

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 26 January 12

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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, mid 40s, lake level is normal.	Fishing is good to excellent. Best fishing is on overcast days from 11am on. Trout are feeding on good hatches of midges and BWO's. Best tactic is to start with a midge pupa under a parachute BWO when trout are feeding subsurface. The best presentation is a downstream drift from an anchored position in the slack water. An anchor is ideal for holding in a float tube or pontoon boat. Reports of good numbers of brown trout eating buggers on a sink tip line. This is the most consistent winter fishery if you can brave the cold.	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). 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 dries (Listed elsewhere in report).	Light fishing pressure. A float tube or pram is best. NCDAG pg 48
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,700 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair to good. The upper stretch (Table Mountain Bicycle bridge to Hwy 70) has good numbers of steelhead in riffles and runs. A few steelhead are starting to spawn in shallow water. Please let these fish finish spawning. An Alevin pattern on a sink tip line will hook fish. Fish deep slots with a beadhead nymph and a green caddis pupa dropper. As the rain continues to fall, a san juan worm will be a deadly pattern. Expect a few more wild winter steelhead moving up the river followed by the start of the spring run steelhead.	Egg patterns 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). 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).	Heavy fishing pressure on the weekends above highway 70. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, mid 50's F, 562 cfs below Grizzly Creek, 165 cfs below Poe Dam.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is in the afternoon when trout are feeding on emerging midges and BWO's. Attractor dry with a midge pupa dropper is a deadly combination. The section down from Poe has some great flats and riffles for fishing dries. Flows are currently high but fishable below Pulga with the best fishing between Pulga and Poe Powerhouse. When no hatches are present, go deep with a rubberleg stone and a beadhead nymph. Use plenty of split shot to get flies down between the boulders. For big fish, go deep with a streamer on a sink tip line in deep water. Be sure to use at least 10lb tippet for these large aggressive fish. The river below Cresta powerhouse is open all year, while above Cresta powerhouse closed on Nov. 15 th .	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) Hogan's amber wing attractor, Tungsten Hotwire prince (olive/copper & Green/Yellow), Queen prince, 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/Baetis 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, 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 dun (#16-20). River woolly buggers /streamers BWO and nymphs and Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. Open to fishing from Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.
Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear to slightly off color (3-8 ft visibility, mid 40s F.	Fishing is poor to fair. Water temps have moved upward a couple degrees this week, so that might turn the bite on. Best fishing is from midday until dark, early morning is slow with the cold air temps. Use medium to fast sinking heads and a slow strip, with lots of drops. Most fish are taking on the drop. A variety of large and small clousers are producing. Stripers are running 3-6 lbs, so what they are lacking in numbers they are making up for in size. Good areas to try are Discovery Bay, Mokelumne River (especially Hog and Snodgrass Sloughs), and deeper holes in the rivers. Watch out for valley fog.	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. Light fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.

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Mokelumne, Lower (below Comanche reservoir)	Slight tint, low to mid 50's, moderate flow 330 cfs	Fishing is good. Good numbers of steelhead feeding on BWO's in the afternoon. Start the morning nymphing with a beadhead nymph (Hot fly: King Prince) with a BWO nymph dropper. As fish start rising, switch to a BWO dry on a 9' leader down to 5 or 6X. Streamers are also catching fish in deep runs and pools. Some larger steelhead fish are in the river but it's not easy to get flies past the smaller hatchery fish.	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) Hogan's amber wing attractor, Tungsten Hotwire prince (olive/copper & Green/Yellow), Queen prince, 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/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access along highway 12 and 88. CDAG pg. 65
Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Clear, low 50s F, low flow (116 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair to good. Good numbers of trout are in the system, but the bite has slowed some from previous weeks. Best fishing is in the afternoon when trout are keying on midges and BWO's subsurface. Indicator nymph with small midge and BWO nymphs under a white indicator on 6X or 7X tippet. Use plenty of stealth at these low flows. Best action is between the dam and Access 3. Do not fish over spawning trout and stay away from redds.	BWO 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 (#16-22), Mercer's Midgeling. BWO dries and Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. NOTE: Take precautions not to transport New Zealand mud snail. Catch & Release all year ! NCDAG pg 85, 95.
