

Where to go Fly Fishing in Washington for Trout and Salmon



Based on "More Than You Want to Know about Fly Fishing" published by the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 1973, with additions in 2016.

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The number of fly patterns is infinite, but fortunately an angler seldom needs more than a few basic patterns to take trout in any particular area. Through many years of experience, the members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club have found a number of flies that do the job nicely in local waters. All of the flies on this list are wet fly patterns, as good surface hatches are relatively rare on local waters and the dry fly is used infrequently.

Some of the flies listed below imitate insects commonly found in Washington's lowland lakes. Others are "attractor" patterns not meant to imitate anything in particular. Tying instructions for these and many other patterns may be found in "Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns", by the late Roy Patrick, a WFFC member, and "Northwest Fly Patterns", published by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club of Spokane.



CAREY SPECIAL -- The most popular single fly in the Northwest. Tied with long pheasant hackle and a body of many different materials, including chenille, floss, peacock herl, pheasant rump, moose mane, etc. Green, brown and black are most popular colors. Good through the season in all low-land lakes.



DANDY GREEN NYMPH -- Similar to the Carey. Pheasant hackle and green seal's fur body. Popular on the West Side and in the Columbia Basin lakes.



CAROT NYMPH -- Usually tied in smaller sizes. Orange wool body, partridge hackle. Good fly for beaver ponds containing cutthroat and/or Eastern brook trout.



NYERGES NYMPH -- Body of thick green chenille with brown palmered hackle, trimmed off top and sides. Very popular fly in Columbia Basin lakes, spring and fall.



GIL'S MONSTER -- Similar to the Carey. Body of full black chenille, tied on extra-long shank hook. Excellent fly for rainbows in Columbia Basin "seeps".



JAMESON SHRIMP -- Similar to Nyerges Nymph but with deer hair overlay on top of body. An old standby at Jameson Lake.



TDC -- Black wool body, silver rib and a few turns of white ostrich herl at the eye. Imitates the Chironomid pupae present in all our lakes. Good throughout season, especially in spring.



DR. SPRATLEY -- Black wool body, silver rib, grizzly hackle and tail, pheasant tail feather wing. Good here, even better in British Columbia.

PASS LAKE, A GOOD FLY-ONLY PLACE ON SEASON OPENING DAY

Ex-Spurts' Advice:

Areas 1,3,4 and 5 best fished from anchored boat, casting toward shore.

Area 1: Good for both casters and moochers, if they don't get in each other's hair.

Area 4: Not always good early in season, but excellent during May and June.

Area 5: NE and SW of rock bank. Can be real hot spot in PM, casting torises.

Aspot check among some of the WFFC's long-time Pass Lake addicts brought these suggestions to opening day there:

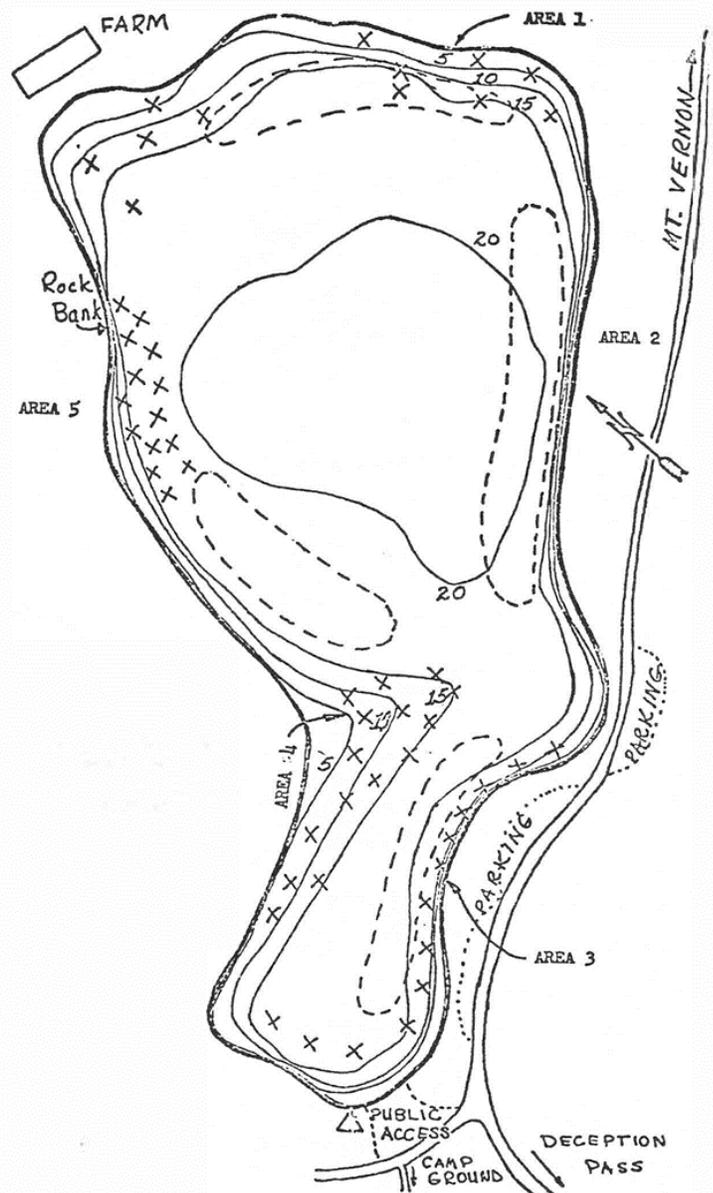
The late Vince Sellen: "It doesn't make a hell of a lot of difference what fly you use on opening day, but after the first several weeks pattern becomes most important." First choice, his "Golden Spider: #10 or #12 longshank, golden pheasant tail, thin red acetate or cellophane body, 1-2 turns of red rump hackle from golden pheasant. Second choice, ordinary Carey Special, silver rib, herl body.

Dick Thompson: TDC (can you imagine this from the originator!) if chironomids are emerging. Blackbody Carey, heavy silver rib, #8 or 10, longshank. Also Golden Spider (see above), Nyerges nymph, Six-Pack.

Steve Raymond: TDC

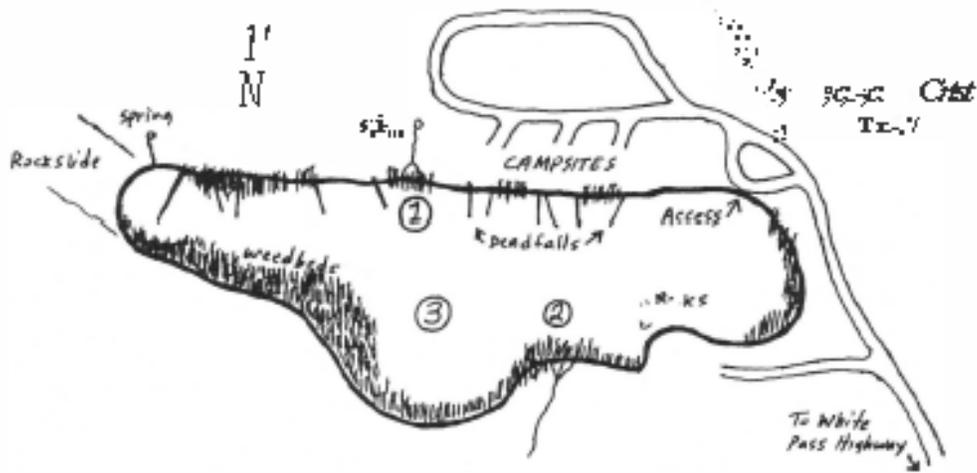
Frank Headrick: Start with blackbody Carey or Dandy Green Nymph, sizes #8 or 10, longshank, sparse. Also, peacock herl Carey. Then on to anything that works.

