
  - o Jay uploaded derby sign-up sheets to Google drive
  - o Board had a "No" vote to attend Salem CCA Benefit Auction with a group or sponsor table on 12 Apr 2025
- Membership: New year to pay your dues- please check in with Linda to settle. Larry N is the Board Membership chair.
  - o 106 Members NOT current for 2025. 70 Members were not current for 2024.
- 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).
  - o Reminder that any club member can be in a derby, even if they are a guide, but you can't hire a guide for a daily derby (seasonal is OK).
  - o The 2025 Derbies are open- sign up and pay.
- Speaker tracker for 2024/2025:
  - o January 2024- CCA Oregon Dave Schamp and Pat Hoglund
  - o February- Pizza Feed, no speaker
  - o March- Ron Bird, Nestucca Anglers (Volunteer Program)
  - o April- Elise Kelley, ODFW biologist AND Walleye clinic
  - o May- Wayne Parker, Good Day Fishing
  - o Jun- Randy Bales (Lured) AND ODFW Rep
  - o Jul- 28<sup>th</sup>- Picnic, Maud Williamson State Park
  - o August- Dr. Debbie Colbert, ODFW Director
  - o September- ODFW Hatchery meeting review, Denny (Club member)
  - o October- Bass fishing discussion

- o November- Jason Hambly, Pro-Cure Rep
- o December- Jay Yelas, BassMaster Champion
- o January 2025- Tom Rumreich, ODFW Biologist/ STEP, Bob Spelbrink, ODFW Commissioner
- o February- Pizza Feed @ Wallery's, 6 PM,
- o Mar- Swap meet- bring something to sell, swap, or trade, ODFW Assistant District Fish Biologist Alex Farrand

- Activities/ outings under dev:
  - o Jan- TBD
  - o Feb- Pizza feed, Sportsman's Show, Table at Saltwater Sportsman's Show in Salem
  - o Mar- Swap meet at meeting, Herring jigging
  - o Apr- Surf perch, Walleye, Kokanee
  - o May- Teach a kid to fish, Pikeminnow, Walleye
  - o Jun- Fin clip, Springer, Walleye, Club brood trout derby, Shad
  - o July- Bass, Club Picnic, Take a Vet fishing
  - o Aug- Salmon
  - o Sep- Siletz, Nestucca
  - o Oct- Yaquina
  - o Nov- TBD
  - o Dec- Crabbing

- In Memorial: Past member Fred VanNatta passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2025.



Fred napping on a tuna trip



#### Recent Supporters:

[Jason's Fishing Adventures](#)

[Home - Good Day Fishing](#)

[Pro Cure Baits – Pro-Cure, Inc](#)

the water will be high going into the weekend.

# ODFW Fishing Report

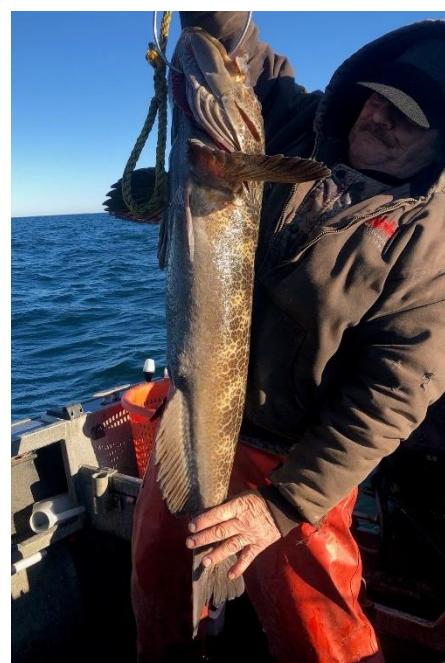
(As of Apr 3d)