Pyramid Lake (outside of Reno)	Clear, good lake level.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is when the wind stirs up the water. Hit and miss reports from Pelican and Warrior. The Lohantans are eating tui-chub minnows. A pyramid bugger with a tadpole tied off the bend of the bugger is a deadly combination. Vary your retrieve between slow and fast with a pause to float the tadpole. A fast sinking shooting head on a 7 or 8wt rod is ideal. Fish are in 5-10 feet of water. The drop off is a little further out due to higher lake levels.	Pyramid Flies Estaz woolly worms, midnight cowboy buggers (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black), Tadpole (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black) (#8-12), Mahalo midge (black/silver, Fuchia #10, 14)	Expect light to moderate fishing pressure. Fishing from a float tube or pontoon boat is an option. Note: Day permit required. Open October 1 st -June 30 th .
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to low 50s, normal flow (4,000 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Current weather will muddy the river below Anderson, but overall this is what we needed to put the fish on the bite. In rainy conditions be sure to try BWO and midge pupa in tandem with a beadhead nymph. Fish riffles and tailouts where fish will hold. Good numbers of hatchery juvenile steelhead from Red Bluff to Los Molinos. Try swinging Alevins on a sink tip in riffles and tailouts. Some isolated dry fly action on flats with BWO emergers. Best wading reports are from Posse Grounds (above Sundial bridge). Some big fish are showing on egg patterns and BWO nymphs.	Caddis pupa/emergers Lawson's caddis emerger (tan, olive), Hogan's Yuba pupa, Hogan's swingin' caddis, 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), Silvey's prime time pupa, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18), King Prince (#12-16), M's Iron Sally (#16). Egg patterns and PMD nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. Wading access around Cypress bridge and Posse Grounds. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Stanislaus River, Lower (below Tullock Reservoir)	Slightly off color, high 40s F, low flows (423 cfs at Orange Blossom bridge).	Fishing is fair. Expect the best fishing in the afternoon when trout are rising to BWO's and midges. Most consistent fishing is with BWO nymphs under an indicator. The highest concentration of trout are in the deep runs and pools, especially near the dam. Also try stripping buggers on a sink tip line. Most trout run 10-15 inches. This is a good winter fishery less than 2 hours from the Bay Area.	River 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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Tullock Rd and from 2 Mile Bar. NCDAG pg 108.
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, low 40s F, low flow (300 cfs).	Fishing is fair to good. Current weather will bring remaining steelhead around Junction City up river. Fish golden stones, psycho prince and BWO nymphs under an indicator. Swinging traditional steelhead wet flies will hook fish midday. Go big when water is off color (2X tippet and flies). Best action is above Rush Creek when water is off color. Good access above Bucktail, steel bridge and below Lewiston Bridge. The lower river is muddy from recent rains.	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 jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, Pat's Rubberleg. Attractor beadhead nymphs and 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.

