

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION *has* started to slow as females are birthing their fawns. A female was spotted along the Virginia Lakes road by our UPS driver that saw a pair on very wobbly legs as Mom twitched her ears and they play dead along the side of the road. Please do not interfere with wildlife as you never know the situation and interference can only harm the young wildlife.

Weather Conditions – *Summer finally arrived in the Eastern Sierra after a 3 day stint of low 30's created by wind from a trough that moved north of us. Summer Solstice brought everything including hatches, including mosquitoes searching for campers looking to get a spot at Trumbull Lake campground which opened on the 22nd. Our first day of summer was 52 degrees with a light breeze and a clear blue sky at 6am. Problems arose from the poor communication in assessing the tree problem due to normal winter conditions (high winds with tree rot which is typical of Lodge Pole pines) but it will be forgotten as the gate opens and campers settle into their favorite site.*

Legislative News:

AB-986 - Update (Gallagher) 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount. June 13 - "From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on V.A., June 14 - "Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. On V.A."

AB2465 (Gallagher) Position: Support (CSL is the sponsor) This bill would require the department, on or before February 1, 2019, to convene a sport fishing industry group, to be known as the R3 Group, with "R3" standing for "Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation." Under the bill, the purpose of the R3 Group would be to collaborate with the department to identify barriers to sport fishing that contribute to the decline in sales of sport fishing licenses. The bill would specify the membership of the R3 Group and provide for the R3 Group to identify the above-described barriers to sport fishing and develop and approve recommendations for removal of those barriers, and submit to the Legislature, as provided, a report containing the approved recommendations.

Anglers have a voice in the political process, so please make sure your state Assembly Member and State Senator hear from you.

Committee Action Date: 06/26/18

Committee Motion: Do pass as amended, but first amend, and re-refer to the Committee on

[Appropriations] with the recommendation: To Consent

Calendar Committee Vote Result: (PASS) Ayes: 9;
Noes: 0; Abstain: 0;

SB 518 (Berryhill) (Formally SB187) 12-Month Fishing License POSITION: Support Today, California has an antiquated and costly licensing system whereby annual fishing licenses expire on December 31st of every year, regardless of when it was purchased. This has contributed, in part, to significant declines in fishing participation rates and license sales. This legislation aims to increase fishing participation rates, license sales and state revenue by making annual fishing license valid for a full 12-months from the date of purchase at a premium of 130% of the annual calendar-year license (\$62.86). This provision is also included in AB 986, introduced by Assembly Member Gallagher.

This is an act to add and repeal Section 7149.06 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to fishing.

House Location: Assembly

Last Amended Date: 06/06/18

Committee Location: Assembly Appropriations

Committee Hearing Date: 06/27/18

To read more go to:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB518

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

I phoned to get an update from Public Information Officer, Andrew Hughan but he is currently on vacation and was directed to Roger Bloom and left a message and no reply as of 6/27/18. No update on the CDFW public meetings held around the state for trout anglers to voice their interest, needs, and novel ideas about the statewide management of trout resources regarding the revision and creation of a new Strategic Plan for Trout Management and hatcheries including simplification of inland trout angling regulations. For additional information contact Andrew Hughan at andrew.hughan@wildlife.ca.gov or (916)322.8944.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

CDFW has an updated free downloadable app for

Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations application at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius. This is great!

Fishing Report

LOWER OWENS is at **627.4** as of **6/27**. The flow should taper when DWP turns down the wheel.

ROCK CREEK LAKE reports lots of fish being caught with streamers, black, olive or dark olive with flash. Beware; bugs are out but not the desirable type.

Mosquitoes have stored their ski jackets in favor of SPF 50 waiting for anything warm blooded. Bring your strongest Deet, eucalyptus oil or favorite "bug-be-gone", they are brutal.

UPPER OWENS – Flows are at 448.6cfs as of 6/27 Above the Confluence and 171 below.

Fishing Conditions and Hatches: Good – Look out for fish keying in on specific hatches midday or throw streamers early morning. The most decent sized fish are eating under the cut banks. **DRIES:** Stimulator #16, Extended Body BWO #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, and Parachute Adams #16-20.

NYMPHS: #12-16 Bead Head Prince Nymph, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, Flashback Hares Ear #14-16, Anderson's Bird of Prey #14-16. **STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle, D's Hoover Mover, and Big and ugly. Dead drifted on strip under the banks on a type 3 sinking line. Hoppers are starting to show up so try a foam hopper or even a parachute Kicking Hopper.

CROWLEY LAKE – The lake level is only about 4 feet below the spillway and should stay nice and full for the foreseeable future. DWP has not taken the level down an inch and it is higher now than Opening Day. The fish are starting to move into the stream channels in 10-17 ft of water. Sandy Point has a few on the edge of the drop off on the north side. Big Hilton to Crooked Creek has lots of 8-13: fish from recent plants as well as some larger fish. Alligator is still spotty. Some fish in north arm off Green Banks Bay, some in 13 ft, but most out in 20+ft. Albino Barons, Red Barons early then later in the morning go to Copper Tigers, Red/Black dubbed head Optimidges, then Flashback Gray/Black Optimidges, Shaft Emergers when sun is overhead - all small.

