

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

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I had a fun week. I shot a new TV Show with Eric Granstrom on the Icicle River, got a final trip on Lake Wenatchee for sockeye, fished for smallmouth bass on Banks Lake, and even spent an evening fishing for perch on Fish Lake. There was also a pile of news that came through on my e-mails.

I spent some time talking about how much I enjoy fishing the small streams in our region, and particularly the Icicle, which is just a few miles from my home in Leavenworth. Eric Granstrom, of Gaboon Productions, joined me for an afternoon on the river and shot video of me casting and catching and releasing the small rainbow. I wanted to show people how simple it is to have a great time fly fishing, even if you are not experienced on this small stream. Look for it soon on the Fishing TV Page of my web site at FishingMagician.com.

Lake Wenatchee will close to sockeye fishing right after Labor Day Weekend, and what a season it was. For my last trip I was invited to join fishing buddy Jim Passage, who has really been racking up the numbers on sockeye this year. I started the day with a good fish, and then he soon hooked up. We were both surprised that when I put the net under his fish, which was the largest sockeye I had ever seen on the lake, it had both sets of our hooks in its jaw! We were both using three single hooks and the fish had scooped up both rigs. Jim got four that morning and I just had the one and lost five.

On Sunday I made a run up to Banks Lake with Dave Blue and Chad Lee from Town Ford. We have talked and talked about getting out on the water and we finally made it. The forecast looked pretty good, but the water didn't when



we got there. I tried to fish the boulders on the east side below Steamboat Rock but controlling the boat wasn't easy and the water was muddy due to the wind, and I had a hard time seeing the rocks. We got a fish or two here but I chose to run across to find water that was more clear and maybe not as much wind. We did find a calm stretch and caught and released several fish. I couldn't find any calm water after that, but we still managed to catch fish in spite of the conditions. Dave Blue was the rookie and of course showed Chad and I how to do it. He got fish everywhere we went.

My wife Eileen and I spent a great afternoon with our neighbors, the Swoboda family on Fish Lake. Dad Stephen, Mom Heidi and their two girls Rory and Greer were first disappointed to hear that we might cancel the trip due to rainy weather. We waited an hour, though, and when we called the Cove Resort Scott West said the skies had cleared and the wind had died and to come on up. We did and had enjoyed a few hours catching a few perch. We were thrilled

at watching osprey pick fish off the water. Heidi Swoboda is a professional photographer, and she got some amazing shots.

Good news for anglers that are interested in fishing for fall kings on the Columbia River. The Priest Rapids Pool opens to fishing on August, 30th, and two poles will be allowed through August 31st. The limit is six Chinook, of which two may be adults. All other rules for the Columbia River apply, including barbless hooks.

Starting on August 30th, anglers will be able to catch and keep hatchery fall Chinook seven days a week on the Snake River. A strong return of upriver bright Chinook are expected this year, so fishery managers have expanded the daily catch limit to include six hatchery Chinook, plus six hatchery jack Chinook under 24 inches. Anglers may also catch and keep up to three hatchery steelhead on the Snake River, but must stop fishing for the day—for both hatchery Chinook and steelhead—once they have taken their three-fish steelhead limit. The Chinook fishery on the Snake is expected to extend through October 31st, while the season for hatchery steelhead and other game fish will run through February, 28th. There are other important details about these fisheries in the news release that can be found on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife web site, and I encourage you to read the full report.

State fisheries managers are seeking public comments on proposed Sportfishing rules they are recommending for the Columbia River Basin, and have scheduled a series of meetings through September to discuss the proposed rules with the public. There is a meeting in Wenatchee on

Wednesday, September 10th at the Chelan PUD Auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. The next meeting will on Thursday September 11th, at the East Valley Fire Station, 2003 Beaudry Road, from 7 to 9 p.m.

There are two seminars coming up for those who like to learn more about how to fish for fall salmon on the Columbia River. Rick Graybill, former guide and fishing expert at Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee, will be providing a presentation on tackle and techniques for taking fall salmon at Town Ford in East Wenatchee on Thursday, September 11th, starting at 6 p.m. I will be doing a seminar on the different tackle and techniques used for fall Chinook fishing at Bob Feil Boats and Motors on Saturday, September 13th, starting at 1 p.m.

There is a new state record for tiger muskie. Dave Hickman of Richland landed a tiger muskie weighing 37.88 pounds and 50.38 inches long at Curlew Lake in Ferry County. He caught the fish on July 28th. Anglers familiar with Curlew Lake know that it has a large population of whopper tiger muskie and it is no surprise the new record was caught here.

I am off to the Washington coast to do some tuna fishing and I am very excited about my first opportunity to catch these prized sport fish. I will be shooting video for a new Fishing TV Show, so you'll be able to see what its like very soon via the Fishing TV Page at FishingMagician.com.

Reach Dave at:  
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