Dawn Hdbrook: Any nymph of appropriate size. Chironomid, damsel fly, mayfly - in that sequence, depending upon weather and warmth and how far the season has progressed. Damsel (needle) fly might be best this year. Tie as follows: tail, 4 strands pleasantrump; body, stripped peacock herl (quill); pheasant rump hackle sparse; collar of peacock herl, taken from near eye of feather; #8-10 extra-long shank. Fish close to bottom. If you don't pick up weeds you're not down enough. After first pressure, day light to about 9:30, fishing often lulls through midday while fish rest up, then picks up again, 2-4 in afternoon. Method more important than fly pattern. Favorite method: long cast, row about 100 feet let boat drift, then strip line in, drift, then strip line in.



PASS LAKE

Skagit County, 98,6 acres, 130 ft, elevation



LEECH LAKE

Leech Lake, at the summit of White Pass, is one of the finest fly lakes in the state. It's small, shallow and easy to cover. The water is usually clear, weed growth heavy and hatches plentiful. The trout - Eastern brook - are not large, but there are lots of them and they make wonderful eating.

Leech is at an elevation of 4,700 feet. Usually the snow is gone and the lake is accessible by Memorial Day. The best fishing usually is in the last two weeks of July and all of August, no matter when the snow goes off.

In most areas the lake is three to five feet deep. Because of the clarity of the water, it's often possible to see a fish rise or strike at the end of a long cast. The trout average about 10 inches, but you can usually count on picking up several 12 to 13-inch fish in a day's fishing. I like to use a 6-foot, 2-ounce midge rod with a sinking line for these fish. Even a 10-incher will put a good bend in such a small rod.

There are campsites all around the lake, maintained by the Forest Service. Get there early on weekends. There are outdoor toilets and good fresh water is available from the springs.

Gas, food and booze are available at the White Pass summit, about half a mile from the campground. The best spots are numbered:

- 1 - Hottest place on the lake. Brookies congregate off the mouth of the spring where cool water comes in. Anchor close to shore and put your fly in next to the weed bed or along the dead-falls. I once caught and released 106 trout in this spot during a five-hour period.
- 2 - Best spot for bigger trout. The brookies spawn in the inlet and bigger fish tend to lie off the weed bed during the summer before they move into the creek to spawn in the fall.
- 3 - Good when others fail.

Best all-around pattern is a damselfly nymph, light green, tied on size 8 4X long hook. A self Carey works sometimes. On bright days, a size 12 TDC on a thin leader sunk deep works well.

SQUALICUM LAKE

by Steve Raymond

Squalicum Lake became the state's newest fly-only lake last year, and it proved a real sleeper. By last fall it was producing cutthroat in the 18 to 21-inch class, plus numerous smaller fish.

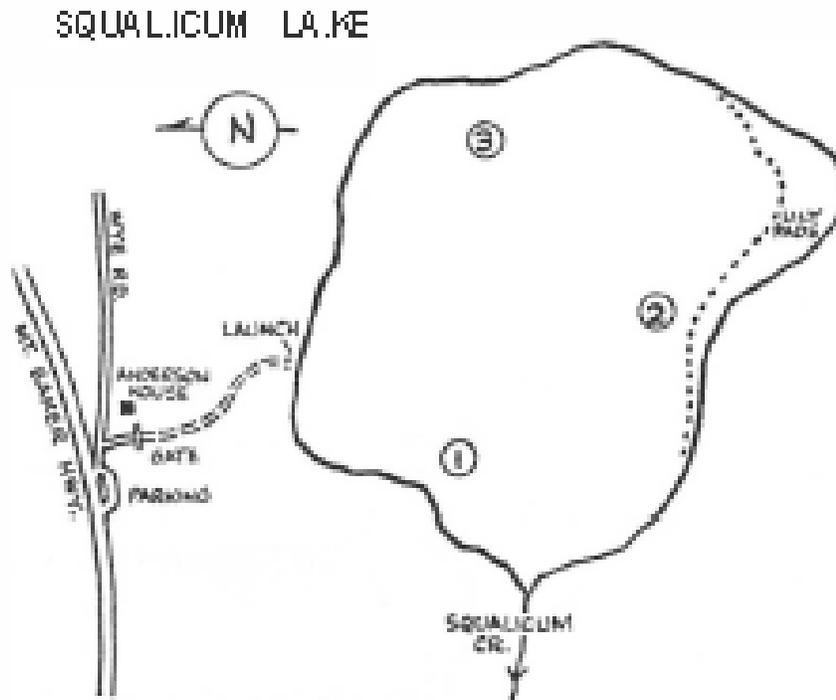
The lake is about 5 miles east of Bellingham. Take the Mt. Baker Highway to the Wye Road and park in the pull off at the intersection. Carry your boat about a quarter of a mile up the old dirt road and over the hill to the lake. (Don't forget to close the gate behind you.) The lake is about 40 acres, shallow, and has a boggy shore line. It is best fished from a boat.

Area 1, near the outlet, was good last spring, especially with a dry fly. Area 2, along the lily pads, also was good. Area 3, near the east shore, often is good in the evening.

Many different fly patterns were used here last year and none proved really consistent. A Gray Hackle Yellow, of all things, seemed effective in the early spring. An "emerging Chironomid"(TDC-type fly fished half in, half out of the water on a floating line) was effective during hatches. Spratley and green-bodied Carey's worked sometimes. However, the cutthroat in this lake appear very selective and more work is needed to establish some consistent patterns and techniques.

Weed growth is heavy in the fall and a floating line or sink tip are recommended then. A Type 11 sinking line will work in the spring.

Squalicum is open throughout the regular trout season. Best fishing last year was late in September.



