

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 4 March 2016

<p>WH&WN™ is provided courtesy of <i>Fish First!</i> Visit our retail stores at 1404 Solano Ave, Albany (Bay Area) 510-526-1937 and 766 Mangrove Ave, Chico (Central Valley) 530-343-8300. Access to our Albany store is easy from Interstate 80; access to our Chico store is easy from Hwy 32 off Interstate 5. Albany store hours 10am-6:30pm M-F, 10am-5pm Sat-Sun. Chico store hours: 9am-6pm M-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun.</p>
<p>Facebook Check out current updates on our Fish First page on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fish-First-Fly-Shop/179070695489335</p>
<p>To receive this report via email, visit our website http://www.fishfirst.com and follow the link to "Subscribe WH&WN™" under "Fishing Report". Email any questions or comments to info@fishfirst.com.</p>
<p>NCDGA page numbers: NCDAG page numbers in the comments section refer to page numbers in the Northern California DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer.</p>

Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
<p>American River (below Nimbus Dam)</p>	<p>Off color (2 ft visibility), low 50's. 3,020 cfs.</p>	<p>Fishing is fair to good. Flows have increased substantially to 3,020 cfs bringing more steelhead into the system and thinning out the crowds. Swinging popcicles, egg sucking and rabbit leeches are the most productive patterns. A Skagit line will turn over heavy wet flies and a 10' sink tip. Big, bright, egg patterns with heavy split shot under an indicator is popular in riffles and tailouts. Best fishing is early and late when fish are more active. These steelhead are an Eel river strain and some fish over 10 lbs showing.</p>	<p>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, Trailer Trash, Hartwick's Hoser, Spot on Prawn, marabou spey 2/0. Egg patterns (listed elsewhere).</p>	<p>Heavy fishing pressure at Sunset. Please do not target spawning fish and please stay off the redds. Barbless hooks only. Report snaggers to DFG. NCDAG pg 86, 87.</p>
<p>Baum Lake</p>	<p>Clear, mid 40s, lake level is normal.</p>	<p>Fishing is good. Best days to fish are overcast and rainy. As temps start to rise and trout get active, start fishing midges under an indicator. When BWO and midge hatches start, switch to a BWO dry with a small midge pupa dropper under the dry. Trout tend to pod up in the main current from the boat ramp to the hatchery. Anchor your pram or pontoon boat off the main current without spooking the school. Stripping streamers on a sink tip along the main currents edges will get positive results. Reports of some large planter browns and rainbows released from the hatchery. When everything else is blown out, Baum is a great place to fish.</p>	<p>Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). BWO/Baetis nymphs Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, 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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries. 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). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).</p>	<p>Light fishing pressure. A float tube or pram is best. NCDAG pg 48</p>
<p>SF Eel River (Leggett to Miranda)</p>	<p>Flows currently increasing, 115 cfs per hour. Mid 50's, 1,350 cfs at Leggett and rising.</p>	<p>Fishing is poor, but will improve with receding water. Flows are currently high and rising due to rain. Last batch of steelhead have moved upriver above Leggett. The storm coming in will bring in a fresh batch of steelhead. When flows recede, fish the mouth of the south fork up to Redway. Use 2-handed rods using 10' T-8 Skagit line to turn over flies. Be sure to use 1X tippet or heavier. While fishing tailouts and runs, switch between bright and dark flies. Be sure to efficiently cover water in order to locate the steelhead. Nymphing with a large indicator, bright egg patterns, and heavy split shot is the most productive method. Best fishing is early and late.</p>	<p>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, Trailer Trash, Hartwick's Hoser, Spot on Prawn, marabou spey 2/0. Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Egg patterns (listed elsewhere).</p>	<p>Moderate fishing pressure. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com. Mud slide at Leggett pulsing mud at higher flows.</p>
<p>Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)</p>	<p>Slight tint, temp 50s F, 251 below Grizzly Creek and 392 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.</p>	<p>Fishing is fair. Start the day fishing deep pocket water and runs with big rubberleg stoneflies, with an attractor beadhead nymph under an indicator. Hatches of BWO's and midges start around 11am. The best success is fishing midday in tailouts using midge pupa nymphs under an indicator. Look for trout rising in pools. Use a long leader with a midge dry or BWO dry with a midge dropper. If using dries, be sure to use 5X tippet and for nymphs use 4X tippet to land big, strong trout.</p>	<p>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). BWO nymphs Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may. Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries and River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).</p>	<p>Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. Open to fishing from Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.</p>

