



“Committed to Great Catching and Conservation  
in the Pacific Northwest”



November 30, 2007 [www.FishingCoaches.org](http://www.FishingCoaches.org) (360) 733-3353 email [Seth@FishingCoaches.org](mailto:Seth@FishingCoaches.org)

# Wishing you a



**Face it.** Unless you're a diehard steelheader—and even then—December's probably not the *finest* month to fish the Pacific Northwest. Our weather's cooled off and there are days when it's not hard to stay *moist*. Worse by far, what's left of our warm water fisheries aren't hot, excepting yellow perch, perhaps; and premier anadromous species, Chinook and Coho, are disintegrating, literally, as part of the natural process.

And yet—

We did this last year and will do it again: you'd think we were getting paid for the promotion. But no: we just think that *if* you're not already a fan, now's the time to consider the challenges presented by chum salmon, AKA “dogs,” and their distant second cousin, *Prosopium williamsoni*, commonly known as Mountain Whitefish. As quarry they couldn't be more different...which might suggest you could find something to like about one or the other...

Or both.

We rave about chums in a half dozen Gameplans. Tackle-busting beasts, game as any member of the *salmo* tribe, they're good eating if caught in salt water, or *just* as they enter fresh, especially when barbecued or smoked. And even when they've changed into stripes upstream, a day of catching chums will leave you as happily sore as halibut fishing, at least.

Whitefish don't often break tackle, unless you fish with twigs, although some anglers compare their fight to cutthroats. Dale lead a trip to Montana this year and the whitefish were a fun addition to the Cutthroat. More interesting, however, is that on blind taste tests conducted on Montana's Madison River, anglers ranked them the equal of trout as table fare, no matter how prepared. Given whitefish numbers on waters like the Green...

Happy Holidays, however you celebrate. And thanks for joining Fishing Coaches. We hope you've enjoyed this year, and promise that the next we'll be better yet.

## What's Coming Up and Going On!



**Chum in saltwater estuaries:** Enetai (Hood Canal), **Fishing Scenario ID #213**, should be coming on strong about now, but before you go **make sure** to check conditions at Hoodspout Hatchery—fishing report number (360) 877-5222—**and** Verle's Sports Center and Marine in Shelton, [Verlesmap](http://Verlesmap) (360) 426-0933

Per Gameplan dates, the **Whatcom Creek** chum fishery (ID #361) has ended this year. So long, chums!

While our **Rufus Lake Scenario** (ID #403) doesn't begin until February, WDFW reports indicate fair fishing right now. They also report citing anglers for keeping too many fish (two is the limit), and for fishing bait and "culling" smaller fish when they catch something larger—an irresponsible and, when discovered, *very expensive* tactic.

December 15 through January 5 is primetime **whitefish angling on the Green River**, Scenario #335. The techniques you'll find in that Gameplan work on many other rivers, although unlikely to produce such high numbers. *But be careful:* WDFW reports elevated levels of lead and PCBs in whitefish and trout taken from parts of Spokane and Wenatchee Rivers, so bans eating these. See <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0703024.html> for more, including information about other species and waters.

While not a Fishing Coaches Scenario, some members might like to know that WDFW has released about **3000 hatchery rainbows weighing three to five pounds in Beaver Lake**, near Issaquah. The agency reports that this water is best fished by small boat, but can be accessed from shore. The limit is five fish, and, as at Rufus, *bait anglers must keep the first fish they catch*. "Before heading out," they assert, "anglers should check the rules and regulations for all freshwater and saltwater fisheries in WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>)."

Please support:



<b>DECEMBER 1-5:</b>
Mouth of Enetai Creek in Hood Canal, for salt water chums.
<b>DECEMBER 16-20:</b>
The most prolific whitefish fishing we've heard of in the NW: Green River's winter peak, near Auburn Washington.
<b>DECEMBER 21-25:</b>
The most prolific whitefish fishing we've heard of in the NW: Green River's winter peak, near Auburn Washington.
<b>DECEMBER 26-31:</b>
The most prolific whitefish fishing we've heard of in the NW: Green River's winter peak, near Auburn Washington.
Nisqually River has good <i>late</i> -season run of chums (conditions have to be right though, of course.)
<b>JANUARY 1-5:</b>
They hooked into 20 steelhead Dale's 1st day there: Stamp/Somass for steelhead, with a guide. January 1-10 & Feb 1-14.
The most prolific whitefish fishing we've heard of in the NW: Green River's winter peak, near Auburn Washington.
Nisqually River has good late-season run of chums (conditions have to be right though, of course.)
Skagit River dolly varden (catch & release) from jet boat with this guide (1st time), during peak.
<b>JANUARY 6-10:</b>
They hooked into 20 steelhead Dale's 1st day there: Stamp/Somass for steelhead, with a guide. January 1-10 & Feb 1-14.
Nisqually River has good late-season run of chums (conditions have to be right though, of course.)
Skagit River dolly varden (catch & release) from jet boat with this guide (1st time), during peak.
<b>JANUARY 11-15:</b>
Skagit River dolly varden (catch & release) from jet boat with this guide (1st time), during peak.