

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 16 December 2010

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NCDGA page numbers: NCDAG page numbers in the comments section refer to page numbers in the Northern California DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer.

Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Baum Lake	Clear, low 40's, lake level is good.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is on overcast and rainy days when fish are feeding on midges and BWO's from 11am on. Start nymphing at 10am when the water warms enough for insects to get active. A BWO nymph with a midge dropper is a deadly combination either under an indicator or under a dry. Cripples and emergers produce best when you see risers. Tip: change flies often. Best access is from a boat or pontoon boat. The trout are working off the main current and near weedbeds. This is a great winter fishery.	Midge pupa glass bead midge (red, black), crystal dip, disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate) WD50 tungsten (olive/wine) (#18-22). BWO emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, olive hatch master, parachute BWO. Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, royal coachman, para wulff, (#10-18).	Float tube is needed for best access. Fishing pressure during the week is light with some pressure on the weekends. NCDAG pg 48.
Eagle Lake (near Susanville)	Clear, low 40's F.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is at first light when big rainbows are pushing baitfish onto the shoreline around Spalding and Wildcat. Target fish with a Tui-Chub pattern fished on a long 3X leader. Strip the fly along the shoreline or away from the shoreline if fishing from a boat. Best fishing is on overcast days but access can be difficult in snowy conditions. Be sure to change the retrieve to find what they want. Season closes December 31.	Lake woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly bugger (black, olive, brown), crystal bugger, mini bugger black/olive, seal bugger (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), Mack's bugger, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12).	Moderate fishing pressure. CDAG pg 44.
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow in low flow (700 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,800 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair. Steelhead are scattered in the low flow and high flow sections. Best tactic is to cover water to find the remaining fish in the system. In the morning, start with an egg and a beadhead dropper. Midday, fish the riffles and tailouts with a beadhead nymph and a small BWO dropper. BWO hatch is at 1pm on cloudy days. A few salmon still spawning in the low flow section. If salmon are found, drift an egg behind the salmon to find steelies looking for an easy meal. Steelhead will start concentrating on salmon fry in January.	Egg patterns for salmon Sucker spawn oregon cheese, Fox's fertilizer (shell pink, fire orange, flo red), glow-bug (peach, pink, champagne, light yellow, cheese, chartreuse), micro egg (flo fire orange, flo orange, flo red, shell pink), Leeson's crystal egg (chartreuse, orange) Pettis' Unreal egg clusters (gold nugget, burnt orange, dark roe, light row), clown egg, Pettis' unreal single egg, unreal egg cluster (dk roe, burnt orange) (#8-16). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear to off color (3-8 ft visibility, low 50s F.	Fishing is fair. Water temps have moved up a few degrees in the last week. Stripers are to be found in current areas as well as in dead end sloughs. Move until you find willing fish and be persistent. Neutral buoyancy flies are working as well or better than clousers. Try using a slower sinking line in addition to the T-14. Popper and shallow water fishing is still good on overcast days. There are fish in the sloughs, San Joaquin River, and Franks. 10-20 inch stripers persist, with very few over 5 lbs showing.	Striper patterns Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black sar-mul-mac, deceiver, sea habit, pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers, crease fly, pole dancer (#1/0-3/0),.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Low to moderate fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.
Hot Creek	Slight tint to clear, mid 40s F, low flow (25 cfs).	Fishing is good. Best fishing is from 10am to 2pm with trout on the midge and BWO hatch. Tip: During the frenzy of the BWO hatch, fish a bigger attractor dry. Something different will make your fly stand out from all the other insects on the water. Dark streamers fished along the bank are hooking some of the big browns and rainbows. Snow below canyon section and interpretive center. 4WD is needed.	BWO/Baetis nymphs Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, berry nymph in gooseberry, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, Mercer's BWO trigger nymph, Kyle's beerhead baetis, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may, Burk's olive hunchback two-tone, Mercer's micro mayfly, tung split case BWO (#16-22). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.

