

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician



for the Budweiser-Longranger King Salmon Derby in Brewster. All derby entrants must be registered by 9 p.m., Thursday, August 4th.

There is a seminar tonight and you will be able to stop in and get your tickets during that event. It looks like the weather is going to be hot for this year's derby, but the fishing may not be as hot as in year's past. Salmon fishing is still pretty slow, due to the cold water from the Okanogan River that is attracting arriving fish up stream. Heck, who knows, they may add a triploid category this year, to make this interesting. I'll explain.

Everyone knows that there was a huge "release" of triploid rainbow trout from the net pens at the upper end of Rufus Woods Reservoir in June of this year. Pacific Seafoods, which owns the net pens, estimates that 117,500 triploids escaped through a breach in a net pen. Anglers have been having a ball catching these fish for the past couple of months. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is concerned with the number of these fish that are showing up below Chief Joseph Dam. The fish are eating machines and could pose a threat to juvenile steelhead.

In an effort to reduce the number of triploids in the "Wells Pool", a special season has been announced. Until the end of August anglers may now catch and keep triploid rainbow from below the Highway 17 Bridge in Bridgeport to the Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster. The daily limit is four triploids over the minimum length of 12 inches. Any steelhead hooked incidentally must be released without removing them from the water.

Those of you that have fished for these trout know that they are averaging 4 to 5 pounds and are very aggressive. Remember that every fish caught while using bait counts toward the daily limit. So once you have hooked and landed four fish using bait you're done. Fish with barbless hooks and no bait, and you can easily release the ones you hook. It would be fun to fish for these triploids the same way you do steelhead, with a bobber and jig. I also plan to troll some crank baits. There have been quite a few crawdads in the triploids I have caught, so I picked up a couple of crawdad pattern Shad Rap Rapalas to try.

The other big news is the opening of the Wenatchee River to Chinook salmon fishing on the first of August. When I asked around about when the Wenatchee was last open to salmon fishing, no could remember a season on the Wenatchee, at least not one in the last 20 years. From August 1st to Oct. 15th the river is open from the mouth to 400 feet below Dryden Dam. From Sept. 1st through Oct. 15th it will be open from the confluence of Peshastin Creek to a line perpendicular to the river at a marker on the opposite shore (approximately 1,000 feet above Dryden Dam) to the Icicle Creek road bridge on the west end of Leavenworth.

I'm not sure how many summer runs have made the turn from the Columbia and entered the Wenatchee, and the river is running about 3,000 cubic feet per second higher than normal for this time of year. The consensus is to use large spinners and spoons and even put some pencil lead ahead of them to slow them down as they drift through the deeper

holes. Another approach would be to drift and anchor at the top of the deeper holes and let some big plugs work just off the bottom. A big king may get angry enough to smack it.

I want to mention that opening of the Wenatchee River to salmon fishing wouldn't be possible without the Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Stamp. Funds generated by the purchase of these stamps pay for the required monitoring of the fishery. Without it there would not be a sport fishery.

Once again there is a lot going on here in Central Washington. From summer run salmon, sockeye salmon and even triploid rainbow trout fishing below Chief Joseph Dam to great triploid fishing on Rufus Woods. For the first time in who knows when anglers are being allowed to fish for salmon on the Wenatchee, too.

I will be fishing today for triploids at Bridgeport and then dropping off my boat for display at the Bob Feil Boat Show at the Brewster Derby. I will be back to Brewster on Sunday to see the awards ceremony and other derby activity.

I have a pretty full schedule this week, and am looking forward to it all. As you might imagine, that means there is a lot of fishing included in the plans for the week!

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



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