LENICE LAKE

by Gil Nyerges

Fly patterns - Dealer's choice of nymphs - dark usually

Leader - minimum of 4 lb. tippet (remember the weeds)

Line - fast sinker, sinking tip. Limited Hi-Duse

Rods - tie them to the boat when mooching

- (1) Early season - good in early morning just as sun gets on water. Use sink tip line - watch for rolling and cruising fish - very shallow. Cast among weeds and close to shore.
- (2) Fish from shore toward drop off - fish seem to concentrate near the fence posts close to shore watch for them down deep swimming by.
- (3) Fish close to shore - cast toward deep weeds.
- (4) Mooch deep parallel to shore toward (3) just out of reach of shore fishermen. Many hefty fish here at 12 to 15 ft. depth.
- (5) Fish at edge of weeds - look for deeper water and mooch - not heavily fished but surprising number of QJ...g_f ish taken here just off shore.
- (6) One hole 61 to 81 deep just north of islands - either mooch from east to west staying close to islands or anchor at the X and cast deep.
- (7) Deep hole off end of weed bed - anchor at X and cast with Hi-D line and wait before stripping.
- (8) Many holes in large weed bed in this area—investigate each one - especially those close to shore - cast and strip with sinking line.
- (9) Many spawners taken here from holes in and among weeds - casting and stripping is the only way here because of crowds.
- (10) Mooch the middle of the lake with sinking line - vary your retrieve.
- (11) Boat launch and toilet facility.

Remember Dick Thompson's data of fish movement taken from our tagging operation of Spring 1970. They cover the whole lake in a matter of hours - they're always moving - use polarized sunglasses and watch for them!



JAMESON LAKE by Andy Hall

JAMESON LAKE, in Douglas County, is one of the top producers in the state for numbers of fish caught.

Situated in the bottom of Moses Coulee between basalt cliffs towering high above the lake level, it's not a place of breathtaking scenery, but watching the birds does provide interesting diversion while fishing.

An extremely heavy algae bloom occurs from June 1 to September 1, which is one reason for the split season on the lake. It is also during this time that the fish will taste a little muddy. Although the risk of a large fish kill is possible because of the algae and highly alkaline water, the abundant food supply in the lake makes up for the occasional fish kill and results in quality fishing.

The lake is planted annually with approximately 200,000 rainbow **try** in the Spring, and by the Fall opening the fish are 9" and by November 1 these fish will be 10-11 inches. The first year carryover fish will have grown to 12-13 inches by Spring and will be 14-15 inches (1 1/4 lbs.) by November 1. The following Spring these fish will be 16-17 inches (2 lbs.) and in the Fall those still left will be 18-19 inches (3 lbs.)

I have never caught any larger fish but have been with fishing partners 21-inch (4 lbs.) fish. In May 1969 24-inch 71 lb., 141 inch girth fish. at Jameson who have caught netted a dead.

The tremendous growth that the fish put on at Jameson is because of the many insects in the lake. Fresh water shrimp, damselflies, dragon flies, and recently fantastic midge and mayfly hatches.

I have not fished the south end of the lake since 1962. Mooching areas 1 and 2 were good, but use a fast sinking or Hi-D fly line. Casting from shore in the channel at night had been good.

The following ties are a few of the many productive patterns:

SPRING PATTERNS

Black Carey (Andy's)

Hook: #8

Tai I: Brown pheasant rump fibers

Body: Black floss (tapered)

Rib: Grey floss

Hackle: Brown pheasant rump (sparse)

Modified Puget Bug

Hook: #8-10

Tai I: Grey primary fibers (forked)

Body: Moose mane (2 black, 1 white)

Thorax: Black chenille (small J)

Hackle: Feather from head of cock pheasant (1 turn)

Schroeter's Nymph

Hook: #8-10

Tai I: Few fibers brown pheasant rump

Body: Black wool (tapered J coat body with fly head lacquer

Head: Double seal fur (1 turn)

Zietler Nymph—see flies of the Northwest

FALL PATTERNS

Gil's Monster

Hook: #6-8 3XL

Tai I: Brown pheasant rump fiber

Body: Black chenille (medium)

Hackle: Brown pheasant rump (1 turn)

Green Carey Special

Hook: #8 2XL

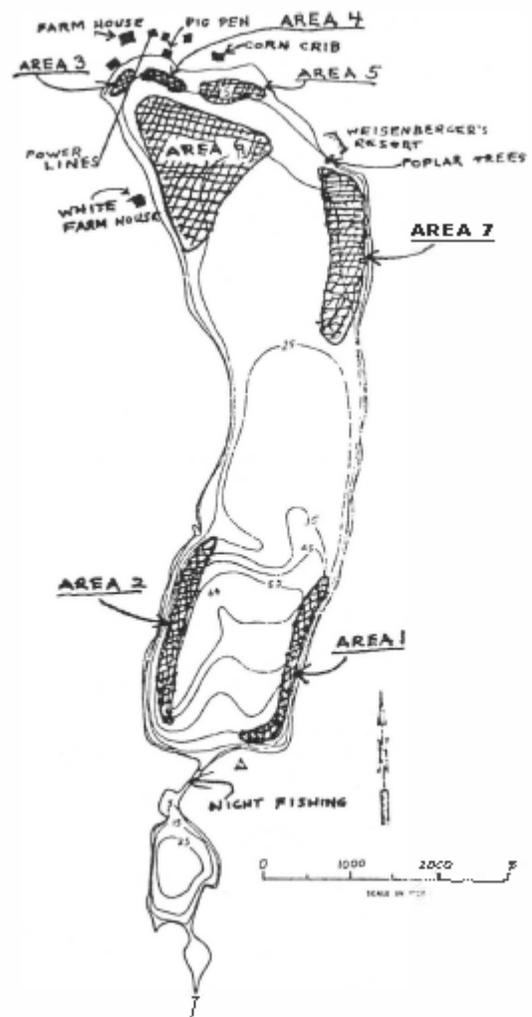
Tai I: Pheasant rump fibers (blue)

Body: Pheasant rump fibers (blue)

Hackle: Blue pheasant rump (sparse)

Nyerges Nymph

Jameson Shrimp (See Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns)



JAMESON LAKE CONTINUED

The north end of the lake is shallow and an excellent spot for us fly fishermen. The weed growth is back to what it was in 1958, before the lake level increased 15 feet. The lake level is down 7 feet now and a reason for the weed growth.

In the spring I head for area 3 inside the power lines and cast a black Carey toward shore, let the fly sink and make a moderate retrieve, using a Wet Cell fly line. If I don't get strikes I move out toward the lake from the power lines until I do take fish. There have been times when I ended up on the opposite shore and still no fish. In my Spring outing (May 12, 1970) a large midge and mayfly hatch was occurring. The fishing was great 50 feet outside the power lines, casting the modified Puget Bug. An indication of a midge hatch is evident by the number of swallows flying a foot above the water picking up the hatched midges. Examination of fish stomach contents revealed damselfly nymphs, chironomids, and very few shrimp. The shrimp tended to appear more after the midge hatches, which lasted two weeks this year.

Next I move to area 4 out from the pig pen and then area 5 out from the corn crib, casting toward shore and in the weed pockets, working my way back to the Hershaw resort.

Should the wind come, and it always does, don't go back to the trailer; stay out there and cast your fly into those rollers on shore and strip your fly in. You'll be surprised at what is stirred up! Weeds, bottles, insects, and fish. Area 6 out in front of the pig pen is good for mooching, again using the Wet Cell line. Make sure you have all your fly line out to the backing when mooching.