HOT CREEK - Water condition is fair. Flows are at **61.3cfs as of 5/27**, but might increase this week with night time temperature rising again. (Note: flows include water from the springs, not just the gauging station at the highway so this is what is really flowing through the canyon). Conditions and hatches: Good even with the runoff, mayfly hatches have slowed but caddis hatches have become more consistent, along with PMDs which have been good throughout the day and Little Yellow Sallies in the afternoon. For whatever reason, the Baetis are back midday so there are 3 different mayflies between #16-#20 and you get to decipher which one they prefer. Dries: Parachute Adams #12-20, extended

body BWO #16-18, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, Parachute Caddis #16-18 and Stonefly dries #14-16. Nymphs: Zebra Midge #18-20, Tungsten Psycho #18-20, Bottom Roller Caddis #14-18, Nitro Caddis #16-18, Anderson's Bird of Prey #14-16, Iron Sally #16-18. Streamers: Meat Whistle, Crystal Bugger and D's Hoover Mover.

CONVICT LAKE – Action has been mainly at the southwest corner and the outlet even toward the aspens on the south shore. Resort has stocked consistently with larger fish and they are starting to come out on flies. Suggested flies would be dark buggers, light Spruce Flies, or even a crystal bugger in dark purple or burgundy and black size 8 or 10 and even try a point fly to search around 15 feet or so. Some action on hoppers near the north shore below the trail as it's warmer now. Also try a Loberg and/or an Aggravator as a dropper. But don't forget the Convict Lake Marvel (bugger with a prop).

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN – Water conditions are great, trails are thawing and upper lakes should be more accessible pretty with the warmer night temperatures. Lakes have been stocked again with Desert Springs Fish a couple days ago. Streamers: Dock's Twin Lakes Special #10-12, Crystal Bugger #10-12, Beldar bugger #10-12, Pops Bugger #8-12. Nymphs: Barr's Copper John #12-18, Zebra Midge #14-18, and a Lightning Bug #16-18.

SAN JOAQUIN – Flows are 171cfs as of 6/27. San Joaquin, Sotcher and Starkweather Lakes are open and the fishing is great! Terrestrials and stimulators working, and improves through the day as the water warms. Flies to try: #18-20 Zebra Midge, #16 Golden Stone, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, #16-20 Purple Prince Nymph, #16-18 Yellow or Tan Stimulator, #18 Elk Hair Caddis and any ant pattern you prefer.

JUNE LOOP – The surface dry fly bite is picking up with the warmer weather mainly in the mornings and evenings when the wind is calm. Toss some elk hair caddis, mosquitoes, ants, gnats, BWOs, and parachute Adams. I like letting the fly ride the surface a few seconds then start stripping in, it will produce better and don't worry if the fly goes submarine. During mid day switch to dragging streamers and buggers with a nymph dropper at around 20-15 feet with linking line. Rush Creek will produce with dries, buggers, nymphs, San Juan worms, and egg patterns especially in the undercuts. This is going to be a great hopper season so hurl them upstream and let it drift near the banks and over deeper pools. Best bet for an Oregon Rainbow is Silver Lake; they have been consistent in serving up those great trophies, so stop in the store and find out what's working.

LUNDY LAKE – Resort reports anglers getting into some nice rainbows on dark woolly buggers size 10, Flash-a-Bou's size 10, Carey Specials (olive chenille

body) size 10, Olive Hornberg's with a prince nymph on point. County is also expected to stock trophies shortly. Back ponds are huge with bugs from around 8am to 6pm. Looks like the trout may have to change their belt size with all the available food. Keep a low profile or perfect your presentation with a lighter weight rod.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Conditions are perfect, with wildflowers abuzz with bugs, all sorts of ‘em. Black stoneflies, cased caddis, and very chubby Carpenter Ants; even found a couple walking around inside the Lodge. Large dark streamers with crystal flash will get some attention if you cruise 80 feet from the shore perimeter trying different retrieves to see what clicks.

Both Trumble and Little Virginia lakes have been stocked several times with great action earlier in the month before the weather, but as the weather moved in the fish moved down. With the full moon overhead it might bring the fish up to feed. If it warms up later this week, maybe a few bugs might venture from their security blanket and stimulate some action.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – Water level has dropped with Nevada ranchers drawing water down. I'm still looking for some size of the 1 pound browns that were stocked late in 2016 from Desert Springs Hatchery in hope they might hit 3 pounds plus during the next few weeks. Weather predictions have been inconsistent but comfortable angling in a tube just about everywhere. Fairly consistent breeze has hit the lake several days in a row. Lots of fish from 2 to 6 pound class with a few browns up to 6 pounds have been spotted. Flies to try are soft hackles, ice cream cones, zebra midges, blood midges and damsel nymphs.

