



Welcoming
Dave Graybill
To The
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The Fishin' Magician

Anglers that are eager to catch some early spring trout can count on several lakes in the Quincy-George area to fill their stringers. Large crowds of fishers descended on these lakes the opening weekend, but there are still plenty of rainbow left to keep anglers busy for the next couple of weeks.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, opening day success was the highest at Martha Lake, just east of the town of George. Limits were the rule here, with yearling rainbow averaging 12 1/2 inches and carryover rainbow as large as 24 inches were taken. Good shore access here allows for fishing all the way around this long and narrow water. The next best producer was Upper Caliche Lake, which is west of George. This lake also has good shore access and families that fished here were rewarded with limits of rainbow that averaged 10 to 11 inches.

A surprise to everyone was the poor fishing at Burke and Quincy lakes on the March 1st opening day. Both lakes had heavy plants of fry last year. Burke received 11,000 catchables prior to the opener, and Quincy Lake got 9,000 catchables two weeks prior to March 1st. These lakes did produce good catches for anglers using boats, and shore fishing will pick up as the water warms.

Of the quality lakes in the Beverly area, Lake Lenice got the most angler visits and those who fished this lake from float tubes or pontoon boats did very well. Most anglers

caught-and-released five to seven trout and many were into double digits. Triploid rainbow were large, averaging 19 to 21 inches, with a few to 24 inches. Another quality lake, Dusty, in the Quincy Wildlife Area saw very few angler visits opening day. Fishing here has improved dramatically the past couple of years, but so far angler success remains a mystery. Few people tried Lenore on the opener, too. The five boat anglers checked did report catching seven trout each and they averaged 14 to 22 inches.

I fished Roses Lake last weekend. I spent the morning on Lake Chelan, trolling in hopes of catching a Chinook salmon. I didn't get any kings to take my bait, but when my herring got within 10 feet of the bottom I did catch lake trout. The lakers were all about 6 to 8 pounds. I headed for the Mill Bay Launch at 2 p.m. and headed over the hill to Roses. It was dead calm and sunny and the rainbow were biting. My wife and I tried a few different rigs, but an Olive bead-head Woolly Bugger was what they wanted. This rod was bouncing the whole time, and we left the lake with eight, fat 13-inch rainbow. This would be



an excellent bet for the coming weekend. There is limited shore fishing area at Roses, and a small boat would be the best way to approach this lake. Shore anglers should expect good action with dough baits or a worm-and-marshmallow combo, and trollers could try a spinner tipped with a worm. Limits should come quickly here.

I also got a chance to try the perch fishing at Moses Lake. I saw anglers fishing from the I-90 Bridge take home limits of 25 fat, yellow perch. I took home thirteen for three hours of fishing, releasing some smaller fish. Some anglers were having success with a Swedish Pimple tipped with a worm, but most just put a worm above their sinkers to take their fish. There were three or four boats anchored under the bridge while I was there and no one fishing the shoreline. I expect the shores to be crowded on the weekend, though. The perch I brought home were mostly 8 to 10 inches, but I had one that covered the top of my tackle box at 12 inches!

I am finally getting some good reports from Rufus Woods Reservoir. Plants by the Colville Tribe are helping boost the catches, mostly near the net pens. The tribe is planning to

release two to three thousand triploids a month, from now through July. The Brewster Chamber of Commerce also contributed a purchase of 500 triploids to the reservoir recently. According to Shane Magnuson, Upper Columbia Guide Services, he took double digit numbers, catching and releasing without bait, recently near the net pens. Many of the fish were wearing tags, and anglers reminded to share information about the fish they keep with tags with Tribal Fisheries.

Everyone will be buying their new licenses at the end of March, and be sure to ask for the new Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Stamp, if you plan to fish for salmon or steelhead in the coming season. Funds generated by the stamp goes into a dedicated fund that will help assure selective fisheries for these species, like potential future steelhead seasons on the Wenatchee River. You can learn more about the Endorsement Stamp by logging onto my web site and logging onto the Links Page. Look for Endorsement Stamp and Endorsement Stamp FAQs under the Fishing Links section.

This warm weather has created some terrific early season fishing opportunities. Get out and get after them!

Reach Dave at:
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