

Tis the Season to—

Let's start with some cold hard truths:

The Nisqually (#221) wasn't fishing too well before the week-end flood raised flows from 200 cubic feet per second to just shy of 10,000. While we should see major subsiding this week, it's hard to say when conditions will improve enough to justify a visit. If you do go, we'd like to hear about what you find.



RE Dollies on the Skagit, Scenario (#295). Guide Rob Endsly emailed us the following: "Fishing was pretty good before the rain...one of the customers caught a 30" dolly on the fly, which was way cool. Overall the dolly numbers are down quite a bit and [the WDFW is] talking about more restrictive measures on them. Seems the floods the last few years have done them some harm." For more information—things may pick up—you can reach Rob at **Pacific Northwest Sportfishing**, (360) 676-1321, or check in at www.pacific-northwest-sportfishing.com



All that means the Stamp/Somass steelhead Scenario (#360), would likely be your best bet (http://www.fishingcoaches.org/members/gameplans/360_stamp_somass_steelhead.pdf.) This is the guided trip we recommended in November, but you might still get lucky with a cancellation. Contact Nick Hnennyj at West Coast River Charters, Toll-Free: 1-866-839-8411, nick@westcoastrivercharters.ca

Learn Something?

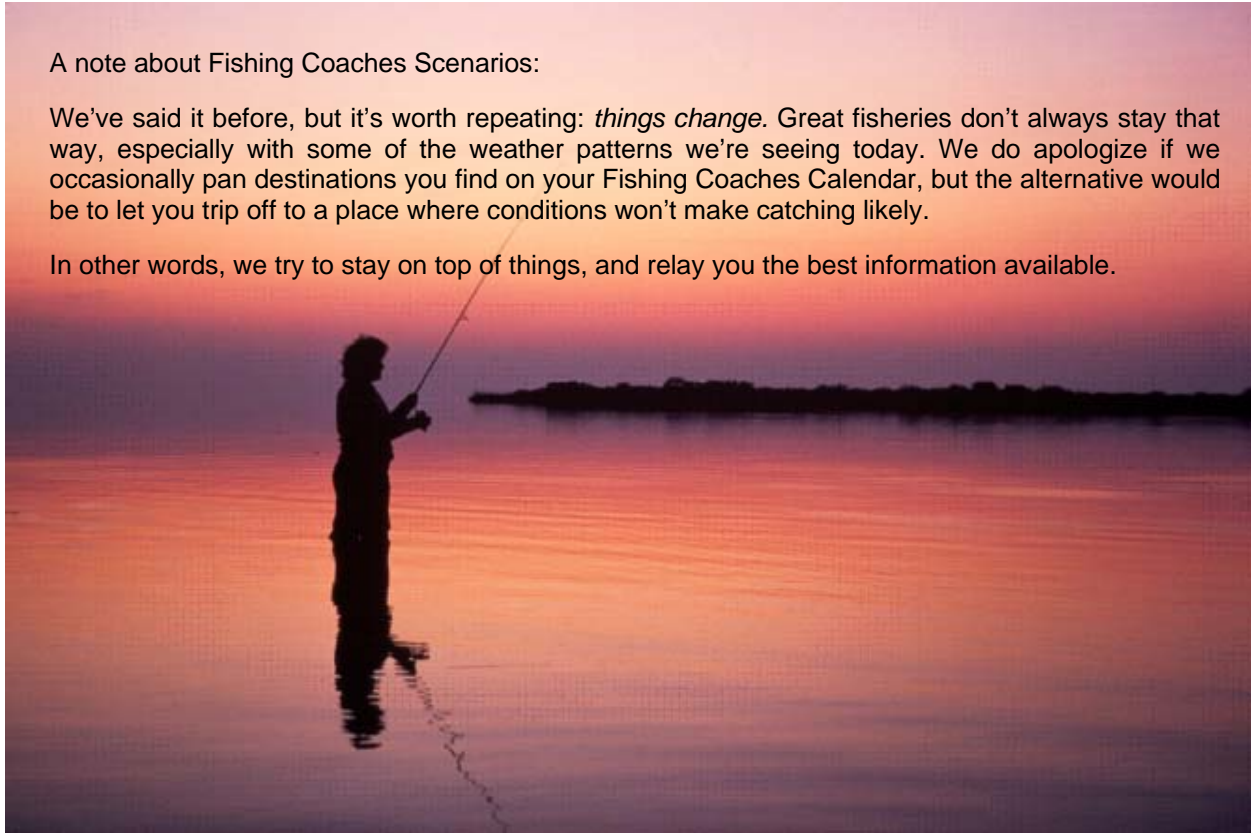
Here's a list of seminars we are offering this winter--fun, free to members, held at our Bellingham office. Sign up for as many as you'd like to attend by emailing seth@fishingcoaches.org a list of seminar numbers from below, and tell us whether evenings or week-ends work best. Note: If you don't have equipment—a fly tying vise, for example—we'll rustle up a loaner for you.

- 1) Opening Day trout spin tactics & rigging
- 2) Tie Your First Fly
- 3) Fishing High Mountain Lakes (spin & fly)
- 4) Chum salmon in rivers
- 5) Pinks!
- 6) Intro to Fly Casting (*You Can Do This*)
- 7) Best Fishing Spots in the Pacific NW

A note about Fishing Coaches Scenarios:

We've said it before, but it's worth repeating: *things change*. Great fisheries don't always stay that way, especially with some of the weather patterns we're seeing today. We do apologize if we occasionally pan destinations you find on your Fishing Coaches Calendar, but the alternative would be to let you trip off to a place where conditions won't make catching likely.

In other words, we try to stay on top of things, and relay you the best information available.



Winter Fishing Hints:

- 1) While you won't *feel* as thirsty out fishing when it's cold, you *will* be losing fluids—just watch the clouds of your breath float away. *Drink plenty of water to avoid the headaches and exhaustion of unexpected—and usually undetected—dehydration.*
- 2) While you're at it? *Eat.* Eat a lot. Remember it's not the layered clothing that warms you; clothes only retain the heat generated by your body burning calories. Stoke your furnace with high energy, high quality snacks. And, no, we don't mean sour cream chips and Ding Dongs. (*Not just those, anyway*)
- 3) Ice in your rod guides can finish your fishing. Some anglers swear that spraying PAM will reduce this problem, but beware of super-slicking ferrules and rod handles.



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