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 4 March 2016

Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Slight tint, mid 50s F, high flows in low flow section at 825 cfs (usually 600 cfs), normal to low flow in high flow below the Afterbay 964 cfs at Gridley, (usually 2400 cfs).	Fishing is good. Reports of Fresh spring run steelhead moving into the low flow. Best action is from Table Mountain Bridge to Hwy 70. For switch rods swing Alevin's (salmon fry) using a sink tip. This technique is great to cover water effectively. Cover the edges where salmon fry are plentiful. Nymph using midges, BWO's, and green caddis pupa under an indicator. Be sure to use enough split shot in order to get flies down in tailouts and riffles. Suckers are on the verge of spawning. Try a small yellow or chartreuse egg pattern. As temps rise look for steelhead slashing caddis dries in the run above Hwy 70 on sunny days. Fish a #14 E/C caddis dry. While covering water change flies often. Look a mix of spring, fall, and winter run fish.	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), 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). Caddis pupa/emergers 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, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). Salmon sac-fry (Alevin) patterns Gummy fry, Hogan's central valley alevin, Simmons' salmon fry, Sloan's American Alevin (#10-12) BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 has opened 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)	Slightly off color to muddy (1-5 ft visibility, low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is fair and improving. Stripers are waking up from their winter hibernation. They are still very spread out so it is important to move a lot to find willing fish. Try the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers. Medium to small clousers and bluegill patterns fished from 4-15 ft deep. Pauses are still important but the stripers are getting more active and are willing to chase a faster moving fly. March and early April are prime when the wind stays down.	Striper patterns Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers, crease fly.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Moderate to heavy fishing pressure on weekends. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.
Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley)	Clear, high 40s, good flow (1820 cfs below Iron Gate).	Fishing is fair. Steelhead and trout are active in runs and tailouts as water temps stay consistent from Iron Gate to Interstate 5. Attractor beadhead nymphs, egg patterns, and rubber leg stones, are producing good numbers in runs below riffles. On cloudy, rainy day's, look for BWO hatches going off midday. For swinging flies use herniators, skunks, and assassins with beadhead trailer on warm days when steelhead is aggressive. Be sure to dress appropriately as it will be cold until the afternoon. Wading access above the 15 bridge on the south side. Cover water to find the fish, and the best access is with a pontoon or drift boat at these flows.	Egg patterns (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect drift boat and pontoon boat traffic on the weekends. Access above and below Interstate 5 and along hwy 96. New CDAG pg. 25.
Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Slightly off color, low 50s F, low flow (129 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair to good. Majority of spawning trout are done. Be sure to watch out for redds (spawning beds). Do not wade the marked off spawning areas so the eggs don't get squashed. Trout in shallow water are spawning, be sure to not target or disturb! Putah is fishing better than it has in years. In the morning, use tandem midges under and indicator. Use small indicators with #20 flies or smaller, with to 6-7X tippet. During the warmest part of the day when trout are actively feeding, BWO parachute with a midge dropper is a productive way to fish.	Midge pupa glass bead midge (red, black), disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate), skinny nelson, biot midge, crystal HBI (#18-22). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. NOTE: Take precautions not to transport New Zealand mud snail. Zero limit. NCDAG pg 85, 95.
Pyramid Lake (outside of Reno)	Clear, good lake level.	Fishing is good. Best reports around Wino, Separator, and Blockhouse. A 7wt rod with a 250 grain shooting head is best to get a tui chub or bugger down. For a good yo-yo action, add a tadpole approximately 2ft behind a bugger. To get Lohanton Cutthroat trout on the bite, fish balanced leeches under an indicator in the chop. Pay close attention, as the takes are very soft. These cutts run from 2-10lbs, with several reports of real brutes.	Pyramid Flies woolly worms, pyramid buggers (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black), Pyramid snail (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black) balance leech (#8-12).	Expect light to moderate fishing pressure. Fishing from a float tube or pontoon boat is an option. Note: Day permit required.

