

# Holiday Newsletter

## Winter Steelhead Have Arrived

It's that time of year again, the time when most normal peoples thoughts are full of the seasons holiday plans, but for most of us who are crazy for fish there is one milestone that equals all others; WINTER STEELHEAD. I know that from the time we land our last winter fish of the year in late April or early May I can hardly look at a river without thinking of when we will start catching these magnificent fish in late fall the following year.

That time has finally arrived. For those of you who may not know most of the fish that arrive early in the months of November and December are of hatchery origin (that makes them destined for the dinner table) and averaging between six and ten pounds apiece these fish are great fighters as they are as fresh from the ocean as Steelhead get.

Another advantage to fishing Steelhead this time of year and that is the periodic hookup of a chrome bright Salmon. Many times during these December steelhead trips do we get the surprise of setting the hook on what we think is another nice Steelhead only to find a thirty plus pound Chinook furiously attached to the other end of our line, and while these fish are often very tough to land they make a welcome addition to anyone's holiday table.

A final thing to note about the arrival of winter steelhead in December is that it expands the fishing opportunities for all of the Northwest, while the coast has been at the peak of this years Chinook run many of the other river have languished with not many opportunities for fresh Salmon or Steelhead. In this newsletter we will take the opportunity to give some insight into the fishing opportunities that Castaway Guide Service and it associated guides can provide this time of year.

In closing, whether or not you have already caught the winter steelhead bug we have the knowledge and experience needed to make your trip a success. Give us a call and get your date today.

Best Wishes,



This fish was one of several beautiful fish caught by Bryan on November 23, 2008



Interested in becoming one of our corporate partners? See page 4

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### Special points of interest:

- Castawa Guide Service is now set up to accept all Credit/Debit cards from Visa, Mastercard, and American Express

## Tillamook and Nestucca

While one season ends another begins. The start of December means that we put away the Salmon gear until spring and focus our attention on winter Steelhead. First I would like to take a minute to thank all of those who helped make this a great season for us. While the early fishing on the coast was great, we experienced what seemed to be a very small return during the peak months of the season, making for some tough days of fishing. Thanks to hard work and persistence (and many days of fishing down to dark) we were able to catch some fantastic kings and have a good season regardless.

For those of you who successfully fished with us early season and would like a repeat for next year, and those of you who didn't get in on the great early season but would like to, we are already getting reservations for next year. One reason to do this is the simple reason that we are growing every year and during the peak times space is starting to get pretty tight. The other reason is that we have lowered our price due to the drop in fuel costs and booking now locks in that price for your trip.

Now it is time to look forward to what is hopefully a great run of steelhead. This year there seems to be a great number of early fish that started showing up in mid-November. This is usually indicative of a very good return. With the water level remaining good myself and some of our associate guides have already been chasing steelhead on multiple occasions with good success. Floats and jigs have been providing success on the Steelhead and Sidedrifting eggs has accounted for some great early season fish as well as some bright Salmon.

Floats and jigs, sidedrifting, pulling plugs, indicator fishing, and swinging flies can all be used successfully to catch winter fish on the coastal streams providing ample opportunities for almost everyone to get out and try their favorite method.



What will probably be one of our last kings of the season off of the Trask river as we don't find as many hatchery winter steelhead on this river. What a way to end a season

## Siletz River

Over the last few years I have received numerous request to fish specifically on the Siletz river. Now through associate guide Nate Cornelius we are able to offer our clients the opportunity to fish this river with an experienced and capable guide who has extensive knowledge of this fishery. Having grown up in Newport Nate has fished this river most of his life and has extensive knowledge of the techniques that are successful here.

Known now as predominantly a sidedrifting river Nate maintains a diverse set of techniques that he utilizes to allow him to find fish when many others are not. I have experienced this first hand on a day that pulling plugs allowed us numerous Steelhead when most went all day without a bite. Nate also has extensive knowledge in fly fishing techniques for this river that can help get you some winter steel on the fly

## Clackamas River

For those of us looking for our piscatorial fix close to Portland the choices have been sorely lacking. Left with the options of looking for the occasional summer steelhead or catching black half dead silvers most of us headed for the coast or just stayed home. This not the case in December as the hatchery Steelhead are headed to Eagle creek. These fish are around in good numbers throughout the month of December and part of January and provide some much needed action that's closer to home for most of us.

**Jet Boat-**Because of its larger size the Clackamas provides an opportunity that the coast cannot, the ability to fish out of the jet boat. While we are targeting the same type of fish this is a significantly different experience. The jet boat allows us fast access to only to holes that we wish to fish and allows us to make multiple passes through the same water, concentrating on the best water and on areas that we find fish. For gear fishermen this means multiple passes side drifting or bobber-dogging, making sure we work all of the sweet holding water before moving on to the next hole. Fly fishermen have the advantage of being able to concentrate only on water that is conducive to catching fish on the fly with very little down time. The last advantage to fishing the jet boat is the ability to fish a larger group without having to split up. Large family or corporate groups are able to fish and spend time together instead of just waving as they pass by each other on the way down the river.

**Drift Boat-** There are still plenty of advantages to running the drift boat, not the least of which is the peace and quite. Listening to the roar of a 225 horsepower outboard is just not some peoples idea of what a fishing trip is supposed to be. The drift boat allow us to access water that is simply unavailable in the jet boat. Finally there are times when there is just not enough water for the jet boat, at these times the drift boat is the only to access fish.

Either way you choose to fish it the Clackamas is an excellent river that flows right through Portland's backyard making it one of the most frequented destinations for myself and associate guide Rob Crandall



Swinging flies for Steelhead on the Clackamas between Upper McCiver and Barton park.

## A Reminder for Deschutes River Trips

Rob has started taking reservations for the fall of 2009 on the Deschutes. Due to our increased collaboration there will now be weekday trip as well as weekends available for the 2009 season on the Deschutes river. These weekday trips can mean less pressure on the water for anyone who can get the time away from work. For those who are unaware this is a three or four day trip down a wild and scenic section of one of the worlds best rivers for fly fishing for steelhead. This is a first rate operation with great campsites set up along the way by our bagger Marty, leaving your guides free to fish you from daylight to dark. This is an extremely popular trip that is limited to six people at a time. Anyone who is interested in this trip for 2009 is advised to get their dates set aside ASAP. You can contact Rob [here](#)



Remember that during the holidays a gift certificate make a great gift for any fisherperson. We sell gift certificates in any denomination that can be used on any of the trips that we offer. It's a great way for the novice or expert alike to get out and see new water, learn new techniques, and spend time with friends or loved ones.

## Corporate Partners

Castaway Guide Service is always open to working with other local and regional companies to promote goods and services that may be of interest to our similar user groups. To expand marketing opportunities by working with proven and reputable companies in a way that is mutually beneficial to them and myself, and to offer chances for companies to associate their product with a proven professional in front of a large contingent of potential buyers in their target demographic.

This may include:

Links on our website and Newsletter

Decals on our boats and vehicles

Logo placement in any print advertising

Guided trips for clients or employees

If you or the company that you work would be interested in this feel free to contact me for more specific details.

## Affiliated Guide News

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.