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Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley)	Clear, high 40s, good flow (1910 cfs below Iron Gate).	Fishing is good. Steelhead are scattered throughout the top section from Iron Gate to I5 bridge. Best fishing is through the runs and tailouts fishing a big rubberleg stone with an egg or beadhead dropper under an indicator. Fish will also eat a swung fly. Swinging a mossback, silver hilton or brindle bug through tailouts with a sink tip or skagit line will get grabs from hot fish. Best access is with a pontoon or drift boat. Better walk-in access above the I5 bridge on the south side.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). Egg patterns (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect drift boat and pontoon boat traffic on the weekends. Access above and below Interstate 5 and along hwy 96. New CDAG pg. 25.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green tint, mid 40s F, New high flow on Pit #3, 250 cfs below Pit 4 dam.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is on Pit 4 and 5 where flows are lower and fish are feeding on BWO's and midges midday. Best fishing is subsurface with a big rubberleg stone and a small black beadhead nymph. There is access on Pit 3 section during the day with road work being done at night. Great time of the year to get down with big streamers on sink tips in the pools to hook some of the lunkers.	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, copper) bird's nest, black AP, prince of darkness, king prince, dirty bird (tan, olive), Hogan's drifter, biotic nymph, Hogan's Red Headed Step Child (#10-18). Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Heavy fishing pressure on the weekends. Access from Big Bend. Studded boots and a wading staff are a must for fishing the Pit. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Slightly off color, low 50s F, low flow (59 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is midday when trout are keying in on midge pupa and BWO nymphs. Presenting a small BWO with an even smaller midge pupa dropper using 6 or 7X tippet for these spooky fish. If fish are rising, a parachute BWO is usually all that is needed. Best reports are coming from below the dam. Most trout are running 8-12", with very few fish pushing the 20 inch mark that Putah is known for. Do not fish over actively spawning trout and stay away from the redds.	BWO/Baetis emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, Mercers emerging poxyback bwo, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, olive hatch master, parachute BWO, twilight baetis dun day-glo, BWO CDC transitional dun, Brook's sprout baetis, quill body baetis cripple, Harrop's CDC BWO emerger, Quigley's loopy cripple stacker, Burk's silhouette (#16-20). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. NOTE: Take precautions not to transport New Zealand mud snail. Zero limit. NCDAG pg 85, 95.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, moderate flow (15,000 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Flows have risen due to the anticipated storm. Best fishing is along the flats and on the inside seams off tailouts with flies under an indicator. A rubberleg stone or a beadhead nymph with a small BWO nymph fished under an indicator is productive from a pontoon or drift boat. Best fishing is in the afternoon when trout are feeding on BWO's. Incoming weather will muddy the lower sections. Sundial and Market street could remain clear during the storm but not wadeable with the high water.	Caddis pupa/emergers Mercer's tungsten swing caddis, Lawson's caddis emerger (tan, olive), Hogan's Yuba pupa, Hogan's swingin' caddis, green bean, translucent pupa, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Hot wire caddis, Anderson's peeking green, green machine, Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Hogan's good & plenty nymph (tan, olive). Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. No drifting under the Cypress St Bridge above 7000 cfs. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 40s F, low flow (300 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Good numbers of hatchery fish in the top section between Lewiston and Douglas City. Flows are also lower in the top section. Drifting small beadhead nymphs under an indicator are the most productive when the water is clear. When the water is off-color, go to big golden stones and copper johns under an indicator. Steelhead are still taking a swung fly since the water has stayed somewhat warm (44F). Swing assassins, mossbacks and silver hiltons in runs and tailouts.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Egg patterns (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure in the Lewiston to Douglas City area. Fly only section below Lewiston Lake is closed. NCDAG pg 45. New CDAG pg. 31, 32, 40.
Other Reports Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville) Flows are high (3,907 cfs) and not wadeable. Fishing can be good from a drift boat. Fish will hold where there is a break in the current. Drift a golden stone and dark beadhead nymph to portray a skwala nymph. Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville) Flows are currently 1,955 cfs below Poe dam. When flows come down to under 400 cfs, big fish will eat big streamers stripped perpendicular from the bank. This is a great winter fishery when flows are right. Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta) Fishing can be good for one or two hours during the warmest part of the day when flows are down between storms. Best fishing is around Dunsuir where fewer tributaries are affecting the flows. Be sure to bring a wading staff and cleats to combat the icy conditions. Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline) Fishing is poor. Water temperatures are down and fish are slow to move for anything. Fish the backwater where temperatures are warmer than moving water. Fish will feed on midges and BWO's during the warmest part of the day. Walker River, East Fork (below Bridgeport Reservoir) Fishing is poor due to low flows (22 cfs) and cold water. Fish the warmest part of the day with midges to find feeding fish. Concentrate on the backwater eddies where water temperatures are higher. Access is difficult due to snow.				

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