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 4 March 2016

Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, normal flow 3,250 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is from Posse Grounds to Anderson where trout are actively feeding on midges, caddis, and BWO's mid-afternoon on sunny days. On overcast days, look for trout rising to March Browns along the flats. Fish a Jimmy Legs with a BWO dropper, especially in the afternoon. There are reports of big trout around Posse Grounds. Swinging and dead drifting Alevins (salmon fry) along the edges and on the flats. March brown hatches will continue to improve. Best nymphing under an indicator is in 4-6' of water with enough weight to get nymphs down.	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), 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). Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs, Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. Market St, Convention Center, Barge Hole and below Cypress Bridge are all good spots to wade. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Slightly off color, low 50s F, moderate flow, 1,071 cfs below Englebright.	Fishing is poor to fair. Best fishing is from 10am to 4pm with primetime skwala dry fly fishing from 1pm to 3pm. Not a lot of skwalas around but just enough to keep trout looking up. In the morning, nymph a stonefly with a #18 Copper John dropper through riffles and tailouts. Prospect with a skwala dry in nooks and crannies along the bank. Rainy days are bringing hatches of BWO's and march browns midday. Good wade access above Hwy 20 bridge. Skwala hatch will be around. The march brown hatch is just starting and hopefully will be good for the next month or more.	Skwala Stonefly Adults/Nymphs Hogan's split wing skwala, Hogan's skwala, Bullethead Skwala, poxy-back Skwala nymph, Mercer's tungsten skwala nymph, tungsten bead skwala, flush floater skwala (#8-12). PMD emergers/cripples/dries Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, Brook's KD dun PMD, loopwing paradun PMD, Brook's sprout PMD, PMD biot comparadun, hackle stacker PMD, PMD hair wing dun, PMD sparkle dun, PMD parachute (#14-18) Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Midge pupa and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open from December 1 st until August 31 st . Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79.
Other Reports East Walker River Temps are cold and flows are low @ 17cfs. Best fishing is during the warmest part of the day with trout rising to midges and BWO's. Nymph the backwater edges and along the main current. As the hatch improves, target trout rising in riffles and pocket water. At these flows, trout will be concentrated in pools and runs. Truckee River is fishing fair with hatches of BWO's midday and afternoon. Look for trout rising on flats and in tailouts sipping BWO dries. Best fishing is below Boca with some good dry fly fishing in Reno. Stanislaus River, Lower (below Tulloch Reservoir) is currently low (188 cfs). Look for the best action midday with trout feeding on midges and BWO's. Best access is below Tullock Reservoir and at 2 Mile Bar.				
North Coast Steelhead – (Fishing conditions change daily, to check on coastal river low flow closures call the following numbers: North Coast River Closures 707.822.3164. Central Coast River Closures 707.944.5533). With a big flush of water bringing fish into the system, flows have finally receded to fishable levels. Looks like coastal rivers will fish this week until the next storm pushes more water down bringing more steelhead up. Mad River The incoming storm has caused flows to increase rapidly. Currently not fishable, with flows at 1,920 cfs and rising. Russian River Recent rain will bring in more steelhead. Smith River Swinging traditional steelhead patterns on a Skagit line will hook fish in tailouts and drop-offs. Best action for swinging flies is below Jedediah state park where the river spreads out. If water is off color, use big bright flies. Hartwick's Hoser, Morejohn's spot on prawn (pink/orange) are good flies when water is high and off color. Keep an eye on river flows. This river will blow out quick but will also recover fast. Gualala and Garcia Rivers are rising fast with incoming weather but it should bring more steelhead into the system. are low but steelhead are in the system.				
WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of: Jon Baiocchi/Baiocchi Troutfitters, Tom/Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Co., Craig Nielsen/Shasta Trout Guide Service, Jordan Romney (Putah Fly Fishing Guide), Victor Babbit/Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters/Tahoe, Jerry/The Troutfitter/Mammoth Lakes, Ted Fay Flyshop/Dunsmuir, Greg/Sweeny's sport shop, Andy/Kiene's Fly Shop/Sacramento, Ken's Sporting Goods-EW report, Reno Fly Shop. Special thanks to all the WH&WN™ subscribers who have submitted their fishing reports for the fisheries listed in WH&WN, you help keep us honest, accurate, and up-to-date.				