



Time to make a salmon your chum

Pound for pound, Chum Salmon are the best fighters

At Fishing Coaches, since we do mostly catch and release, we get particularly excited when the Chum Salmon start to invade our rivers. The junk-yard dogs of the salmon community (not just because of the large teeth of the males.) Mean, nasty, and lots of fun! They are generally the second largest of the five Pacific Salmon species, as well.

We've seen more broken rods due to "uncooperative" Chum Salmon as any other species of fish. Steelhead are dainty, chums are anything but! Sockeye are tasty, chums are generally anything but! If you don't want to release them to make more baby chums, then you can smoke them. But filleting is generally not terribly palatable for river Chums.



Chums will stop at nothing to spawn

See your Fishing Coaches tailored calendar for where and when to hunt for these bad-boys. Most of the runs are over by now, but the Mouth of Enetai Creek in Hood Canal, for salt water chums, can be good until Dec. 5 or so. Also, the Nisqually River has good late-season run of chums (conditions have to be right though, of course), that is often good in *January*.

With many other species seeing a decline in their numbers, Chums are often seeing an increase or at least a slower drop in their return rates.

We watched a chum salmon male guarding it's nest on the Harrison River one year. It would lash out at any other fish that dared, DARED, to get anywhere near it. This meanness translates well to you when you have one of these on the end of your line!

The key is to catch them in rivers *early* enough in the season, before they lose flavor and meanness (there's that word again.) You can tailor our Gameplans, since they also are downloadable in MS Word format (in addition to pdf format), and change the window period dates to suite your own tastes. For instance, if you like to eat/smoke Chums, you might want to change the window period date of that Gameplan to a little *earlier* in the year. Also, generally try to fish closer to the saltwater for better tasting fish (again, if you eat them.) Also, since the males of anadromous fish (live at times in saltwater, spawn in freshwater) species generally arrive a little earlier in the year than their feminine counterparts, males will generally be in worse shape.

Can you catch a wild fish that often averages 14 pounds, every 4th cast on average, in say, Montana (some consider it the best state in the lower 48 for fishing)? Nope....you're lucky to be able to fish Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia, folks!

Get out there for some chum before it's too late!



Thank these 2009 WDFW Volunteer of the Year award winners!

*Jerry Ponti, who operates a veterinary clinic east of Spokane, has treated hundreds of wild animals along with pets and livestock over the past 30 years.

*Mike Braaton, of Castle Rock, who has spent hundreds of hours over the past decade planting elk forage, pulling scotch broom and conducting wildlife surveys on WDFW projects at the Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area.

*Bill Butler, of Cheney, who first volunteered with WDFW in 1964 and spent more than two decades helping staff at the Spokane Hatchery spawn rainbow trout.

*Robert Heirman, of Snohomish, who has volunteered his time, money and expertise to projects benefitting fish and wildlife recreation for more than 50 years.

*Charles Staniforth, of Bellevue, who has tallied thousands of hours leading tours and teaching schoolchildren about salmon at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.

How you could catch *six* fish at the same time



The new Washington lake's *two-pole* option is here!

Dale's current personal record for a Washington lake is three fish on the same rod at the same time. You can use three lures on the same rod on Washington lakes (and Oregon waters, etc.), but you've been limited to one pole at a time on a lake in Washington (at times you could use two poles on British Columbia lakes – see the regulations.) But with the new “two-pole fishing option” you'll be able to potentially double that! The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recently made a ruling that allows anglers to purchase a two-pole endorsement allowing them to use a second line while fishing in most freshwater lakes in Washington.

This new law does *not* allow you to keep twice as many fish, however! The limits remain the same, but you can hook into more fish, or get your limit faster. We encourage catch and release whenever feasible.

This new rule applies to all freshwater game fish species.

It applies to all freshwater lakes in Washington, unless specifically exempted due to conservation or specific management objectives. See <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/twopole/>

The two-pole endorsement option will apply to the majority of the 8,000 fishing lakes, ponds and reservoirs in Washington state. Anglers wishing to take advantage of the new opportunity will be required to pay a \$20 fee (\$5 for resident seniors) for the endorsement in addition to the cost for a recreational fishing license issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Approximately 145 lakes and ponds will be excluded from the two-pole endorsement.

Will this double our 215 hookups/boat/weekend (13” average fish) to 430 hookups/boat/weekend (see website for details)? Well, no, as a 100% increase in number of rods per person will not translate to a 100% increase in catch rates. But it will certainly increase the catch rate. *Casting/retrieving* scenarios, whether with a spinning rod or a fly rod,

such as for smallmouth bass, are tough to fish with more than one rod at a time. But still-fishing or trolling scenarios will be prime scenarios for two poles. Trout will especially fall victim to this new rule.

With four people in a boat, with two rods each, with three lures per rod, that's (gets out super-computer to figure this huge number!) TWENTY-FOUR lures out at the same time. Fun! Sure, it will be a mad-house when you hit a large school of receptive fish, but that would be more fun than a barrel of monkeys. I can't think of a better way for kids to get excited about fishing than to have “problems” because they hook so many fish at once.

