



# KLAMATH COUNTRY FLY CASTERS

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Fly Fishing in the Pacific Northwest (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska)



*POSTED DECEMBER 27, 2018 BY STEVE BUCKNER IN ARTICLES IN  
[HTTPS://WWW.NORTHWESTFLYFISHERMAN.COM/FISHING\\_IN\\_THE\\_NORTHWEST.HTM](https://www.northwestflyfisherman.com/fishing_in_the_northwest.htm)*

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful geographic location to wet a fly line than in the Pacific Northwest. There are relatively few places where the average fly fisherman can have a reasonable chance at hooking into a 10+ pound fish. The rivers are big, the fish are big, and the weather is generally mild. Yes, it can be wet at times, but this is a small price to pay in my opinion for such opportunities



## Run Timing

One of the most important factors in being successful in chasing anadromous (ocean going) fish is to remember that they are not always present in fresh water. Another thing to remember is that they are almost ALWAYS moving. You may find fish one day and then return to the same spot the next day to find nothing there. Likewise, just because you didn't see fish in a prime location one day doesn't mean that you shouldn't check back again the next. Although every river system is different, the following run timing calendar will give you an idea of what fish are available during the calendar year. In Alaska, this calendar will also serve as a general reference, with one difference being that in Alaska, Chinook Salmon generally enter the rivers in late June through July.

## Run Timing Calendar

The calendar below will give you some idea of what species of fish inhabit our waters and what time of the year they're present. As mentioned elsewhere in this site, every day and every year are different. Unlike Alaska, the pacific northwest waters west of the Cascade mountains in Oregon, Washington, and B.C., do not have resident trout such as rainbow.

Grey – Fish not generally present

Green – Fish present

X – when fishing is historically the best for that species

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Sea-Run Cutts							X	X	X	X	X	X
Steelhead	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Coho								X	X	X	X	X
Chinook					X	X			X	X		
Chum											X	X
Pink							X	X	X			



## The Fish

### Rainbow Trout/Steelhead (Oncorhynchus Mykiss)

Rainbow trout are an interesting species which are native to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Depending upon the geographic location in which they're found, some rainbow trout are resident, meaning that they spend their whole lives within a given river system. However, some number of that population evolved to become very migratory, only spending a year or two in fresh water before migrating to the ocean where they can find ample food supply. Once there, they'll spend another year or two in the salt



prior to migrating back to their natal fresh water streams to reproduce. These migratory rainbow trout are known as steelhead. Rainbow trout and/or steelhead are both genetically the same and it is reflected in their Latin name *Oncorhynchus Mykiss*.

In Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, you'll generally find trout in rivers east of the Cascade mountain range. There are numerous lakes west of the Cascades that also hold Rainbow. West of the Cascades, again, due to geological factors and the amounts of rain we receive, we do not have rainbow trout. The rainbow trout here are steelhead.

In Alaska, because of the large number of salmon and different geological conditions, there may be trout and/or steelhead. Steelhead are found generally found in the more southern regions of Alaska. Trout are found in the more northerly areas because they feed upon salmon flesh, salmon eggs, and emerging salmon fry. When they're able, trout like to overwinter in lakes.

Rainbow/Steelhead both spawn in the spring. Depending upon how far the natal river is from the ocean will determine whether a river receives summer steelhead, winter steelhead, or both. To make things more complex, because many rivers have hatchery production in place, many rivers that once only received fish at one point of the year may also receive fish nearly year-round.



## Sea-run Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*)

Coastal or Sea-run cutthroat trout are the only cutthroat that live in both salt and fresh water. Somewhat like steelhead, they have the ability to migrate to and from the salt into fresh water where they'll spawn multiple times in their lifetimes. In some regions, they may be more plentiful in freshwater during the spring, in other locals, they may be more present in fresh water during the fall months. Many fly fisherman fish for them nearly year-round in Puget Sound. They are exceedingly aggressive, and will chase both top water and subsurface flies.



## Salmon

There are 5 species of pacific salmon.

- Chinook Salmon
- Coho Salmon
- Chum Salmon
- Pink Salmon
- Sockeye Salmon



## Char

Between Alaska and Northern California, there are a couple of different species of char which inhabit our waters. We tend to find Bull trout in Washington and Oregon, and Arctic Char further on into Alaskan waters. They are also a very aggressive fish – and exceedingly pretty.