Area 7 below the poplar trees is another good mooching spot and a Hi-D fly line would be a good bet, using the black Carey, Zietler nymph or Gil's Monster.

In the fall head for area 4 first and if this is not productive I move to area 5, casting any of the fall fly patterns with a Hi-D fly line. Just below the poplar trees in area 7 is a good spot to cast toward shore, using a green Carey. Mooching area 7 in November is good, but use that Hi-D line. The fish are deep and this line will get you down there quicker.

The weather is cold and crisp in November, and last year from November 28-30 the temperature was 24 degrees and the rod guides iced up, my hands became numb from the cold, which forced me back to the trailer after two hours. And there I have a long and enjoyable conversation with Jack C last name Daniels.

Should you ever be in the vicinity of Jameson, stop and have a go at it.

DRY FALLS LAKE by Ralph Wahl

I have never fished Dry Falls in the fall and do not know the conditions at that time. However, in the Spring the trout slip in from the deep water and work all through the shallows. They can be taken on various nymphs, wets, and dries when the fish are surface-feeding. Two men in a boat, one rowing, can cover the shore line, the various shallow channels and the edge of the weeds. If there is enough breeze, it's fine to anchor and strip careys just under the surface.

A 10-foot wet tip or 30-foot slow sinking line is best for both nymphs and wets and, of course, a floating line for dry fly. Adams, tied-down caddis, etc. are effective in the S ring.

I have indicated several areas to try, but trout are found at one time or another almost everywhere in the lake. The fish are in good shape and of good size. Take it slow and easy on the access road. There are a few big boulders you might bottom on. No trouble if you are careful. Remember the special limit on this lake.

Dry falls is my favorite Washington lake. I revel at the surrounding beauty, the abounding wildlife in and around its waters and enjoy the varied fishing water offered. As most who have fished the lake know, Dry Falls is really like two distinct lakes, one of which is very shallow and weed filled and the other of which is rather deep, with only marginal weed beds. It is true that almost every evening and at times during the day when large insect hatches occur, the shallow lake (tule area on map) provides tremendous dry and damp fly fishing. It is my observation, however, that the weeds are growing nearer to the surface as time passes, and I believe that trout are becoming more reluctant to enter the tule area (I on map) and at times along the margins of the dense cattail beds where substantial cover is provided.

My favorite area is 2. On the same bright days mentioned I have enjoyed wonderful damp fly fishing there. I find large fish cruising the channel up to the drop-off, which is very obvious, but not over it and into the shallows until dark.

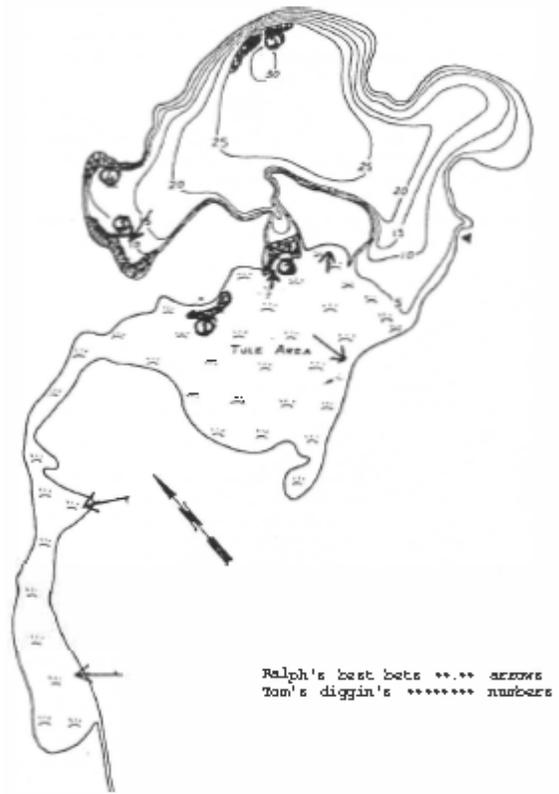
A successful combination for me has been: 12-foot leaders, fine tipped (2-lb. Stren) and dry line; the fly, size 14-16, extra fine wire, tied with 1 white and 2 black moose mane fibers for the body and black ostrich herl for a collar. The technique has been to cast out over the drop-off, let fly sink and drift with an ever-so-slow retrieve. It seems most strikes occur on a dead drift. The more popular wet fly patterns are dark bodied careys; Nyerges Nymph and other shrimp imitations, fished on a wet line, are also effective here, but not as much fun for me. Areas 3 and 4 on the map are also productive at times. When area 3 is crowded (as it tends to be) I usually drop the hook at area 4 and cast towards shore with a sinking line and a TDC, Nyerges Nymph or some other fly with questionable qualifications.

Finally, when one of those "dog days" comes along and all else fails, "last resort" area is 5, found underneath the "falls." The lake is about its deepest here, and on hot calm days I have taken very bright, deep and large fish by mooching large dark flies near the bottom. The fish caught here usually have a different appearance than those taken in the shallows, and I like to speculate that they never or seldom frequent the shallows and are in a behavioral aspect, distinct. They usually are feeding on crayfish (the larger fish, that is) and little else. These fish are beautiful, but one must fish almost into the backing to fish the proper depth, which tends to diminish the pleasure of fly fishing.

Alan Pratt on fishing Dry Falls Lake:

Fall is nicest time. Fish seem peppier, more broadly spread over lake and hit with more abandon. May-be better size, too, as I've gotten more big fish late. Best area for my money is the bay or flat short of the main launch site and outhouse. Shallow and weedy, it seems to hold more and better fish, providing they are working. Sometimes the rocky slot between main deep part of lake and the southern shallows is good, but here it takes a sinking line, where the remainder of the flats can be worked best with floater. Long neck and little bay at extreme south end can be bot on occasion, though I've never found it consistent.

Floating line, or a sink tip, work best though a slow sinker will also do the trick. You're fishing in anything from four feet of water to just slightly damp. I've had best success on a sparse black Carey on a 12 3x long, but the pattern range is dealer's choice, with other Careys often good, Nyerges Nymph, small Yellow Spider, etc., not to exclude Poltroons Folly, a glorious concoction of fluorescent fuchsia yarn with wiggly rubber band legs and a 49-cent price tag affixed at stern. Nice long, fine leader tippets are standard.



