

# STEPPIN' OUT

## Tips and Strategies To Catch a Winter Steelhead

Ryan Hatfield, owner-operator of 2NorthForkOutfitters, will be the guest speaker at the February 3 general meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge on 12th st. in Florence.

The public is welcomed to attend.

Hatfield will share his techniques and strategies for winter steelhead fishing in the Siuslaw River Basin. The guide will bring a variety of rods rigged with various set-ups and discuss bait selection, lures and other attractants. He will share techniques for both drift boat and bank fishing.

"I will focus on preparation too," Hatfield said. "That includes riggings and the things I do that are helpful before I ever get to the water to begin fishing." He also plans to showcase how he rigs his fishing rods for different presentations of baits and lures to the fish.

Hatfield, who grew up in Florence, has been guiding full time for four years. He operates out of the Port of Siuslaw for fall chinook season and fishes the Willamette and Columbia rivers in April and May for spring chinook. Summers he works for a fishing resort on Bristol Bay in Alaska.

Prior to Hatfield's talk, there will be a short business meeting, including reports from the Whittaker Creek trap and the STEP hatchery facility. Club volunteers have been working the trap for two weeks and have counted more than 400 steelhead in three working trips to the trap.

## Hatchery is Humming Along

Changes made to the water intake system have been very successful, according to President Ron Caputo, who is overseeing the hatchery operations this year.

Munsel Creek is again the primary source of water supplying the hatchery. The change was made after two years of poor water conditions and high iron content.

According to Caputo, the coho eggs have hatched out and the alevin will remain in the hatchery trays for about one month before moving into an outside tank. There are just under 3,000 coho being raised at the hatchery.

Caputo also noted that each week, the hatchery adds between 4,000-6,000 fertilized steelhead eggs into the trays. So far there has been minimal egg loss.

STEP volunteers live spawn the steelhead each Tuesday at Whittaker Trap. Most of the eggs and milt are transported to Alsea Hatchery but the eggs and milt from one pair are brought to the Florence hatchery facility, to be used in the education program

Five volunteers are working at the hatchery, checking daily to make sure that the filters are clean, the water is flowing and the eggs are in good shape.

## February 2016 Calendar

### Wed., February 3

General Member meeting  
"Winter Steelhead Fishing Tips"

Ryan Hatfield, guide  
Fishing reports, updates and more.  
7 p.m. Elks' Lodge,  
12th st., Florence

### February 5-7

Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show  
\$7 adults —

Friday — Noon to 9 p.m.  
Saturday — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lane County Events Center  
13th st., Eugene

### Wed., February 17

Board Meeting 4 p.m.  
Port Offices, Port of Siuslaw

### Sat., February 20

Ada Grange #570  
Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo  
5 p.m. Kitchen opens  
6 p.m. Bingo  
Bring your friends for good food  
& good fun!  
10 miles out Canary rd.  
Info? Call Nancy,  
541-997-2380

### Work Parties

Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
9 a.m. Meet at the STEP Shed  
Carpool to Whittaker Creek

## Stay Connected With STEP and its Activities!

On Facebook, join the group: Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program

On the Web: [www.florencestep.com](http://www.florencestep.com)

Share the links with your family, neighbors and friends so they can keep up too!