## Clothing

As with most outdoor sports, it is imperative to dress appropriately prior to heading out for a day of fishing so that you're as comfortable as possible. Being properly outfitted for the elements can make or break your trip. A Gore-Tex rain coat, a polar fleece jacket, Gore-Tex or neoprene waders and sturdy boots are a must. You may want to bring a pair of gloves for those early mornings and/or wet conditions. Plan on having some rain during your outing, sometimes you should just plan on it raining during your entire trip. Rain and/or overcast skies often improves the fishing dramatically so most Northwest Fly fishermen actually look forward to inclement weather.

## Gear

Most of the fishing for Pacific Salmonids in the Northwest is done using 4 to 8 weight rods, depending upon the targeted species. A good reel, a good line, and plenty of backing are a must. Fly lines that incorporate multiple heads from floating to various sink tips often give the fly angler the edge needed to be successful. As for leaders, a standard salmon/steelhead leader of 9 1/2 feet will work for floating line presentations. If sink tips are used, a simple 4-5 foot length of strong leader is all that is required. Tippets may vary between 5-15 lbs. depending upon which species is being targeted.

In addition to the above mentioned gear, one cannot under estimate the value of having a good pair of polarized glasses. Polarized lenses allow the angler to peer into water that would otherwise prevent the naked eye from distinguishing fish. Knowing where the fish are located and being able to observe your fly and how the fish react with it can make or break your day.

## Big Rivers

As one can guess, with the amount of precipitation that the Pacific Northwest and Alaska receive, many of our rivers are broad, wild, and beautiful places. Because of this, many fishermen would be wise to consider improving their casting if they're hoping to be successful.

Because of the amount of rain we receive, especially in the Winter/Spring months, rivers that were safe one day can literally change overnight to become raging torrents that take fishermen's lives. Regardless of when you're here, pay careful attention to the weather and precipitation forecasts so that you're safe when you're out fishing. It is wise to have a backup set of clothing handy should you get wet, as hypothermia can set in quickly.



**CALENDAR**

Mar 16<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Club Meeting Will not will be held. Watch for updates  
 Apr 20<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Club Meeting if it will be held. Watch for updates  
 May 18<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Club Meeting if it will be held. Watch for updates  
 No Summer Events Scheduled At This Time

**THE KCFC MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Klamath Country Fly Casters, out of a vital interest in the sport of fly fishing, do hereby join to promote fly fishing as a method of angling, to encourage youth to learn this method of angling, and to promote and participate in meetings to educate all persons in the many aspects of fly fishing as a sport. We agree to make every effort to protect and improve fishing resources in our area by encouraging the practice of catch and release fishing of wild, native fish and by supporting fly fishing organizations in other areas in the overall quest for improvement and perpetuity of fishing resources.

The members of the board of Klamath Country Fly Casters put forth this statement:

"We invite people to become board members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters who wish to promote a healthy and harmonious sense of collegial spirit within the environmental milieu of our board. We on the board, choose to care for the well-being of board members, Club members, and for our fly-fishing community. We ask those who want to be board members to practice positive intervention, to work harmoniously with other board members, and to be willing to promote well-being amongst fellow members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters and our community."

**OFFICERS AND BOARD**

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**COMMITTEES**

Conservation: Vacant

Education: Greg Williams

Fly Tying: Ralph Carestia

Membership: Mark Kelley

Outings Coordinator: Kris Henry

Programs: Bob Kingzett

Social Events & Auction: Lois Krueger

Monthly Raffle: Marie Ganong

ORCFFI Club Representative, Newsletter Editor, Budget and Communications: Dale Zemke

Regular KCFC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at the Waffle Hut 106 Main Street, Klamath Falls. Dinner starts at 6:00 with the meeting beginning at 7:00. Board members, please be there at 5:00.

The KCFC website is: [www.klamathcountryflycasters.com](http://www.klamathcountryflycasters.com)



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** from John Krueger

It's March, this year is just marching right on, it's time gear up for fishing. Do you have enough of your favorite flies. Are reels clean and lubricated, fly lines cleaned and stretched out, enough leader and tippet. If you require anything I will help or find someone who can.

