

ODFW Needs Volunteers For Steelhead Survey

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife needs assistance from local steelhead anglers this winter to evaluate the hatchery steelhead program at the Nehalem Hatchery. Kiosks have been placed at key locations along the river, and anglers are asked to stop and fill out a short survey at the end of their fishing day. The goal of the project is to estimate the contribution of each hatchery stock to the sport catch, and to collect information about the effectiveness of the hatchery recycling program. The survey is from December 2006 to March 2007.

“Nehalem Hatchery raises two stocks of winter steelhead,” said Keith Braun, ODFW district fish biologist in Tillamook. “The voluntary survey will allow us to assess the portion of the catch that is from each stock, to see if one is providing a better return to the fishery than the other.” Along with information about the number of fish caught, the survey sheet will have space to record data about released fish, number of anglers and time fished. Anglers will also be able to record any comments they might have, such as any tagged fish caught. “We ask that people take the time to stop and provide some information about their fishing trip,” Braun said. “The survey will only take a minute or two to complete, and the information will be very useful in evaluating this program.”

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