

# DRIVING TOURS

## GRAYS HARBOR



Unforgettable

*Grays Harbor County is a fisherman's dream! Fish the bay, ocean, streams, rivers or lakes ... the choice is yours!*

Grays Harbor offers excellent fresh and saltwater fishing in all seasons. Fish in the open ocean for tuna, halibut, rockfish or salmon. Drift a lazy river for steelhead, trout or salmon. Bank fish for sturgeon or trout. Fish the surf for perch. Dig razor clams or set traps for Dungeness crab. Lake fish for bass, crappie, bluegill, or trout. Flyfish rivers or streams for trout or salmon. There is no end to the possibilities. From the foothills of the Olympic Mountains to the sandy shores of the Pacific ocean, there are over 100 lakes

numerous large rivers, and countless streams to drop your line into. **Fishermen, oil your reels, and put on new line because you've found your paradise!** Grab your boots and rod and come to Grays Harbor County in any season and find a plethora of world class fishing choices. Follow our 'Fish the Harbor' Driving Tour for a sampling of the fishing possibilities.

Always check the WDFW regulations first before you cast that line!

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/erules/index.jsp>

# Fish the Harbor



## DAY 1

**EASTERN GRAYS HARBOR** 'East County' as it is known locally has several rivers that provide excellent salmon or steelhead fishing in season. The **Chehalis**, **Satsop** (just west of Elma) and **Wynoochee** (just west of Montesano) are popular salmon & steelhead rivers.

The **Chehalis River** is the second largest spawning system in the state behind the Columbia River, with 1400 rivers and creeks in the drainage. The **Chehalis** has a tantalizing variety of fish including coho, chinook, and chum salmon, winter and summer steelhead, sea-run cutthroat, panfish, and sturgeon. Access the **Chehalis** by several launches along the Chehalis valley including Oakville, Friends Landing (at Devonshire Road exit west of Montesano), or where the river empties into Grays Harbor at Aberdeen.





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The **Satsop** is a medium sized river and has winter steelhead, late coho, chum and chinook salmon, and sea-run cutthroats. The **Satsop River** is a tributary to the **Chehalis River** and runs under Highway 12. Access is by ramps just south of the Highway 12 bridge, or up river at Schafer State Park or various skid launches on the Middle or East Satsop Roads. This is a nice river for drift boats.

The **Wynoochee** is also a tributary to the **Chehalis River** and flows south from the Olympic

Mountains. It has produced some large winter steelhead over the years, along with decent summer steelhead, fall and early winter chinook, coho, chums, and sea-run cutthroat. Access from Devonshire Road, just off Highway 12, or boat launches up stream at Black Creek, or White Bridge.

**Cloquallum Creek**, also a tributary of the **Chehalis**, just east of Elma provides bank fishing for Steelhead or cutthroat. Cloquallum Road parallels the creek with many access points.

Several small lakes in East County provide bank or boat fishing for stocked salmon and trout, including **Elma Ponds** (Vance Creek Park) at Elma, or **Lake Sylvia** (at Montesano).



## DAY 2

### ABERDEEN, HOQUIAM AND "THE HARBOR"

Aberdeen/Hoquiam and Cosmopolis are port cities that provide excellent access to fishing in **Grays Harbor** proper. The harbor is a large protected ocean bay, shallow except for the shipping channel, fed by several large rivers; **Chehalis, Wishkah, Hoquiam, Humptulips, and John's**. Lots of excitement (and salmon) accompany a special season that opens in the fall for salmon. Best boat access to the harbor in town is Aberdeen's 28th Street landing. Plenty of bank fishing opportunities are on the east end of town near Morrison Riverfront park. The mouth of the **John's River** (south side of the harbor) can be a hot spot for a run of King Salmon.

Lakes in the Aberdeen area provide bank or small boat fishing for stocked trout or salmon.



# Fish the Harbor



**Lake Aberdeen** is just east of Aberdeen off of Highway 12. **Failor Lake** is a very popular stocked lake, especially in spring, 13 miles north of Hoquiam off of Highway 101. **Mill Creek Pond** in Cosmopolis is open year round for juveniles only.

**Wishkah River** is a salmon river like all the other rivers in the county. It's good for coho and jack salmon in the fall. Also caught are sea-run cutthroat from July through November and some winter steelhead, mostly in December and January.

The **Hoquiam River** flows into Grays Harbor at Hoquiam. Small boats enjoy the slow tidal water in the lower end. Try for fall chinook, coho, chums, and sea-run cutthroat. Saltwater perch and flounder can be caught around the pilings near where the river empties into the harbor.