Oh yes, this is election year. Voting will take place in May of this year for next year's club officers. We will have more on this before next month. I am hoping we can have a meeting in May, if possible, I pray for this.

I would like ask all members if you have pictures, articles please forward to Dale so he can include them in our Klamath Country Fly Casters newsletter. We would cherish input from our club members.

Have A Great Day  
John Krueger



## MEMBER'S PHOTO GALLERY:

Fly Tying Group Valentine's Day Dinner at the Kruegers.





## Eggs to Fry 2021

This year's egg delivery process was definitely a challenge for this program. We decided to try having the trout eggs shipped to the eight schools and the one library that wanted to give it a go this year. Jennifer Luke of the ODF&W took on the task of bundling the eggs and packing them for shipment from the Wizard Falls Hatchery.

The Trout eggs this year are Cranebow eggs. Cranebows are trout that originated from wild trout in Crane Prairie Reservoir southwest of Bend. Beginning in 1997, the ODFW has each January through April snowmobiled to remote locations to capture wild rainbow trout that were making spawning runs up tributaries of Crane Prairie Reservoir. From those trout, biologists collected 50,000 eggs in 1998, and 185,000 in 1998 through 2000. More eggs are currently being collected from wild trout to provide a supply of wild genes to the captive program.

The below is some of the feedback received about the delivery process. It did not go as well as hoped, however, there were sufficient survivors to make the program workable. One batch of eggs destined for Tulelake Elementary went astray and turned up at a post office well beyond any chance of survival. However Jennifer Luke was able to locate another batch of eggs and sent them by FedEx to Tulelake Elementary.

Henley Elementary - Yes I received them yesterday. Sorry for not responding. However several had a white coating on them. They did not look viable. My students were so excited. Thank you

Pinehurst School - We received the trout eggs at Pinehurst School this afternoon. They don't look as healthy as usual. Some look clumped together and crushed. We hope they survive, but I thought I'd let you know in case we've described non-viable eggs. They did travel during two snowy days so there is chance they were froze during delivery

Ponderosa Middle School - My trout eggs arrived. They're not in very good shape, but we'll do what we can. Thank you for all you do.

And one location, the South Suburban Library, received eggs that were not viable. And to top it off their refrigerator unit had also died, so the eggs would not have been in an acceptable environment.

Hopefully, we will be able to return to normalcy next year and have our volunteers hand deliver them to active classrooms. So watch for Dale Zemke's request for volunteers starting about November.



## Hooked on Fish by Dale Zemke



### Spicy Fresh Seafood Cioppino

Using prepared pasta sauce makes this hearty and hot one-pot dinner a cinch.

#### Ingredients

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 25 min. Cook: 25 min. YIELD: 8 servings (3 quarts).

5 garlic cloves, minced

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 jar (24 ounces) tomato basil pasta sauce

1 bottle (8 ounces) clam juice

1 cup dry white wine or chicken broth

1/4 cup water

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon sugar

1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

1 teaspoon minced fresh basil

1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme

1 pound fresh littleneck clams

1 pound fresh mussels, scrubbed and beards removed

1 pound uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

1 pound bay scallops

1 package (6 ounces) fresh baby spinach



**Directions**

1. In a Dutch oven, sauté garlic in oil until tender. Add the pasta sauce, clam juice, wine, water and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes.
2. Add the clams, mussels and shrimp. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir in scallops and spinach; cook 5 to 7 minutes longer or until clams and mussels open, shrimp turn pink and scallops are opaque. Discard any unopened clams or mussels.



## OCFFI Women Connect:

Hello to all women fly fishers in our lovely state of Oregon! Are you aware that the Federation of Fly Fishers International has an excellent women's program, Women Connect. Women Connect is an outreach arm of FFI and our goal is to inspire more women into the sport of fly fishing and create a network of likeminded women supporting one another through community, education and events. For more information be sure to check out the FFI website, [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org), for Women Connect details and also like the FFI Women Connect Facebook page.



I am the FFI Oregon Counsel Women Connect Liaison. In addition, I am the Program Coordinator for Wild Women of the Water. A group of 75+ women connected with Central Oregon Flyfishers. FFI and Women Connect has designated June 2021 as Women Fly Fishing month encouraging women to get out on the water and to take a child fishing.