- Columbia- Spring Chinook closed.
- North coast steelhead fishing slowed this week and while rivers are in good shape currently; dry weather this week will have them low and clear by the weekend. The Nestucca, Wilson and North Fork Nehalem rivers will offer the best opportunities for catching hatchery steelhead. Many tributaries and upper river sections close to steelhead angling March 31, so be sure to check the regulations before heading out in April.
- North Coast lakes have been stocked with trout and those listed below will be getting a second stocking this week. The fish look really good this year and are a great size for catching and eating! One exception is South lake, which was not able to be stocked due to snow on the access road; we will be getting those fish in as soon as possible.
- Surplus winter steelhead have been released into Coffenbury Lake, Vernonia Pond and Lost Lake, and surplus summer steelhead were released into Town Lake recently. These fish can be a great alternative when conditions in the rivers are less than ideal and fighting a steelhead in still water is a unique and fun experience.
- Beaches in Lincoln City, Newport, and Siuslaw offer great opportunities for Surf Perch. Spring and early summer are great times to surf perch fish along the midcoast. If freshwater fisheries are slow, try your line on the shore and cast for schooled up surf perch on an incoming tide. This weekend looks good!
- Rains came late last week and into the weekend rising most of our Mid Coast rivers. The weekend may be fishable depending on how the rest of the week's

- With spring on the way, the Willamette River and other waterbodies are increasing in activity.
- Kokanee fishing continues to be excellent on Lake Billy Chinook with fish averaging 13 inches; however, with spring run-off occurring water clarity is reduced in the Crooked and Deschutes River Arms making for challenging conditions
- With most year-round stream fisheries affected by spring runoff and poor water clarity, the spring-fed Metolius River is a good bet for consistent fishing for redband trout and whitefish.
- Anglers report good fishing for brown trout on the upper Deschutes upstream of the Old Mill area in Bend and around Tumalo State Park.
- At Haystack Reservoir anglers report good fishing for both trophy-size excess brood hatchery trout and holdover trout in the 16 to 17-inch range.

## Recent Member Pictures:



Joe Buhr with  
a 24-pound  
lingcod on the  
Sea Fox boat  
out of Depoe  
Bay.

## Fishing Notices:

### COLUMBIA RIVER: Closed for Salmon and Sturgeon.

Dam Count: Bonneville	2025 Total thru 4/6	Chinook	Jacks	Steelhead	Wild Steelhead
		445	47	927	664

Columbia River salmon managers will hold a teleconference Wednesday afternoon, April 9, "to consider the following fishery: Mainstem recreational spring Chinook downstream of Bonneville Dam"

### ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead

Steelhead fishing continues to be fair on the Alsea River. A few folks are catching fish either floating lower down in the system or fishing near the hatchery holes. The bite has definitely slowed down but fish are still in the system as we head into another fishable weekend.

There's a lot of bank fishing access, and fish have been getting caught, near the hatchery holes. Drift fishing in the lower basin has also been productive for anglers in the Alsea Basin. Last updated 04/03/25.

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

The Nestucca is in good shape, and while it will get a little low this week, it should remain fishable. There are hatchery and wild (catch and release only for wilds) throughout the fishery. The Nestucca has been fair for winter steelhead, but it looks like it will be a little high this weekend and early next week. When it's in shape there should be fish throughout the fishery. The upper Nestucca above Moon Creek closed to angling April 1 to protect spawning wild steelhead and out-migrating juveniles and will reopen for trout and summer steelhead on May 22. *Last updated 4/3/25.*

### SILETZ RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead slowed down a bit on the Siletz. Like its neighbors, it's been a fair season on the Siletz, with fish seemingly being caught in big waves this year. Fish are taking advantage of the warmer weather and moving higher up into the basin. Fish have been caught in the upper gorge area and throughout some of the lower drift floats. The upper gorge offers bank access for targeting winter steelhead. The gorge road has been cleared out and is accessible throughout the entire upper fishery. We have had quite a bit of rain the past week and fish are likely pushing up further into the gorge and higher into the system. We did have a few reports of early summer steelhead being caught as well the past week or so, as we move into spring more opportunity is available on the Siletz! Just a reminder that the gorge road is closed to public driving access during the weekdays M-F but opens for the weekend. The Siletz is a truly unique system offering multiple opportunities for a variety of species. Last updated 04/03/25.