KEN'S SPORTING GOODS - Nevada Licenses

Unfortunately Nevada does not have the new license terminal on-line, and Ken's will post it when it is up and running.

EAST WALKER – Water conditions are fair with flows at 312cfs as of 6/27. Fishing conditions and hatches are also good and should remain stable with the Res leveling off. Bridgeport is still fishing excellent right now, at least if you're out in a boat. The water temps are increasing from about 11:00 or 12:00 to around 5:00 to 6:00 is getting to be a tough time of day. Earlier in the day and later in the evening is the best time to be there. Caddis nymphs and small midge patterns on the bottom are still the top flies. We've had several rainbows in this week over 8 pounds, several more over 7 pounds and lots of fish in the 2 to 6 pound class; also we've seen a few more browns up to almost 6 pounds this week. The Rainbow Point action has also tapered a bit but out in front of the marina in the East Walker channel and over in Buckeye Bay the fishing has been great. Flies to try: Elk Hair Caddis, E/C caddis, buckskin caddis, LaFontaines deep sparkle pupa, Fox's Poopah, z-wing caddis, flashback emerger, zebra midge, copper john,

micro mayfly, Darth Baetis, pheasant tail, soft Hackle, San Juan worm, squirmy wormy, radiation baetis, top secret midge, dark lord.

HONEYWELL POND – We've had some mixed reports from the pond this week with some anglers having great 20 fish half days and others only getting into a few fish for a half day session. On the days where it was hot the best technique has been slowly stripping small leech patterns with a little soft hackle dropper. All of the anglers we've had out there have reported lots of fish rising; sometimes it's just been a bit more difficult to figure out what they're eating. Sometimes it takes multiple pattern changes, strip speed changes and depth changes to figure them out.

SCEIRINE RANCH - The Sceirine is still fishing very well, the last couple anglers we had there were able to get into good numbers of fish but not too many over 16 or 18 inches. Nymphing is still the best down there as well. The California side of the river tends to get pretty crowded this time of year so if you want some water to yourself give us a call and we can try to get you on the ranch.

KIRMAN LAKE – Had one report from 2 guys that walked in their tubes without any success, flat water and not even a rise. Hopefully DFW will stock fingerlings again to get the lake going again.

WEST WALKER – is running at 499cfs as of 6/27 with flat water just below the bridge for about one mile starting at the BRIDGE with a lot of rough water then flat water near Chris Flat campground. I drove along the river yesterday and saw a few anglers flinging flies and watched for a bit and the one man got a great strike but it spit it. He was in a curve just below the flat water after the first campground. If you want to give it a shot look for calmer areas through the canyon. For flies try prince nymphs, pheasant tails and soft hackles.

Ken's said they are now starting to get some decent reports from anglers fishing the softer water both in the Pickle Meadows area as well as through the canyon. Fly anglers can go with small wooly buggers, prince nymphs and soft hackles.

AT THE BENCH - Spiky buggy effects (bunny) Hare's mask (ears) offer classic dubbings which are short, fine bristly stuff, and there's little or no under-fur on an ear. The fiber can be plucked, scraped or cut from an ear; touch-dubbed onto a waxed thread; slipped between strands of a split thread; or twisted carefully and rolled onto tying thread. I prefer to twist it onto waxed thread. When selecting, choose a shade, texture and fiber length for a few flies then store the mask. It is typically stiff from the package and has a strong chemical odor, so be sure and check the back of the skin for mold or any flesh not removed. You can wash the mask which has it good points and also bad ones. But if you think it's too much trouble to sort and pick through the fibers there are many products that offer hare's mask

coloring and a good blend, but then, it's part of traditional fly tying.

NEW HOOK FROM PARTRIDGE- G3A: It's a nice looking wet-fly hook that is 2x heavy and 1x long. The wire is medium heavy, and reports say much stronger than a lot of similar hooks. The angle of the eye is shallow and the ring of the eye is a fraction larger than my typical hook and the bed is more flattened for stiffness. I also like the bronze finish which is a bit darker and without glare. Another thing, the ring at the eye is fully closed and the barb is clean cut and very sharp and long.

NEXT MONTH: Polly's Patterns

LEFT TURN SLEEVE--CONWAY SUMMIT & US 395

CalTrans stated that construction will begin this week and they have 40 days to complete it then move onto another project. For other construction for 2018 along US395 go to (www.dot.ca.gov/d9/projmgmt/projects.html) *The area north of Bridgeport along the straight away is getting a face-lift for bikers to feel safer along that corridor and don't know how long it will take. Suggest alternate route at Holbrook Junction through Wellington to 182 into Bridgeport, or it will take an additional 30 minutes wait time.*

See you on the water, keep 'em wet CJ