On our Big Sabin Lake scenario you've already been able to, after carefully reading the regulations, fish with two rods at once (when in the boat, by yourself...yes, it's a weird rule.) We've found that *reeling* in fish on two poles at the same time is a riot! The fish usually beat us, since it takes two hands to hold/reel ONE rod...but we have fish on TWO rods! It's fun to have this “problem”. (If all “problems” in life

involved a person laughing hysterically while having said “problem”, well, life would be pretty incredible.) We keep the trolling motor running while we're playing the fish, to keep the lines reasonably tight to the fish. We also loosen our drags, so the reel/rod can play the fish better, while we reel in the other line.



Anglers with a valid two-pole endorsement may use up to three hooks on each line.

The list of excluded lakes and ponds is at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/twopole/lakes.php>

Anglers may buy an endorsement for a second fishing pole at an authorized license dealer, listed at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lic/vendors/vendors.htm> , or online at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/> .



Trout are one of the best species to try to catch three fish on the same rod

It's illegal to not have your Boater Education Card



Washington residents (with some exceptions) need one!

When do I need my card?

Year	Your Age
2008	20 and younger
2009	25 and younger
2010	30 and younger
2011	35 and younger
2012	40 and younger
2013	50 and younger
2014	60 and younger

Persons required to have a Boater Education Card must carry it on board whenever operating a motorboat with 15 horsepower or greater.



The list of exemptions is as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Exemption</u>
People born before 1/1/1955	No card needed.
Operators of commercial fishing boats	When operating a recreational vessel must have valid commercial license or Boater Education Card.
Operators with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) marine operator license	When operating a recreational vessel must have valid USCG operator license or Boater Education Card.
Operators of exempt vessels	When operating a recreational vessel must have Boater Education Card.
Operators of rented, leased or chartered vessels	When operating a livery vessel, must have a copy of the Commission-approved educational checklist in lieu of Boater Education Card.
An operator who is a resident of another state or country	Does not need card for first 60 consecutive days. After this must have Washington Boater Education Card.
An operator who is a resident of another state or country who has a valid card from that state or country	Does not need card for first 60 consecutive days. After this must have Washington Boater Education Card.
A person purchasing a vessel	For the first 60 days after purchasing a vessel, the bill of sale showing date of purchase is valid in lieu of a Washington Boating Education Card.
A person not yet required to have a card	No card needed until date of phasing in.

For more go to: <http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/washington/faq.aspx> - faq1
 Or <http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating/boatered/?subject=faq>

Is global warming real?



These people think so

Fish are shrinking in response to global warming: study

From AFP, at:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.d672f9d7f0f64fefdf0b21e696b41e21.7a1&show_article=1

Fish have lost half their average body mass and smaller species are making up a larger proportion of European fish stocks as a result of global warming, a study published Monday has found.

"It's huge," said study author [Martin Daufresne](#) of the [Cemagref Public Agricultural and Environmental Research Institute](#) in Lyon, [France](#).

"Size is a fundamental characteristic that is linked to a number of biological functions, such as fecundity - the capacity to reproduce."

Smaller fish tend to produce fewer eggs. They also provide less sustenance for predators - including humans - which could have significant implications for the food chain and ecosystem.

A similar shrinking effect was recently documented in Scottish sheep and Daufresne said it is possible that global warming could have "a significant impact on organisms in general."

Earlier research has already established that fish have shifted their

geographic ranges and their migratory and breeding patterns in response to rising water temperatures. It has also been established that warmer regions tend to be inhabited by smaller fish.

Daufresne and his colleagues examined long-term surveys of fish populations in rivers, streams and the Baltic and [North Seas](#) and also performed experiments on bacteria and plankton.

They found the individual species lost an average of 50 percent of their body mass over the past 20 to 30 years while the average size of the overall fishing stock had shrunk by 60 percent.

This was a result of a decrease in the average size-at-age and an increase in the proportion of juveniles and small-sized species, Daufresne said.

"It was an effect that we observed in a number of organisms and in a number of very different environments - on fish, on plankton, on bacteria, in fresh water, in salt water - and we observed a global shrinking of size for all the organisms in all the environments," Daufresne said in a telephone interview.

While commercial and recreational fishing did impact some of the

fisheries studied, it "cannot be considered as the unique trigger" for the changes in size, the study published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) found. "Although not negating the role of other factors, our study provides strong evidence that temperature actually plays a major role in driving changes in the size structure of populations and communities," the study concluded.



Have something to offer?

Fishing Coaches hopes volunteers will help us get bigger faster, so contact us if you can:

- 1) "Test" a Fishing Coaches scenario and report on your trip. (Photos welcome!)
- OR
- 2) Make phone calls to help us research new fishing scenarios!

Dale@fishingcoaches.org or
(360) 920-7667

Photo credits

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assn. (please support): <http://www.n-sea.org/>
WDFW http://www.goldseal.ca/images/wildsalmon/salmon_chum_lg.jpg
Seattle Times: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/chum/graphics/seattle_times_chum.jpg

Please support:



Good Luck!
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