### WILSON RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead fishing on the Wilson has been fair to good since it dropped back into shape early this week. It is predicted to go up a little again on Friday but should be fishable through the weekend. The Wilson is one of our largest broodstock hatchery releases and there should be fish throughout the fishery and fresh steelhead still coming in. There are both hatchery and wild steelhead (catch-and-release only for wilds) throughout the fishery. *Last updated 3/19/25.* Wilson River levels and predictions are available [here](#).

**DETROIT RESERVOIR:** trout

The reservoir is slowly filling up in preparation for the busy summer recreation season. Mongold boat ramp is currently open and available to launch watercraft. Now that spring is around the corner fish are starting to get hungrier and become more active in searching for food. Pretty much any technique will catch fish, but it might take some experimenting to find out what is most effective on the day you're out there. The reservoir gets stocked with trout during the spring and summer with many of these fish still available throughout the fall and winter and into next year. As a reminder, anglers are allowed to keep up to five trout, with an additional five fish kokanee bag limit. Also, as a reminder to anglers, fishing for and harvesting Chinook in the lake and the rivers above is prohibited. Any Chinook caught in Detroit must be released unharmed. Make sure you can tell the difference between a Chinook and a kokanee before you get out on the water.

It's always a good idea to check the water levels at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website before using the boat ramps. For the latest information on water levels at Detroit Reservoir check with the Army Corps of Engineers' [website for more information](#). Anglers are encouraged to report their catch on an [on-line form](#). Remember to indicate whether the fish you catch have their adipose fin or not. This information will allow ODFW to manage the fishery for the benefit of both recreational anglers and the resource. *Last updated 3/31/25.*

**SANTIAM RIVER (NORTH FORK):** Salmon, steelhead

River levels best for fishing are at or below 3,000 cfs, and the river is currently running around 7,000 cfs at the gage in Mehama. Just over 240 summer steelhead have passed above Willamette Falls but the run has started to pick up in the past week. Fishing for steelhead is open year-round, but the use of bait is not allowed between Nov. 1 and April 21. *Last updated 3/31/25.*

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. Flows are currently around 6,400 cfs at the gage in Waterloo. Just over 240 summer steelhead have passed above Willamette Falls so far, but the run has started to pick up in the past week. Bait is not allowed from Nov. 1 to April 21. Last updated 3/31/25.

**WALLING POND:** trout, panfish

This eight-acre privately-owned pond has been **closed** since 11/8/23. No stocking scheduled due to potential changes in public access.

**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 will be stocked this week with 2,200 trout. Only one fish out a 5-fish bag limit may be longer than 20 inches.

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 3/31/25.*

**WILLAMETTE RIVER:** sturgeon, steelhead, spring Chinook, coho, small and largemouth bass  
Poor river conditions last week and not much effort.

Preliminary estimates for Week of March 24-30.

- **Boats:** 535 anglers - Chinook 22 kept, 7 released - Steelhead 4 kept, 0 released
- **Bank:** 292 anglers - Chinook 0 kept 2 released - Steelhead 4 kept , 8 released

Fish counts:

- [Willamette Falls Counts as of 3/30/25](#): Chinook-0, winter steelhead-3,564, summer steelhead-242

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. *Last updated 4/3/25.*

South Willamette – from the mouth of the McKenzie River upstream to the headwaters of the Willamette River.

Summer steelhead can be caught almost any month of the year. Trout fishing is open all year fishing with flies and lures – cutthroat fishing should be good when the river is not blown out. Sturgeon fishing is open – 1 per day and 2 per year (38 inch minimum, 54 inch maximum). *Last updated 11/27/24.*

#### OCEAN:

HALIBUT- Nearshore Season, Central Oregon, Quota = 10,000 lb Open May 1, 7 days per week, inside the 40-fathom line, until October 31 or the quota is caught, 2 fish per day, 6 fish annually.

SALMON- The planned ocean Chinook salmon season (all-salmon-except coho) **opened** as scheduled from **Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. from March 15 through May 15**. The bag limit will be two salmon, except closed to retention of coho, with minimum size limits of 24" for Chinook and 20" for steelhead.

