Anglers Enjoy Big Trout, Nice Weather on Opening Day of Lowland Lakes Season

Local News

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Olympia, WA - Good weather and big trout helped to boost catch rates on opening day of this year’s lowland lakes fishing season.Based on creel checks conducted at 112 lakes around the state, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) estimates that anglers caught an average of 3.99 trout on opening day Saturday, April 28.The weather was good and so was the fishing, we saw a lot of limits taken at lakes around the state. - Chris Donley, WDFW’s Inland Fish managerFor most lakes, the daily limit is five fish. Donley said the 5,129 anglers contacted by WDFW on opening day retained an average of 2.6 trout - up from 2.3 fish in recent years. The rest were released.One reason for the higher retention rate may be that three million of the "catchable-size" trout WDFW planted before the opener averaged 11-13 inches, about a third larger than before. Many lakes were also stocked with thousands of triploids, broodstock and other large trout weighing up to 11 pounds apiece.Lots of folks noticed those larger fish, with bigger fish and cool but sunny weather, it was all in all a good opener. - Mark Downen, a WDFW fish biologist for Mason and Kitsap counties

The 10 lakes with the top catch-and-keep rates were:Ellen Lake, Ferry County (5)Warden Lake, Grant County (5)Panther Lake, Kitsap County (4.6)Clara Lake, Mason County (4.4)Crabapple Lake, Snohomish County (4.3)Mudgett Lake, Stevens County (4.1)Steel Lake, King County (4.1)Devereaux Lake, Mason County (4.1)Mission Lake, Kitsap County (4)Sixteen Lake, Skagit County (4)"It’s important to remember that we stock lakes with trout for the whole season, not just opening day," Donley said. "Trout fishing should be highly productive in lowland lakes through June, and then again in September."Anglers looking for information about where to fish can find it on WDFW’s new Fish Washington! Online look-up tool at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/washington/ .The following is the entire opening day creel report. (The column showing "average number of fish caught" includes fish released.)

CountyLake#Anglers CheckedAverage # fish caught/anglerAverage # fish harvested/angler

ChelanBeehive373.62.73
ChelanClear363.42.92
ChelanLily322.42.38
ChelanWapato652.72.58
DouglasJameson52.62.00
FerryLake Ellen115.45.00
GrantWarden804.954.09
GrantBlue661.881.88
GrantPark1483.342.91
GrantDeep645.483.13
GrantVic Meyers291.341.21
Grays HarborAberdeen1342.881.31
Grays HarborSylvia341.261.09
Grays HarborVance Ponds #1271.501.18

Grays HarborVance Ponds #2392.952.62
Grays HarborFailor585.443.01
JeffersonAnderson Lake754.33.1
JeffersonHorseshoe (Jef)101.90.4
JeffersonLudlow140.50.5
JeffersonSandy Shore654.53.9
JeffersonSilent Lake88.43.5
JeffersonTarboo391.81.8
KingCottage704.31.43
KingGeneva274.92.41
KingLanglois516.33.75
KingMargaret553.11.36
KingNorth123.53.50
KingPine755.13.07
KingSteel234.74.13
KingWalker335.44.18
KitsapBuck163.41.4
KitsapHorseshoe (Kit)496.03.0
KitsapMission396.54.1
KitsapPanther405.64.6
KitsapWildcat653.92.8
KitsapWye314.33.9
KlickitatRowland475.362.21
KlickitatSpearfish303.872.93
KlickitatHorsethief363.893.28
LewisPlummer282.821.32
LewisFt. Borst Pk.Pd.2911.340.95
LewisCarlisle3313.060.82
LewisMineral878.073.11
LincolnFish Trap274.43.00
MasonAldrich Lake76.93.9
MasonBenson364.83.7
MasonClara135.34.4
MasonDevereaux364.12.8
MasonHaven Lake1013.73.2
MasonHowell Lake185.04.2
MasonLimerick224.02.7
MasonPhillips Lake286.84.8
MasonRobbins Lake154.73.8
MasonStump391.61.4
MasonTiger Lake704.53.5
MasonWildberry Lake17.03.0
MasonWood Lake63.52.7
MasonWooten Lake493.83.5
OkanoganAlta953.82.80
OkanoganFish452.92.07
OkanoganWannacut153.43.40
OkanoganPearrygin591.41.27
OkanoganConconully Res.402.02.00

OkanoganConconully Lake510.80.84
PacificBlack321.661.34
Pend OreilleDiamond Lake443.51.68
PierceBay1144.653.82
PierceCarney274.781.89
PierceClear415.883.41
PierceJackson42.502.50
PierceOhop552.672.29
PierceRapjohn293.343.07
PierceSilver381.891.55
PierceTanwax493.712.82
SkagitHeart1124.12.95
SkagitMcMurray653.93.06
SkagitSixteen564.02.96
SkamaniaSwift Reservoir403.302.25
SkamaniaKidney423.522.17
SnohomishArmstrong261.50.58
SnohomishBosworth313.93.23
SnohomishCrabapple164.32.13
SnohomishKi762.81.47
SnohomishMartha (AM)463.32.02
SnohomishRiley724.42.72
SnohomishSerene186.22.56
SnohomishStickney116.31.73
SnohomishStorm533.42.47
SnohomishWagner106.51.10
SpokaneBadger282.52.40
SpokaneWilliams615.53.90
SpokaneFish Lake493.32.00
SpokaneWest Medical884.63.10
SpokaneClear Lake373.42.10
StevensCedar Lake254.43.28
StevensMudgett Lake224.24.14
StevensRocky Lake172.82.71
StevensStarvation Lake193.73.68
StevensWaitts Lake287.02.68
ThurstonClear885.183.81
ThurstonDeep621.921.81
ThurstonHicks352.742.06
ThurstonLong465.093.98
ThurstonMcIntosh843.852.96
ThurstonPattison363.031.47
ThurstonSummit655.554.05
ThurstonWard394.562.15
WhatcomCain426.43.81
WhatcomPadden584.83.88
WhatcomSilver1324.93.04
WhatcomToad657.63.34

TOTALS51293.992.60