Ralph's best bets ** ** SEEDS
Tom's diggin's ***** NUMBERS

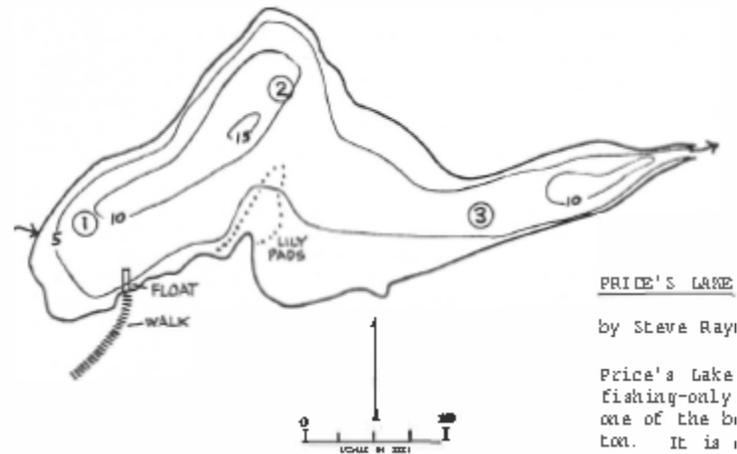
PRICE'S LAKE

by Steve Raymond

One of the best fly fishing lakes in Western Washington, Price's Lake on the Olympic Peninsula is not a fly-fishing only lake. It is one of the few lakes where you can catch rainbow, cutthroat and Eastern brook trout all in the same day, and have a reasonable chance of getting a big fish.

To reach Price's Lake, take Highway 101 to the town of Hoodspport. Turn off at Hoodspport on the road to Lake Cushman (well marked). Follow the road along the east side of Lake Cushman past Lake Cushman State Park, then keep a careful eye peeled for the first dirt road running off to your right (east). A small sign on a tree indicates this is the road to Price's Lake.

The dirt road will take you a couple of miles to Price's Lake "resort." The road is rough and often wet and you will want to take it slow. The "resort" has seen far better days (to put it mildly), but you will have to stop at the owner's cabin to rent a boat (\$2.50 a day, plus tax. No motors). When you have paid for the boat, drive as far as you can on the road and park. Proceed from there over a boardwalk which crosses a swamp and takes you to a float on the lake where the boats are kept. It rains often at Price's Lake and the boats have a nasty habit of filling up with rainwater and sometimes sinking. However, if you dump them out, they are generally seaworthy enough for a day's fishing. Oars and anchors are available, so you need to bring only your tackle and lunch.



The map indicates that Price's Lake is very shallow. In spring, when the weeds are down, a sinking line will do. But in the fall, a sink-tip or a floating line is best medicine.

Area 1, right off the inlet, often provides fast fishing for smaller rainbows, cutthroat and hybrids. Area 2 is marked by a couple of iron pipes anchored to the bottom where it is possible to tie up and cast if you forget your anchor. This spot, and the area around it, is the best in the lake for big rainbows and occasional brook trout. Area 3 near the outlet, has another iron pipe mooring spot and is known as "the Iron Pipe Pool". Some very large brook trout are taken here occasionally.

The Game Department enthusiastically stocks Price's Lake with "legal" sized rainbow in the spring. For the first six weeks of the season, fishing is poor because these small trout are so numerous. However, Price's Lake is very rich and the trout grow quickly, and from Memorial Day through mid-June there can be excellent fishing at times. June brings some phenomenal mayfly and sedge hatches and if you stay late in the evening on a warm day you will see so many tiny mayflies it looks like a snowstorm. The fishing can be fast and furious at such times, dry fly or nymph. Late September and October also are good and sometimes in October a flight of termites will set off a terrific rise. Fall is best for bigger fish.

The average Price's Lake rainbow in the fall will run about 10 inches. But a 15-inch rainbow or brookie is not uncommon, and each year Price's Lake yields trout of both species in the 3-to-4 lb. class. These are not common, but they are there.

The Dandy Green Nymph was originated at Price's Lake by Enos Bradner and Frank Headrick. Fished deep it is an excellent fly in the spring. During the mayfly hatches in June you will want a small nymph (size 16), preferably with a moose mane body, fished on a floating line just under the surface late in the afternoon or early in the evening. A Carot Nymph can be an excellent taker of cutthroat and brook trout in the spring. For fall fishing, a Carey with a body of fluorescent orange chenille has taken some large brook trout and you will want to be prepared with an appropriate imitation to take advantage of the termite flight if you should happen to be there when it occurs. This provides some exciting dry-fly fishing.

Altogether, Price's Lake provides some of the most challenging and rewarding fly fishing to be found in any West Side lake. Give it a try sometime.

CHOPAKA LAKE by John Callahan

Chopaka Lake is an especially attractive, sub-alpine lake in the north central part of Okanogan County. It resembles many of the excellent trout lakes in the Kamloops Plateau of British Columbia. Chopaka is situated at the 3,000 foot elevation, about 10 miles northwest of the small community of Loomis in the Sinlahekin Valley. The road up the hill from Loomis is steep and (in 1972) quite rough; it is not recommended for big rigs or long trailers.

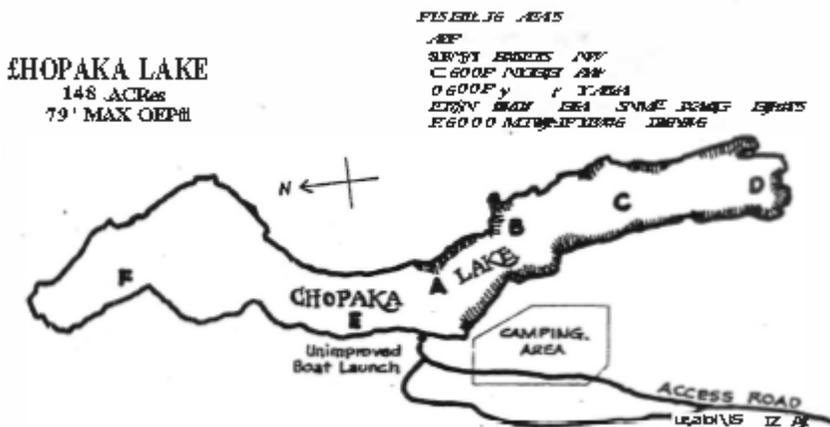
Chopaka Lake is about one mile long. The south end of the lake is shallow, from five to 10 feet in depth, and has many weed beds. Cattails and tules border the shoreline. The north end of the lake is deeper, with sand and gravel shore lines; in certain areas the banks are of steeply sloping bedrock.

In 1973 there will be two species of fish in the lake: Rainbow trout and land-locked Atlantic Salmon. Chopaka Lake will be one of the few bodies of water in Western North America to have Atlantic Salmon. These fish were obtained by the Washington Dept. of Game from the Oregon Game Commission hatchery at Wizard Falls, Oregon, and are of the same strain that have been successfully planted into Hosmer Lake near Bend, Oregon. There, too, the Atlantics have been managed on a fly-fishing-only, barbless hooks, catch and-release basis. This ultimate in recreational angling has attracted anglers from all over the United States who have enjoyed the wonderful fishing there for large, trophy fish. Hopefully, Chopaka Lake will soon provide these high-quality angling experiences to Washington anglers.