## DAY 3

### WESTPORT

Westport is home of **Washington's largest charter boat fleet** for spring and summer rockfish, ling cod, spring halibut, summer salmon, and albacore tuna. This charming community provides not only a great charter boat experience on the open ocean but also quaint shops, restaurants, the tallest lighthouse on the Washington coast, surfing, and a beach trail. Boat launch access for those with trailerable boats is in the boat basin. In September and October just inside the mouth of **Grays Harbor** there's an excellent coho salmon fishery. Bank and dock

fishing is also popular and productive for coho, perch, and crab.

**South Jetty** area where the ocean surf meets the harbor entrance is great fishing for rockfish and salmon. Stay off the jetty in big surf conditions. The fishing is along the white frothy line that parallels the jetty on the harbor entrance side. Take care walking on the large angled slabs of rock that make up the jetty.

**Clam digging** on the ocean beaches for the much sought after Razor Clam is open during seasons set by WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife. Several digs each year allow clam diggers on the South Beach to find their gastronomic 'treasures' in the sand. Check the departments web-site then load up your shovel and bucket and come dig your limit. Bring Grandma too. Clam digging appeals to a broader set of 'fishermen' who don't even own a rod and reel.

## DAY 4

### OCEAN SHORES AND THE NORTH BEACH AREA

**Surf fish** these wide ocean beaches for redbtail surf perch, starry flounder and sole.

**North Jetty** is located at the far south end of Ocean Shores. It's a great place for storm watching when the surf is big or fishing in calmer weather. Fish this on the calmer harbor entrance side for starry sole, flounder, surf perch, greenling, and occasional salmon.

The nearby **Boat Basin** has a September to November coho and chinook Salmon fishery thanks to a net pen rearing project there.

**Bay side boat access** is available at a WDFW launch near Oyhut Wildlife Area.

Though **Ocean Shores** is surrounded by salt water, don't



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ignore the fresh water fishing possibilities of **Duck Lake**. This lake covers 450 acres and is 3.5 miles long. The lake is planted with cutthroat trout and rainbow, and has a great summer fishery for largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill. The lake is perfect for small boats, is open year round and has multiple public access points.

**North of Ocean Shores up to Moclips** provides great razor clam digging in season. It's a great excuse to go to the beach in any weather, and any season. You'll be glad you did! Not only will you complete your day with a few dinners (if the digging is its normal good) you'll be invigorated by the fresh salt air and have enjoyed the spectacle and camaradery that only clam digging can provide. It's a northwest cultural event to be experienced by all, native Washingtonians and newcomers alike!



Surf fishing on the **North Beaches** is an underutilized activity providing decent opportunities on incoming tides for redbait surf perch.

an occasional steelhead. Fishing is regulated by the Quinault Tribe and a special permit is required, available at local stores.

## DAY 5 LAKE QUINAULT AREA

**Quinault Lake** is a fabulous place to visit if you are a fisherman or not! In fact, while the fisherman is casting and in fishermen heaven, the nonfishing members of the group may enjoy hiking the rain forest, dining at a local restaurant, or touring the local history museum. Maybe the day ends with fishermen and nonfishermen sitting by the fire at a local resort, enjoying a drink, and sharing their adventures of the day! Oh, back to the fish; the lake offers bull trout, cutthroat, and

The **upper Quinault River** flows out of the Olympic mountains and Olympic National Park, into lake Quinault. The **lower Quinault River** flows out of the west end of the lake and down to Taholah at the Pacific Ocean. The upper river has good bank fishing access from the South Shore Road primarily. Upper Quinault River fishing is best for summer and winter steelhead, or trout. Lower Quinault River is famous for its huge steelhead and copious salmon. This part of the river runs through Quinault Indian Nation lands. Quinault Guides can be found on the Quinault Indian Nation web-site.  
<http://209.206.175.157/>





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**Humptulips River**, south of Lake Quinault is best know for its salmon and steelhead. Several excellent boat launches may be found along the length of the river from where it enters Grays Harbor (on the north side of the bay) to where it crosses Highway 101 at the town of Humptulips. A few rough boat launches are above Highway 101 as well. Bank fishing opportunities are available at many access points where the road follows or crosses the river. Fish for fall chinook, coho, chum salmon, sea-run cutthroat, and winter or summer steelhead.

There are several choices for motels, B & B's, or camping, all over Grays Harbor County. See our web-site [visitgraysharbor.com](http://visitgraysharbor.com) for accommodations, or our 'RV Adventures' Driving Tour for campgrounds.



## Driving Distances:

- Sea-Tac Airport to Elma, WA 80 miles
- Elma, WA to Aberdeen 23 miles
- Aberdeen to Westport 22 miles
- Aberdeen to Ocean Shores 26 miles
- Ocean Shores to Moclips 21 miles
- Moclips to Lake Quinault 30 miles
- Lake Quinault to Aberdeen 45 miles