



Now that Memorial Weekend is behind us, we can really start thinking about summer and the great fishing that is ahead for the season. Spring hasn't been kind to us here in the region, with many fisheries stalled by the cool, wet weather. We should anticipate a sharp improvement in most of the warm water fishing in our area with temperatures in the 80s making their appearance in the forecast for the coming weekend.

Just prior to the long weekend I was able to spend some time on the Icicle River. Although there is an incredible number of spring salmon returning to the Icicle this season, angler success has been off and on. I got a call from Shane Magnuson, Upper Columbia Guide Services in the middle of last week, saying he had four fish in the boat by 5 a.m. and I should join him the next morning for easy pickings. I did, and it wasn't. A big storm moved in and we did nothing but get drenched. We had a few feeble hits but never even a decent take the whole morning.

I fished the Icicle again later in the week with Bob Stroup, from a drift boat in the hole that is his namesake. We had a nice fish in the boat by about 6 a.m. and missed a few others. There were four fish taken from the Stroup hole that morning. Stroup reminded me that year in

and year out the Icicle is a June fishery. It has been an unusual year to have as many fish in the stream this early. He says it will really get good as we get into the month of June. I would suspect the same for the Entiat River, which is now open to springer fishing, too.

I expect the walleye fishing, which has already been fairly good on several of our area's large impoundments, to get even better, and the bass fishing to really take off. I'm way overdue for a big meal of fresh walleye. I also got a very good report from Evergreen Reservoir for largemouth bass recently. It produced excellent fishing between storm fronts, and will be more consistent now.

The kokanee fishing, which has yet to develop on several of our lakes, should get a kick

start with the warmer weather on the way. The highly popular kokanee fishery on Lake Chelan has yet to produce any decent catches, and I have heard that the fish that have been caught so far have been very small. Large kokanee and good numbers of them are being taken at Palmer Lake, near Tonasket, but the fishing at Billy Clapp has not produced consistent catches. I did get a report from Deep Lake which indicated that anglers can catch good numbers of kokanee here, but they are running 7 to 9 inches.

I want to remind everyone that the last day to get a registration form into Hooked on Toys for the Leavenworth Kids Fish-In day is Thursday, June 3rd. The event is on Saturday, June 5th, and it looks like the weather will cooperate again this year to provide a great day for kids and their families that turn out. There is a similar event in Moses Lake the following weekend, and to find out if they still have room for youngsters contact the Moses Lake Parks Department. On Saturday, June 19th the Icicle Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding their annual derby at Fish Lake. Details on this event are available on my web site under Events for Kids.

There is a big event at Hooked on Toys the 4th, 5th and 6th of June. Pure fishing is sending their Berkley Truck to town. There will be hourly seminars on their products, and at noon on Saturday, Jerrod Gibbons is presenting a seminar on salmon fishing in our region. The folks from Valley Marine in Yakima will also be on hand with a selection of Lund, Weldcraft and Duckworth boats. Dan Allen, owner, and Max Rutger, service manger will be there to answer questions on the boats and how to keep them running. I will be there myself on Sunday from noon till two, doing a cooking demonstration. I will prepare my prize winning chili.

Another item of note is that Grimes Lake, which is located just north of the top end of Jameson Lake, opened to fishing on June 1st. Grimes is a local favorite, particularly with the fly fishing community. It is known to produce Lahontan cutthroat of surprising size (over 5 pounds), but is not restricted to fly fishing. It is a selective fishing lake, which means single barbless hooks and no bait, and one fish may be kept.

We are planning to make a trip up to Buffalo Lake, which is north of Grand Coulee Dam on the Colville Indian Reservation. A Tribal Permit is required to fish the lake, but I have found it worth the price of admission. The lake can produce large rainbow trout, has a very good largemouth bass fishery, and a very good kokanee population, too.

We also plan to fish Rebecca Lake, which is just down the hill from Buffalo. This is a very small lake, but has a big population of largemouth bass. I am hoping the cattail islands haven't blocked the launch, which happened on my last visit, and I can get out on the lake and get after the largemouth.

I'll let you know how we do!

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