

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads Classifieds

The highways leading to North Central Washington crowded with vehicles this past weekend. Many of them were towing trailers and boats and headed for the many lakes in the region for the annual opening of the lowland lakes. Saturday greeted them with fair skies and a calm morning, and there were many happy anglers.

I was able to visit a few of the lakes on the opener to see if the fishing was good and what size the trout were on anglers stringers. This is a habit of mine, and something I have been doing for years. This time my first stop was at Jameson Lake.

It had been some time since I had been to the north end of the lake. This is reached by driving through Waterville and then Mansfield. It is a little more off the beaten path, but provides access to a great fishing area, supported by the Jameson Lake Resort, with hot food available and boats for rent. I saw a good number of boats fishing along the very north shore, and a good crowd of campers fishing off the bank near the resort. I met people from Spokane and Seattle and they were enjoying the morning and catching rainbow trout that were most 12 to 13 inches, when I stopped by.

I then traveled to the south end of Jameson and found the banks lined with people fishing right where the lake begins and all along the shore clear up to the boat launch. Anglers here were pretty busy. I saw fish being landed and stringers filling with trout ranging in size from 13 inches to 16 inches. There were some smaller fish taken and the folks at Jack's Resort told me of a 19-incher that was landed nearby. The water quality was very good and Jameson fished very well on the opener.



I then drove to Park Lake. This lake accommodates a huge crowd. There are several other lakes very close by, and a small State Park, so this is the destination of hundreds if not thousands of anglers every opening weekend. I always stop by the cleaning station to see what the catches are like, and I saw stringer after stringer of rainbow plopped onto the table. Most of the fish were 11 1/2 to 12 1/2 inches, with a fair number of carryovers to 16 1/2 to 17 1/2 inches. I was also shown photos a rainbow that was 22 inches, and a brown trout of the same size was also checked at Park.

Next on my list was Blue Lake. The resort at the south end was packed. I saw families here that are there every opening day that I have visited Blue Lake. It is not unusual to see three and four generations of families coming to many of the North Central Washington lakes year after year. The fishing at Blue Lake was again very good. The size of the trout was very similar to the ones being taken at Park,

with fewer carryovers.

Deep Lake is a very scenic lake just above Park Lake. It produced very good catches on opening day. Many of the fish were 11 to 13 inches with a fair number of carryovers of 16 to 19 inches. I didn't see any kokanee taken while I was there, but Deep Lake is on my list of lakes to try for kokanee later on.

In Grant County, the lake with the best catch average of, that was surveyed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, was Warden Lake, which is south of Moses Lake, not far from Potholes Reservoir. Anglers filled stringers with rainbow averaging 9 to 11 inches, and there was one rainbow of 18 1/2 inches checked.

The road to Beehive was clear enough for planting this year in time for opening weekend, which is always popular for those who live in the Wenatchee Valley. Anglers here found fishing good with most people getting close to three fish, which averaged close to 11 inches. Near Lake Chelan, Wapato Lake was excellent with most people getting very close to a limit of rainbow that averaged 13 1/2 inches. There were good numbers of carryover rainbow to 20 inches on stringers here, too.

In Okanogan County, five lakes were checked by the Department on opening day, and Pearrygin Lake topped the list for best fishing. The lake produced near limits for anglers and they averaged 10 to 12 inches, with some to 18 inches. The next best producer was Conconully Lake.

Here anglers caught yearling rainbow that averaged 9 to 11 inches, with some to 16 inches. Conconully Reservoir was next on the list with anglers having success very close to those at Conconully Lake. I was surprised to hear that there were no kokanee taken at either lake this year. Last year the kokanee fishing had been very good, particularly at Conconully Lake. The next best fishing of the Okanogan County lakes was Alta. Here the rainbow averaged 10 to 12 inches, with some to 17 inches. There were kokanee taken this year at Alta, and they averaged 11 to 13 inches. Fish Lake, north of Omak, was not outstanding this year, with most anglers getting just a couple of trout, averaging 10 to 11 inches, with carryovers to 15 inches.

I will be traveling to Potholes Reservoir this week. The walleye fishing has been very good this spring, and I'd like to try it again. This time Eric Granstrom will be with me to video a new Fishing TV Show, and we will be fishing with Mark Olson, who guides for walleye on the reservoir. We hope to share a lot of good information on how to fish for walleye on Potholes that can be seen by visiting my web site at FishingMagician.com, and clicking on Fishing TV.

The weather forecast for the coming weekend is for even warmer weather than opening weekend, and I expect a good turnout of anglers on our trout lakes again. After my trip to Potholes I hope to try a trout lake myself. There are so many I want to fish. Maybe I'll see you out there!

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