In support of Women Connect and June Women Fly Fishing month the Central Oregon Wild Women of the Water would like to invite interested women to our East Lake Wild Women outing, June 11-18. We would like to invite you to the pot luck on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. East Lake is a popular fishing lake located in Central Oregon with available camping and a resort.

For more information on how to get involved with Women Connect and/or join our June East Lake outing, please contact me, Sue Coyle, [wildwomen@coflyfishers.org](mailto:wildwomen@coflyfishers.org).

Looking forward to meeting you all on the water!

Sue Coyle

FFI Women Connect - Oregon Liaison

Wild Women of the Water Program Coordinator



## INDISPENSABLE FLIES, by Ralph Carestia

### BEAD HEAD GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR



The Hare's Ear Nymph, and more recently the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph, is a classic trout fly. The newest version is the Bead Head Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph. This fly has stood the test of time and is still in use today although it has been around since the 1880's. It may well be the oldest fly known to man. The reason why is simple. It catches trout.

The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear doesn't imitate any particular nymph. It gives trout the impression that it is a nymph and that's about it. Even though trout can see flies under the water better than they can those on the surface, it still usually works as long as the water is moving. I also believe trout mistake it for several other insects. A lot of people fish this as a scud on our local waters. You can also add pearl flash for the back instead of mottled quill etc. Sometimes in the sun you can't go wrong with something that gives a sparkle to get the trout's attention. I think they can see it from farther away. So sunshine can play a big part in flash flies. The bead head version gives an added flash. Its value has more to do with helping anglers keep the fly down near or on the bottom than anything.

There are all kinds of ways you can tie this fly. This is the way I like tying it the best. I like using the hare's mask for the tail. Hare's mask will tie this whole fly if that's all you have, but since they've made dubbing in the packages blended, I believe that's better than what we can do on our own. So I tie it with blended dubbing that has sparkle to it.



**Recipe:**

- Hook:** TMC 3761 #12-16
- Thread:** UNI-thread 6/0 Grey
- Bead:** Tungsten gold 3/32 or 5/64 (depending on the hook size)
- Tail:** Hares mask
- Rib:** Gold wire (sized to hook)
- Abdomen:** Hare's ear dubbing (grey)
- Wingcase:** Pheasant, mottled turkey quill
- Thorax:** Hare's ear dubbing or mask dubbing.

**Instructions:**

1. Installing an appropriately sized round gold tungsten bead onto your favorite 2X long nymph hook. Then, to give our nymph some added weight ensuring it sinks quickly when fished, we'll next add a good 15 to 20 tight-wound wraps of soft round non-toxic lead-free wire. Once wrapped, push our weighted underbody forward into the round Bead's machined counter-sunk rear, and then attach our tying thread snugly onto our hook.



2. Cut a clump the fur off of the hare's mask that lies from the forehead of the rabbit. Clip this hair as close to the skin as possible, but try not to get any of the fur from along the "cheeks". The tips should be tied in at the rear of the hook. . Tie the tail (with narrow pointy ends facing rearwards) firmly in place. Make sure you tie in only what you need.



3. Tie in a length of gold brassie-sized Ultra wire about two eye lengths back from the hook eye and wrap back over it with the thread to the bend of the hook. Keep the wire along the side of the shank as you go. Return the thread to the sixty percent point on the hook.



4. Apply the dubbing to the thread and build a tapered abdomen from the base of the tail to the seventy-five percent point on the shank. The taper should be thicker at the front than the rear and evenly tapered.



5. Spiral wrap the gold wire going the opposite direction through the dubbing to form the rib with six turns. Tie the wire off at the front edge of the abdomen and break off the excess.



6. Cut a slip of turkey tail by cutting the tip end square and lay it on top of the thread base at the front of the abdomen with the inside of the feather facing up and the tip facing forward. Tie in the turkey tail on top of the front edge of the abdomen.



7. Twists a good amount of hare's Ear dubbing onto the thread and then wrap the dubbing forward to the eye just behind the bead. \* Note: use more dubbing than you normally would for other patterns as the dubbing will be pulled down to represent legs.



8. Clip the dubbing on top of the fly. Now fold the quill over and tie it down. Whip finish the fly.







Top View



Bottom View