Welcoming Dave Cray bill To The Nickel Ads It was very chilly the past week, and

It was very chilly the past week, and although I know that a few hearty souls were out fishing, I stayed inside. My sidekick Eric Granstrom said he had some ducks to cook and a great location to shoot a new Cooking TV Show. I told him nothing doing until the Seahawks were done with the playoffs. Well, that's over now. We'll be headed down to the Tri-Cities Show on Saturday, and maybe shoot the new Cooking Show on Sunday. We'll see.

I looked at my calendar to see what I was doing at this time last year. It turns out I was fishing on Rufus Woods Reservoir with Stuart Hurd. I joined him and some of his friends and we fished the lower end, not getting too far up from the launch at Bridgeport. It was the coldest day of the year, and in spite of freezing lines on our rods and downriggers, we had a great day. I recall landing over 20 triploids, with a few nice ones mixed in the catch. I hope you caught the show we did that day on last month's Fishing TV line up.

What I am getting now is a lot of questions about which lakes are frozen enough for ice fishing. I checked the web cam on Fish Lake, and all I can say is that it looks like not yet, but it could be close. We had some very chilly weather in the upper Valley last week, which helped. I still haven't seen anyone out on the ice while scrolling through the dates available on the web cam. Even then I like to go up and check on it personally before I recommend anyone try it themselves. I

then I like to go up and check on it personally before I recommend anyone try it themselves. I know people are anxious to get started up at Fish Lake. Fishing was good last year, and we may have a short season in 2013.



Another lake I want to keep an eye on is Rat Lake near Brewster. This lake was rehabbed a couple of years ago and has really hit its stride as a trout lake the last spring and fall. It has a split season, and trout can be kept by anglers fishing in the winter; from December 1st through March 31st.

I am hoping to see ice form soon on the Coulee City Marina. I am very curious to see if the perch will find their way in here as they have in years past. There was a lot of work done in this area on Banks Lake, and when I fished it last year for smallmouth bass, they had moved into the new area for spawning. This was one of the more popular winter fisheries for perch and I hope it comes back.

One of the favorite spots for perch fishing in the winter used to be on Winchester Wasteway, around the bridge on Road 8. I made a trip to Moses Lake recently, and on my way down I stopped here to check it out. I looked along the shore below the bridge, in areas that I am used to seeing people fishing and found no evidence at all that anyone had been fishing here. It looks like this long-time favorite perch fishing spot may be history. I stopped near the Hotel on the north shore of Moses Lake and took a couple of photos of the ice conditions. There was a thin skim of ice on the lake near the I-90 Bridge, but nothing close to what

is needed for a person to walk on. I would sure like to see a safe layer of ice on Moses Lake this winter. Some of the biggest perch in the region are taken through the ice here.

After this weekend in Tri-Cities I will be headed to the Seattle Boat Show. I have been going to this show the past couple of years to spend in the booth with Bob Feil Boats and Motors, boat sponsor, and Kingfisher, the manufacturer. This year, my new 2025 Discovery

will be on display, fully rigged and ready for fishing. If you haven't been to the Seattle Boat Show, it is amazing. There are over 1,000 boats on display at the Century Link Field. You can spend hours inside this building looking at all kinds of boats. There are hordes of vendors

here, too, selling everything from fishing gear to vacation packages. This is the place to be if you have any kind of interest in boating, even if that just means an appreciation of what's new in what floats. There are regular shuttle buses leaving from here down to Lake Union, where the really big boats are displayed. Hundreds of boats are tied up to the docks here, and some of them are HUGE.

It is really fun to walk aboard some of these. Bring slip off shoes for tours on these yachts. The Seattle Boat Show begins on January 25th and runs through February 3rd. You can learn all about it by logging onto seattleboatshow.com.

I want to remind everyone that the annual Big Game Feed and Banquet put on by the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association is coming up on Saturday, February 9th. This is the longest running wildlife support auction in the valley. For about 30 years this event has offered those who attend great wild game served up in amazing ways. The menu is like nothing you will ever see anywhere else. There are also some terrific bargains in the silent and live auctions. I mention this now as tickets always sell out and if you want to get some better get to Hooked on Toys, One Shot Firearms or High Mountain Hunting Supply as soon as you can.

I will try to get some updates on ice conditions for you for next time. I have a couple of favorite lakes that I an anxious to try myself!

Reach Dave at: www.FishingMagician.com or Fishboy@nwi.net



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