#### BOTTOMFISH-

Port by port reports:

- Depoe Bay: Ocean conditions improved for a few days and anglers saw about 2.5 fish per angler, mostly black, deacon, canary and yellowtail rockfishes. Lingcod landings improved to just over 1 fish per angler.
- Newport: Last week brought a few good fishing days and the bite was decent. Anglers landed close to 2 fish each with mostly black and deacon rockfishes. Lingcod landings were quite low with about 1 fish for every 4 anglers.
- Charleston: Only a few boats made it out last week, with an average of 3 rockfish per angler. Lingcod was decent at about 1 fish per angler.
- Brookings: A few boats got out and fishing was decent with about 2.5 rockfish per angler. Mostly black, blue, and deacon rockfishes were brought in. Lingcod landings were quite low.

HERRING: In Oregon, herring come into bays and estuaries to spawn usually between Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, though run timing has varied in recent years. We conducted our second acoustic survey on Feb. 20 and while we saw increased sign of herring in Yaquina Bay, the biomass remained low. We came across some small schools on our March 5 survey and even managed to catch a few fish after some effort. In 2025, herring spawned on March 13 at limited areas around Yaquina Bay. While there were still some anglers catching herring last week, our sixth acoustic survey on March 24 showed a substantial decline in biomass from our prior week's survey. Another spawning event reportedly occurred on March 26 and it appears that fishing has slowed down since

then. Since most fish depart the bay within days of spawning, this likely signals the end of the 2025 spawning run.

**DUNGENESS CRAB- OPEN-** Due to inclement weather, crabbing effort in **Newport** and **Walport** has been low. Crab catch is also low. Crab quality is good as shells have hardened and crabs are full of meat. When there has been a lot of rain, crabbing in bays is typically not good since the surge of fresh water from the rivers forces the crab to retreat to the saltier water of the ocean.

**RAZOR CLAMS**

- OPEN from the WA border to Cascade Head.
- CLOSED from Cascade Head to the CA border.

**MUSSELS and BAY CLAMS** are OPEN.

**EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB- OPEN-** This invasive species now has a limit of 35 per day to encourage harvest. While they look like 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](mailto:TIP@osp.oregon.gov) between hours of 8:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday – Friday**

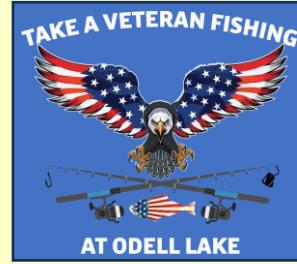
# ODFW Trout Stocking Schedule:



Week of	Waterbody	Zone/Office	Legals	Trophy	Brood	Total
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	ALTON BAKER CANAL	Willamette / Springfield	1,250	0	0	1,250
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	EE WILSON PD	Willamette / Corvallis	1,200	0	0	1,200
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	FOSTER RES	Willamette / Corvallis	2,000	0	0	2,000
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	HARRIET LK	Willamette / Clackamas	2,666	0	0	2,666
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	ST LOUIS PD	Willamette / N Willamette Watershed District	1,250	0	0	1,250
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	TIMBER LINN LK	Willamette / Corvallis	900	0	0	900
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	ROW R NATURE PK-Fmr Cott. Grv. Pd	Willamette / Springfield	1,000	0	0	1,000
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	TROJAN RECREATION LK	Willamette / Clackamas	1,000	0	0	1,000
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	GREEN PETER RES	Willamette / Corvallis	2,800	0	0	2,800
Apr. 07, 2025 - Apr. 11, 2025	SUNNYSIDE PARK PD	Willamette / Corvallis	1,000	0	0	1,000
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	FALL CR RES	Willamette / Springfield	3,000	0	0	3,000
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	COTTAGE GROVE RES	Willamette / Springfield	0	3,750	0	3,750
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	SALMONBERRY LK	Willamette / Clackamas	1,000	0	0	1,000
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	BENSON LK	Willamette / Clackamas	4,000	0	0	4,000
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	WAVERLY LK	Willamette / Corvallis	890	0	0	890
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	WILLAMETTE R, CST FK	Willamette / Springfield	800	0	0	800
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	TROJAN RECREATION LK	Willamette / Clackamas	1,332	0	0	1,332
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	HARTMAN PD (WAHKEENA LK)	Willamette / Clackamas	1,750	0	0	1,750
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	CANBY PD	Willamette / Clackamas	501	360	0	861
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	HUDDLESTON PD (FMR HAMPTON PD)	Willamette / N Willamette Watershed District	1,563	0	0	1,563
Apr. 14, 2025 - Apr. 18, 2025	EE WILSON PD	Willamette / Corvallis	1,500	0	0	1,500