Chopaka Lake has a fine hatch of May Flies throughout the spring and into early summer. Midge hatches seem to occur all season long. There is also a limited sedge hatch, usually in June, occurring during hours of darkness. When the large traveling sedges have been on the water, the rainbow trout have been right behind them. Since this occurs near the shoreline, casting from the banks in the late evening can produce some marvelous fishing.

Chopaka Lake is best fished from a small row-boat. Motors "for transportation only" are legally permitted, but the noise, fumes, and wakes from powered boats destroy the enjoyment of other anglers. Boats are not completely necessary, however, since in the middle section of the lake excellent fishing can be had by wading out from shore and casting over the rocky shoals and weed beds. On a calm morning it is best to begin fishing with dry flies in shallow areas if there is an early hatch of insects or surface activities of fish. If there is no visible surface feeding going on, one might try fishing again in shallow waters using a slow-sinking line and nymph patterns.

The rainbow generally are not highly selective about fly patterns; there are many types of insect larvae, pupae and nymphs available to them in the lake and the fish seem to take patterns representing all of them. Dry flies that have been successful in the past have been: Blue Dun May-fly, sizes 14 and 16; Brown Upright, size 14; a Moose-mane Black Upright, sizes 12-16 - these patterns imitate emerging may-flies. The Tom Thumb dry fly, in size 12, represents emerging sedges, or Caddis flies, and can be highly successful during or after such a "hatch". Successful nymphs have been: fluorescent green Carey Special, #10; T.O.C. in sizes 8-12; Self-Bodied Carey Special, size 10, and a green or light brown Damsel-fly nymph pattern. There are, of course, other patterns, both representative and attractive, that have worked well at certain times. It is presumed that these patterns will take Atlantic Salmon, since they will be feeding on the same available foods as the rainbow trout. At Hosmer Lake, Oregon, the Saltrun Cardy, usually stage 3, has been a very successful pattern, and may prove likewise for Atlantics in Chopaka Lake.



Remember that Chopaka is a "Fly Fishing Only" lake and in 1973 the new regulation of "Barbless Hooks Only" will be in effect. ALL ATLANTIC SALMON MUST BE RELEASED UNHARMED. Before, and perhaps during, fishing Chopaka Lake, it would be helpful to read the 1973 Game Fish Seasons and Catch Limits pamphlet, especially page 5.

Chopaka is a fine lake with beautiful country surrounding it; it has offered high quality fishing for rainbows and the introduction of Atlantic Salmon can only improve the angling scene if they are permitted to survive and grow to truly quality size. The lake and its beautiful but sensitive surroundings will continue to offer a high-quality outdoor recreational experience only if those who fish and camp there take special care not to litter or otherwise despoil the peaceful and natural environment.

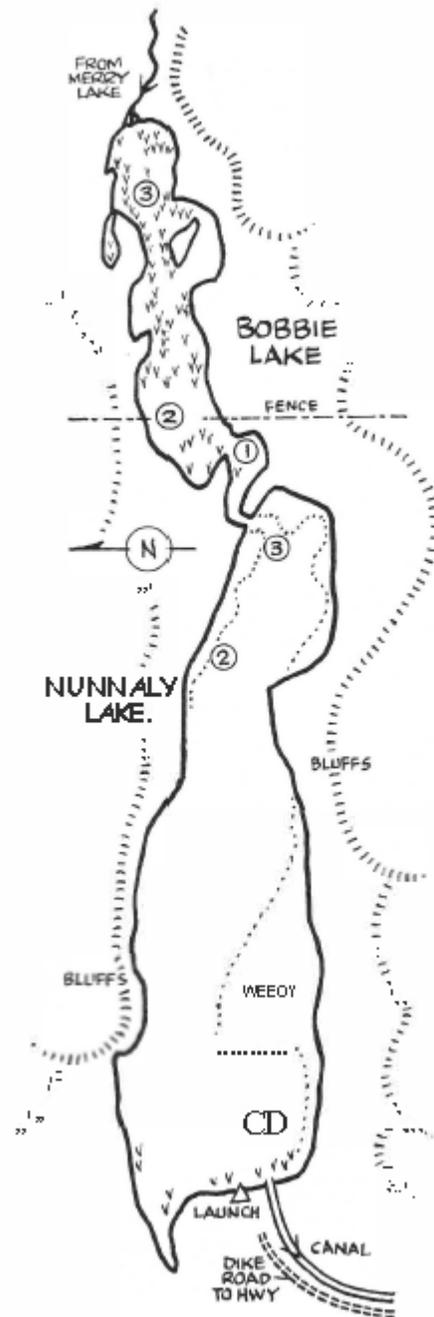
NUNN ALY LAKE

by Al Pratt

Nunnaly Lake is a long, narrow body of water, mostly shallow, with a fairly deep channel paralleling N. shoreline. Weedy in shallows, and lower end nearly bisected by weed mass for first third of lake. Open bay at outlet (1) is very productive of smaller fish. Central channel can be mooched for most of lake, and fish all over, especially at dusk. 1 72 fish, all young and foolish, preferred fly moving just below planing speed. Beyond point near upper end a bay opens up, weedy along both shores (2 & 3) which seemed to entertain more activity and bigger fish. Anchor at weeds' edge, cast out or along weed beds, or work small pockets inside, fast strip. Inlet channel area especially productive (2) for fish to five pounds. Obviously this is the prime teed section of lake. Narrow cut leads from here in a figure 5 to:

BOBBIE LAKE, a consistently shallow, weedy pond, with numerous areas of very heavy tules, both along shoreline and tree-standing in mid lake. No large sections of open water, except for bay adjacent to island well up lake, and an acre or so at fence I in e. Rest of lake is pocket water and small channels in amongst the tules. Outlet area (1) is favored by bank fishers, sports a small duck blinds and many beer cans. Some big fish here, and at boundary fence, where they may get additional iron in their diet from the barbed wire. This is a 11 anchor and cast. Upper end (3) had the biggest fish (Fall of 1 72) to six plus pounds, but is also the most restricted area, mostly little pockets and guts in the tule patches, a wonderful place to your skill at landing large fish and clumps of weeds at one and the same time. A sink tip line, and four pound tippet (or better) are in order, or be prepared to curse a lot. Favorite fly patterns are yet to evolve, but success has been had with green or black Careys, Hauttler Nymphs, all large. 1 73 season should see average fish 1511 and a chunky 2 pounds maybe. Hopefully enough of the Junkers of 5-6 pounds will have survived to grow bigger and meaner, to tear up more than a few leaders.

*Note that Nunnaly and Bobbie Lakes, like Merry and Lenice upstream are regulated under the "Quality Lakes II category, which means: a 3 fish over 1 21 limit. Artificial flies and lures only. No bait, no artificial eggs. No treble hooks. No motors.



SEA-RUN CUTTHROAT FISHING ON HOOD CANAL

THE CASE OF THE DEAD CHICKEN - or- DON'T MISS YOUR OMNIBUS, as told by Ed Foss

Stock market analysts read graphs; so do Sea-Run Cutthroat (SRC) fishermen. Below is a tide chart for the week of Sept. 6-12 and no correction is needed for lower Hood Canal. Experience has shown that when the water is above the 5-foot line it will be up in the eel grass beds and cover the oyster beds along shore.

