Thousands of anglers enjoy lowland lakes opener, Grays Harbor had the whopper

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : May 2, 2013 at 6:56 am

OLYMPIA, Wash. - Despite cool and windy weather in many parts of the state, anglers had a lot of success reeling in large trout on opening day of this year's lowland lakes fishing season.Based on creel checks conducted at 98 lakes around the state, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) estimates that anglers caught an average of 4.6 trout on opening day, April 27."We saw a lot of limits caught at lakes around the state and many anglers happy with the large trout," said Chris Donley, WDFW's Inland Fish program manager. "Late morning and early afternoon windy weather blew folks off of some waters, but not before they caught lots of fish."For most lakes, the daily limit is five fish. Donley said the 4,076 anglers contacted by WDFW on opening day retained an average of 2.8 trout - up from 2.3 fish in recent years. The rest of the fish were released.Donley said one reason for the higher retention rate may be that 2.2 million of the "catchable-size" trout WDFW planted before the opener averaged 10-12 inches - about a third larger than in the past. Many lakes were also stocked with thousands of triploids, broodstock and other large trout weighing up to 11 pounds apiece.The largest fish caught and recorded included a 24.5-inch rainbow trout at Vance Creek Pond #2 (Lake Inez) in Grays Harbor County, and a 24-inch rainbow at Lincoln County's Fishtrap Lake.

Lakes with the highest average of fish kept per angler include:Aldrich Lake, Mason County (4.7) Wood Lake, Mason County (4.6)Erie Lake, Skagit County (4.6)Martha Lake, Snohomish County (4.5) Rocky Lake, Stevens County (4.5)Fishtrap Lake, Lincoln County (4.4)Swift Reservoir, Skamania County (4.4)West Medical Lake, Spokane County (4.3)Conconully Reservoir, Okanogan County (4.3) Phillips Lake, Mason County (4.3)Spearfish Lake, Klickitat County (4.3)Williams Lake, Spokane County (4.2)Robins Lake, Mason County (4.2)Donley reminds anglers that opening weekend is just the beginning of five to six months of good fishing, especially through June and then again in September and October for some lakes.Anglers looking for information about where to fish can find it on WDFW's updated Fish Washington online information 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.)

County Lake#Anglers surveyedAvg.#fish caught/anglerAvg.#fish kept/angler

ChelanBeehive441.61.3
Clear223.42.7
Wapato752.32.2
DouglasJameson403.33.0
FerryEllen166.13.6
GrantBlue363.83.6
Deep914.73.8
Park762.92.4
Perch75.33.6
Vic Meyers84.03.9
Warden653.93.6

Grays Harbor Aberdeen633.72.5
Failor323.82.0
Sylvia163.92.6
Vance Cr.Pd.#11122.41.8
Vance Cr.Pd.#2702.01.4
JeffersonAnderson604.23.3
Horseshoe55.00.0
Ludlow112.72.0
Silent84.03.6
KingCottage371.30.02
Geneva343.12.6
Margaret481.81.1
North304.62.3
Pine333.20.2
Walker223.42.5
Wilderness651.40.3
KitsapBuck145.13.4
Horseshoe205.13.8
Mission355.34.1
Wildcat614.93.3
KlickitatHorsethief512.62.3
Rowland517.63.2
Spearfish354.74.3
LewisCarlisle3714.12.0
Fort Borst Park Pond
(juvenile only)59 1.5
Mineral674.02.6
Plummer232.81.0
MasonAldrich115.34.7
Benson296.13.5
Clara135.23.5
Devereaux315.53.3
Haven267.72.1
Howell114.54.0
Limerick224.61.0
Panther2512.73.6
Phillips504.84.3
Robins114.34.2
Stump420.90.8
Tiger254.63.5
Wooten454.52.8
OkanoganAlta352.72.6
Conconully Lake462.22.2
Conconully Res.314.34.3
Fish352.12.1
Pearrygin235.83.8
PacificBlack456.63.2
Pend Oreille Diamond253.23.2
PierceBay1165.73.8

Clear574.92.8
Rapjohn684.32.4
Ohop484.13.6
Tanwax614.61.9
SkagitErie674.64.6
Heart723.42.9
McMurray753.51.9
SkamaniaKidney453.53.1
Swift Reservoir254.94.4
SnohomishArmstrong182.90.7
Bosworth233.01.0
Echo183.13.1
Ki535.73.8
Martha284.54.5
Serene253.02.3
Stickney153.41.6
Wagner124.33.7
SpokaneBadger612.22.0
Clear226.73.9
Fish526.92.6
West Medical1145.44.3
Williams785.44.2
StevensCedar232.42.4
Deep90.00.0
Mudgett131.61.6
Rocky154.54.5
Starvation393.83.5
Waitts723.52.4
ThurstonClear695.63.6
Deep544.34.1
Hicks193.92.5
Long329.43.6
McIntosh665.73.6
Pattison515.23.2
Summit664.82.8
Ward504.73.4
WhatcomCain374.02.8
Padden793.42.8
Toad692.51.7
TOTALS/Averages 4,076 4.6 avg.2.8 avg.