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Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s F, moderate flow, 1170 cfs below Englebright.	Fishing is fair to good. Current weather will muddy the river but it will clear within a few days. Best action is in the afternoon swinging soft hackles in runs and riffles. A rubberleg stone (green #8 to match skwala) with a BWO nymph or egg dropper is also hooking a few Feather fin clipped steelhead on upper stretches below Parks Bar bridge. Some skwalas have been spotted in the bushes along the bank. Best action for skwalas at Hammond Grove along highway 20. Fish riffles with a skwala dry and keep an eye out for rising fish.	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), skinny nelson, biot midge, crystal HBI (#18-22). Skwala Stonefly Adults/Nymphs Hogan's split wing skwala, Hogan's skwala, Bullethead Skwala, pixy-back Skwala nymph, Mercer's tungsten skwala nymph, tungsten bead skwala, flush floater skwala (#8-12). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). 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 General Trout Season (streams not listed under the special fishing regulations have closed on Nov 15 and re-open the last Saturday in April). Check the DFG regs to make sure the stream you are fishing is legal to fish. Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta) Current weather will increase flows on lower sections around dog creek and Delta. Fish around Dunsmuir where fewer tribs muddy the water. Best fishing is from noon to 4pm on midges and BWO's. Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley) Flows are 1260 cfs. Best fishing is below Iron gate where trout, steelhead and the remaining salmon are holding in runs and riffles. A rubberleg stone with a beadhead or egg dropper is hooking most of the fish in the morning. In the afternoon, switch to a BWO nymph. BWO nymphs under an indicator in slow water will find fish seeking warmth. American River (below Nimbus Dam) Fishing is fair. Open below Nimbus on January 1 st . Reports of a few adult steelhead caught swinging wet flies in riffles and tailouts. A good flush will bring more fish up. Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend) Open all year! A rubberleg stone and beadhead dropper (hot fly: #14 black AP) fished in riffles and pocket water will get some action. Big fish tend to hold in deep pools. Dredge a bugger or sculpin on a sink tip line to get the fly as deep as possible. A wading staff and studded boots are essential for wading this river. Very cold here dress warm.				
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). Current weather will give the coastal rivers a good flush to bring steelhead into the river systems! The bulk of the rain is on the north coast From the Mad in Eureka up to the Smith River. Current flow forecasts show flows declining to fishable levels by next week. Gualala River- Flows are rising slowly and forecasted to peak on Sunday (Jan 22). Fish are currently in the system with more coming in during this weather system. Gualala should be fishable early to mid-week. Swing assassins, skunks and silver hiltions with a type 3 sink tip around Thompson hole and up. Russian River- Mouth is open and water is slowly rising. This will be one of the first rivers to be fishable after this weather system. Best fly fishing flows are anything less than 1,000 cfs. Expect more fish in the next week with incoming weather. Swinging traditional steelhead patterns with a sink tip or Skagit line will hook fish. Smith River- Reports were good from January 1-5 th but steadily declined with the lack of rain. The Smith was recently hit hard with rain. Current projections show it could be fishable by Monday or Tuesday (Jan 30,31). 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. Eel River (main stem) has been fishing close to the mouth. Incoming weather will bring good in good numbers of steelhead. Swing big leaches in big water. Fishing will improve when flows decrease to fishable levels. SF Eel River is not rising fast. It should peak by Saturday bringing in big chrome steelhead. Best bet is to swing flies below Garberville to intercept migrating fish. This will be the first time it will fish this year. Mad River Fish are in the system and flows are at fishable levels. Next week should be banner with high flows bringing in good numbers of chrome fish! Swing an egg sucking leach or big bright steelhead patterns (Trailer trash) on a sink tip line. Redwood Creek- This is a difficult river to time right. It's high now but should come into shape by next Wednesday. Be sure to check flows before venturing to Orick. Van Duzen River- Currently off color. Should fish when it clears next week. Smith River- Rain is rising the river levels fast. Steelhead are moving in and reports are promising when flows recede. Swing steelhead patterns such as popsicles, string leaches on a Skagit line in tailouts and drop-offs. Best action for swinging flies is below Jedediah state park where the river spreads out. Keep an eye on river flows. This river will blow out quick but will also recover fast.				
WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of: 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, Frank Rinella/Nevada City Anglers/Nevada City, Andy/Kiene's Fly Shop/Sacramento, Angler Edge fly shop, Janet & Steve/Vaughn's Sporting Goods/Burney, Val & Randy Aubrey (www.eaglelakefishing.info), Richard Hardy-Davis report, Ken's Sporting Goods/Scott Freeman-EW report. 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.				