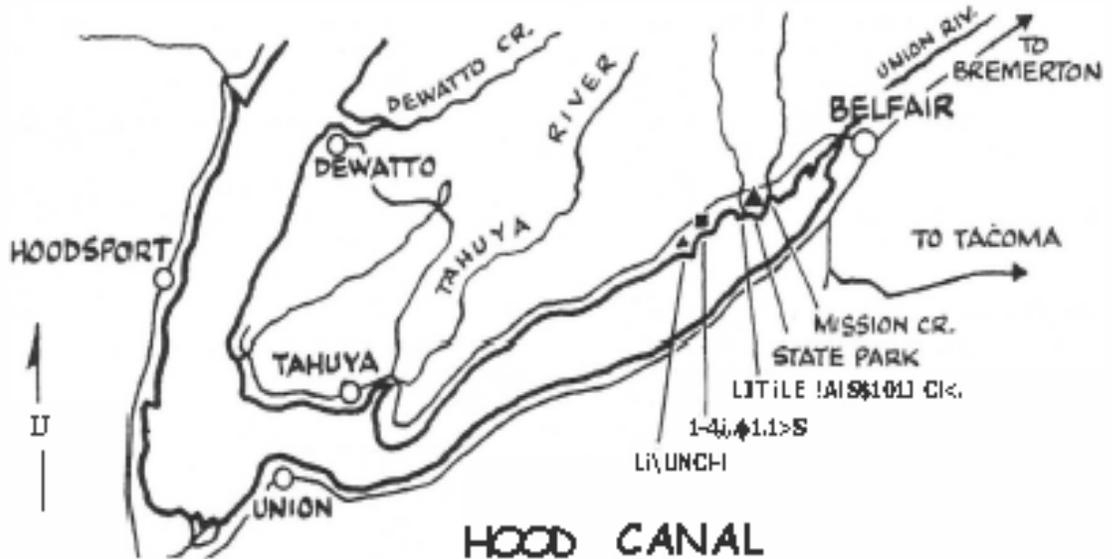
We have found that the rule to fish "one hour before high tide to one-half hour after" is not necessarily so. We have taken SRC all day long when the water was above this 5-foot line. Other areas may need some correction, but the slope of the bottom in lower Hood Canal, for example, is shallow and gentle, and a drop of 1 foot in the tide will uncover a lot of bottom.

Now, if the tide is up in the daylight hours, you go. If not, don't. Note that the chart shows that Sunday the 6th, Monday the 7th and Tuesday the 8th would give you a nice long day. The 9th is good but the tide didn't get over the 5-foot line until 10 a.m. In short, look for a high "M" on the chart rather than a low "W". The ideal situation is about 8 to 10 feet of water, no wind, in the late afternoon. The worst situation is small craft warnings.

Surprise No. 2. Wade out, turn around, and fish behind you, or row out and fish in. We find SRC 90% of the time in very shallow water. We've seen them feeding in water that would hardly cover their backs. SRC love eel grass, oyster beds, rocky area, submerged creek beds, cruddy looking water, snags, overhung banks and we've found SRC off the dribbles running across the beach that wouldn't wet your boots. Watch for swirls along the beach; SRC will show themselves. Put the fly close to the swirl or water's edge and strip just fast enough to keep your hook out of the weeds or oysters. SRC don't seem to be too spooky but use normal care and caution in approaching a likely spot.

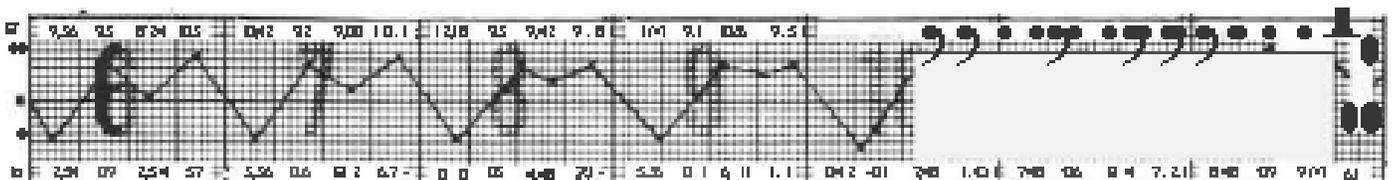
We like a 4-1 b. tippet (you might latch onto a SH or a silver) and a bright colored pattern (Dead Chicken, Omnibus, All Orange, Thor, etc. most SH patterns tied on #6 or #8. We always scrub everything down when we get home - salt water is murder on guides, reels, etc.

The natives who live along the beach are friendly. However, they have been burned by the "other types" who litter up the beaches, tramp on or poach their oysters and clams. Proper tribute to the land owner is a few fish for supper. DON'T DISTURB THE OYSTERS. They mean pin money to the housewives along the beach.



The limit is or 6 lbs. and regulations). punch card if the same as for other trout - 12 I, the year around (read the A license is required and a you take SH.

Harold's Inn serves good food with the suds and has an immense fireplace suitable for drying the outside while you wet the inside.



THE LOWER STILLY

SEARUN CUTTHROATS - SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER

by Don Minden

Thirty miles north of the King/Snohomish County line flows some of the best searun cutthroat water anyone could wish for. The main trunk of the Stillaguamish River, or as it's usually called, The Lower Stilly, can be most rewarding to any angler willing to take the time to become familiar with as little as two or three miles of its lower waters.

Happiness is a small town called Silvana. Why? Because Silvana is situated right in the middle of the cutthroat water I'm talking about. Silvana lies about 21 miles West (see map) of the Arlington exit of Interstate 5. Instead of heading up the Stilly's North Fork, turn left and continue West ... you can't miss it.

The searun cutthroat is an elusive fish. Being a migratory critter, he spends most of his life roaming around off the beaches of Puget Sound. However as his spawning appointment approaches, the cut leaves the salt water and returns to the river of his birth. Usually during September and October he starts his upriver run, leisurely moving from rest stop to rest stop.

