



Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

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Anglers are chasing steelhead on area streams with some success, but the big news is the coho fishing on the Icicle and Yakima rivers. Also of interest is the fact that there are a bunch of fresh triploid rainbow trout in Rufus Woods Reservoir.

High water has stalled fishing on the Wenatchee River for steelhead, so anglers have switched gears and are now focusing on the coho. I chased down Jeff Stroup while he was out checking catches on the Wenatchee and Icicle rivers last week, and he said that there are some steelhead being taken on the Wenatchee, but since the river is really high and running hard, there aren't many anglers fishing for steelhead. What was really hot was fishing for coho near the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth. The effort made by the Yakima Tribe is really showing results this year. He said that you can see all kinds of coho right along the bank. Anglers are tossing spoons and jigs and catching lots of fish. He said that I would be surprised at the quality of the meat, too. The males tend to be in better shape in terms of table quality, but there are some good females being taken, too.

I ran up to the hatchery and talked to a couple of anglers that were fishing from the handicapped dock and upstream. Stroup was right. There are coho right next to the bank all through here. The anglers that I talked to were casting large Rock Dancer jigs out into the current and then letting them swing in close to shore. It takes some patience as you are just hoping to get your lure in front of a fish that is willing to bite out of the many that you see. Sometimes you



get your two fish right off the bat, and other times you have to put in some time to limit. Mornings and evenings are best, but fish can be taken all day. Even the raining days, and we have had a bunch of them lately, have been good times to fish for coho. One angler said that eighty percent of fish are worth smoking and many are good enough for the grill.

Anglers will be happy to learn that the coho salmon season that opened earlier on the Yakima River has been extended. Earlier the season was opened when 15,000 coho were recorded passing over Prosser Dam; as of November 3rd over 20,000 coho salmon have now passed over Prosser and the season will now remain open through November 16th. Anglers are reminded that the limit is two fish marked or unmarked and barbless hooks are required. During this fishery Selective Fishery rules prohibiting the use of bait and knotted nets is temporarily suspended. Fishing for trout and other gamefish closed on October 31st. Fishing for steelhead remains closed

on the Yakima. A Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement is required to participate in this salmon fishery. The Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement program funding enabled this special fishery. The Yakima River coho fishery is open from the Interstate 82 Bridge at Union Gap to the "closed water" line 3,500 feet downstream of Rosa Dam. Please visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife web site for more details on this fishery.

Don't forget, the Pateros Celebrates Steelhead Season event is coming up on Friday, November 14th. This is going to be a great evening. It starts with a dinner at 6 p.m. at the Central Building, which is near the Bakery across from the Super Stop. On the menu is sirloin chili Colorado and home made corn bread, and a smoked and grilled half chicken with home made potato salad. The cost of the dinner is \$19.95. There will be beverages available at the Central Building, too. The seminars will begin at 7 p.m., kicking off with Kevin van Bueren on how to catch steelhead on the Methow River with your fly rod. Next up will be Keith Roe, and he will share his secrets on how to catch steelhead on the Methow and Okanogan rivers with a bobber and jig. Finally, Shane Magnuson will talk about his success on taking steelhead with a bobber and jig in the vicinity of Pateros. I will be there to introduce everyone and hand out drawing prizes that will include overnight stays at local hotels, meals at local restaurants and more. I hope you all can make it. Bring your boat and fishing gear, and plan to fish on Saturday.

Here is some good news for anglers that are fans of fishing for triploid rainbow trout on Rufus Woods Reservoir. Through their Colville Tribal Resident Fish program the Colville Tribe has recently released thousands of fresh triploids into Rufus Woods from the net pens at the upper end of the reservoir. On October 22nd 1,400 triploids were released, and on October 30th over 22,000 triploids were released. The fish in these releases average in size from 1.2 pounds to 1.7 pounds. All of the fish are adipose fin clipped. These releases are in addition to releases of triploids into Rufus Woods earlier this year. This popular fishery is maintained solely through Colville Tribal releases. Fishing for these new fish will be very good in the vicinity of the upper net pens on the reservoir that are owned and operated by Pacific Sea Foods. In a short time, the fishing will also be very good from locations above Chief Joseph Dam and at Brandts Landing Park, which is six miles up stream on the east shore of the reservoir. The tribe shares in the effort that releases over 750,000 triploids into Lake Roosevelt each year.

There, that ought to keep you busy. I know I am going to be. There is just too much good fishing going to stay home! I spent the weekend in Coeur d'Alene on R & R and was back at it when I got home.

Reach Dave at:
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