## 2025 Free Fishing Weekends:

- June 7-8, and
- November 28-29



Send in your fish/ fishing pictures to see if you make the newsletter! [mwvaclub@gmail.com](mailto:mwvaclub@gmail.com)

## Non-Club News and opportunities:

### **Nestucca Anglers/ Rhoades Pond:**

Collection and spawning was in October. Fin-clipping party June 14, 2025 8-noon or so. BBQ and auction afterwards. See [Nestucca Anglers](#) for more information about upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer.

**SOLVE:** Beach & Riverside Cleanup locations here: [SOLVE | Beach & Riverside Cleanup \(solveoregon.org\)](#). Club members were cleaning up Walling Pond area on Fridays, but looking for a new venue.

**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](mailto:Amanda.M.BOYLES@odfw.oregon.gov) if you have any questions!

**Coastal Conservation Association (CCA):** CCA Oregon Executive Director Pat Hoglund [Who we are | CCA OREGON](#). Salem Chapter banquet is April 12, 2025 at Heritage Center – Mission Mill, Salem. Scout Troop 9 is supporting.

**ODFW: 3d Party Hatchery Review: They are currently recommending closing 3 hatcheries.** Phase 3: Roll-up- Winter 2024-25- Develop final report for legislature and present to legislature

**NW Steelheaders (Salem Chapter):** <https://salemnwsteelheaders.org/> for more info. Dues \$40/yr. Next meeting Tuesday, Apr 15th at 7:00 PM in Keizer City Hall.

**Mid-Willamette Outreach Group:** [Mid-Willamette Outreach Group - Marion SWCD](#) – Our River- the Willamette! Think about supporting their 3d Annual Learn to Fish event at Keizer Rapids May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025- put it on the calendar for next month!

**Salmon Watch: World Salmon Council:** Want to help kids learn about salmon? Check out this Fall 2025 volunteer opportunity: [New Volunteer Registration | World Salmon Council](#)

**Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America):** Certified Angler Instructor Course Apr 9-May 7 via Zoom. In person practical application on May 10 at Butte Creek Scout Ranch, Scotts Mills. "We teach adults how to get kids fishing." Opportunities to table and talk on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Butte Creek.

**Tillamook Anglers Fin Clipping Day:** April 12th, 2025, 8:30 am-2 pm at the Whiskey Creek Volunteer Fish Hatchery on Netarts Bay. This event provides young and old with a chance to help remove adipose fins from the young salmon fry so that they are identified as hatchery fish when released as smolts. We have 120,000 to do! As in the past, the fun will begin at 8:30am with doughnuts and warm drinks. The morning fin clipping session begins at 9:00am followed by a free BBQ lunch around noon and then hopefully we will finish fin clipping of all the smolts by 2:00pm. This event is supported by a large following and participants come from all up and down the North Coast and as far away as Astoria, Multnomah and Salem. We can use all the volunteers we can get to help at this event. Come join in and bring the kids! All are welcome.

Whiskey Creek Hatchery is between Netarts and Cape Lookout State Park on Netarts Bay. Address is 7660 Whiskey Creek Rd off of Hwy 131 out of Tillamook.



## Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club

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

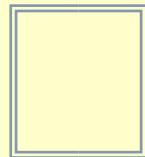
Next meeting: Apr 8, 2025 @ 7 PM- Center50+ with Mike Nelson of Nelson's Fishing Adventures talking about walleye (mostly). Drawing for halibut seats for Jason's Fishing Adventures.

### We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.mwvaclub.org](http://www.mwvaclub.org)

Mid-Willamette Valley Angler's Club  
1097 Cordon Rd NE  
Salem, OR 97317



Customer Name Street Address City, ST ZIP  
Code