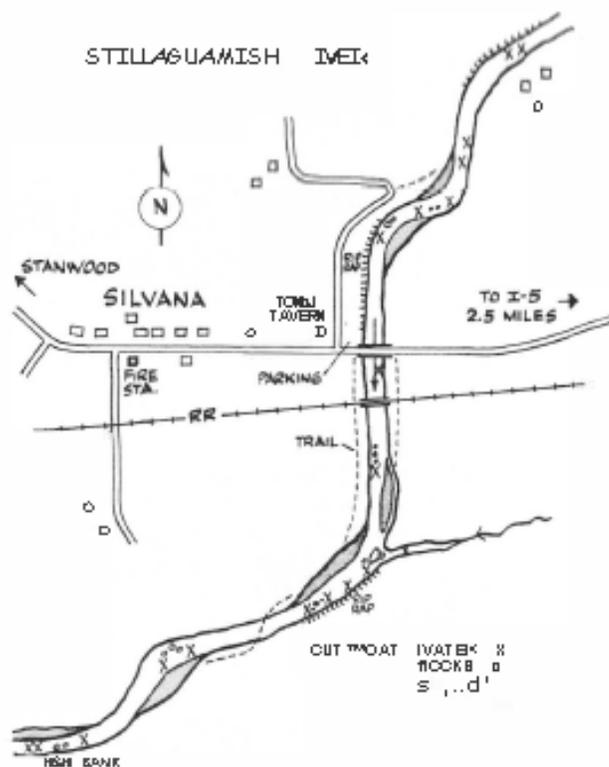
The searun cut, however, does have distinctive preferences as to rest stops and feeding areas. The map shows where fly fishing has been productive for me on the Lower Stilly, but consider the following-- cutthroats can be found in front of, in back of, or alongside of large rocks, snags, brush piles and undercut banks. His preference also includes deep pools or where the current begins to form eddys. Two points are in the fisherman's favor. One, if he's fortunate to tie into one searun there are usually a few more close by. Two, if any fly fisherman will identify the spots he has taken fish in before, it's very likely that he'll catch more the next time he tries these same spots. Searuns usually hold up in the same areas to feed and rest.

How do you catch searuns? Easy. Find favorable looking water, then properly present your fly close to him. Over-simplification? No, not really. Unlike his larger cousin, the steel head, the searun cut feed right up to the time he's ready to spawn. Fortunately for the angler, searuns take flies, lures and bait nearly as freely as natural food. The cut, for the most part, is always hungry. He generally will even tolerate a sloppy cast or weird looking fly. Attractors, or bright fly patterns work best for searuns. Practically any fly dressed with any combination of red, yellow, white or orange will take fish. Hook sizes from #4 through #10 work well. My favorite flies for the Lower Stilly are the Thor, Yellow Spider and Brad's Brat. The type of fly line is up to the individual. I prefer either a dry or sink-tip line with a 9-foot tapered leader with a 3-pound tippet.

Just a few last remarks about fishing the Lower Stilly:

- (1) Although I prefer the small area in and around Silvana, there is good water for cuts from Arlington on down to Stanwood.
- (2) Boating the Lower Stilly from Silvana **down** to Stanwood is productive for those who like this type of fishing. CAUTION!! There is a small water control dam across the Stilly below the I-5 bridge. It can and has caused trouble for boaters. Check it out before boating this area.
- (3) Most property owners are friendly to most anglers ... but it's still wise to ask permission if you want to cross private property; I've never been turned away.

That's it, Hope to see you on the Lower Stilly.



RECOMMENDED ANGLING BOOKS

Washington Fly Fishing Club Clinic, 1973

BASIC TECHNIQUE

- Primer of Fly Fishing, by Roderick Haig-Brown. William Morrow & Co. An eloquent guide to the basics of fly fishing, including tackle, flies and technique. Hardcover.
- Flyfishing a sting from the Beginning, by Jim Green. Basic instruction manual for beginning casters, well illustrated. Fenwick Publication, available for \$2 from Fenwick/Sevenstrand, Dept. 141, P. O. Box 729, Westminster, Calif. 92683. Softcover.

FISH AND FISHING

- Northwest Angling, by Enos Bradner, former Seattle Times outdoor editor and charter president of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Revised edition now available from Binfords & Mott, hardcover. Still the only book about Washington angling, with data on steel head, trout and salmon.
- Fish On! Also by Bradner. A new softcover book that will tell you how to catch steel head, with flies or otherwise. Superior Publishing, \$3.95 at local bookstores.
- Kamloops, by Steve Raymond, former WFFC president and editor of the Flyfisher magazine. The first book about British Columbia's Kamloops trout, with fly patterns, maps and descriptions of the best lakes. Winchester Press, hardcover, \$12.50 at local bookstores.
- Corne Wade the River, with photos by Ralph Wahl, WFFC member, and text by Roderick Haig-Brown, WFFC honorary member. A beautiful picture book on the moods of Northwest angling. Superior Publishing, hardcover, \$17.95 at local bookstores. Deluxe \$50 edition also available.
- The Western A classic series of beautifully written books by Roderick Haig-Brown, titled
- River Never Sleeps with information on the trout, steel head and salmon of the Northwest.
- Fisherman's Fall hardcover books, some now out of print. Check local bookstores. Fisherman's Spring, Fisherman's Summer
- Fly Fishing the Lakes, by Rex Gerlach, Spokane outdoor writer. A general treatise on the techniques of fishing lakes in the Northwest and elsewhere. Winchester Press.

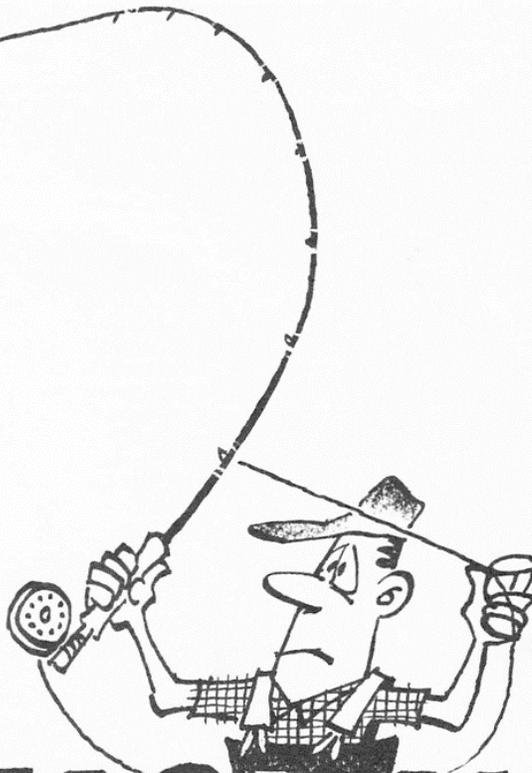
FLY TYING

- Tie Your Own Flies, by Roy Patrick, late WFFC member. The basic text used in local fly tying classes for many years. Takes you step-by-step through the whole thing. Softcover, available at Patrick's Fly Shop.
- Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns, also by Patrick. Revised edition now available. Still the most complete selection of Northwest fly patterns ever assembled. Softcover, at Patrick's Fly Shop.
- Flies of the Northwest, by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane. Well-illustrated revised title, with the most popular Northwest patterns. Softcover, mail order from Box 2926, Terminal Annex, Spokane.

JUST FOR PLEASURE

- Trout Madness, by Robert Traver. Delightfully funny.
- The Well-Tempered, by Arnold Gingrich: Informative and fun.
- Gordon, by John McDonald. An interesting book that will give you a history, philosophy and literature of angling, especially the latter.
- Fishless Days, Angling Nights, by Sparse Grey Hackle. Good reading.
- Fisherman's Bounty, by Nick Lyons. Best angling anthology available.

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