

Two main types of sport fisheries operate in the Siletz River: a tidewater boat fishery with limited shore access, and a freshwater riverine fishery which includes both shore and drift boat anglers. Motorized boats are legal but uncommon in the riverine area.

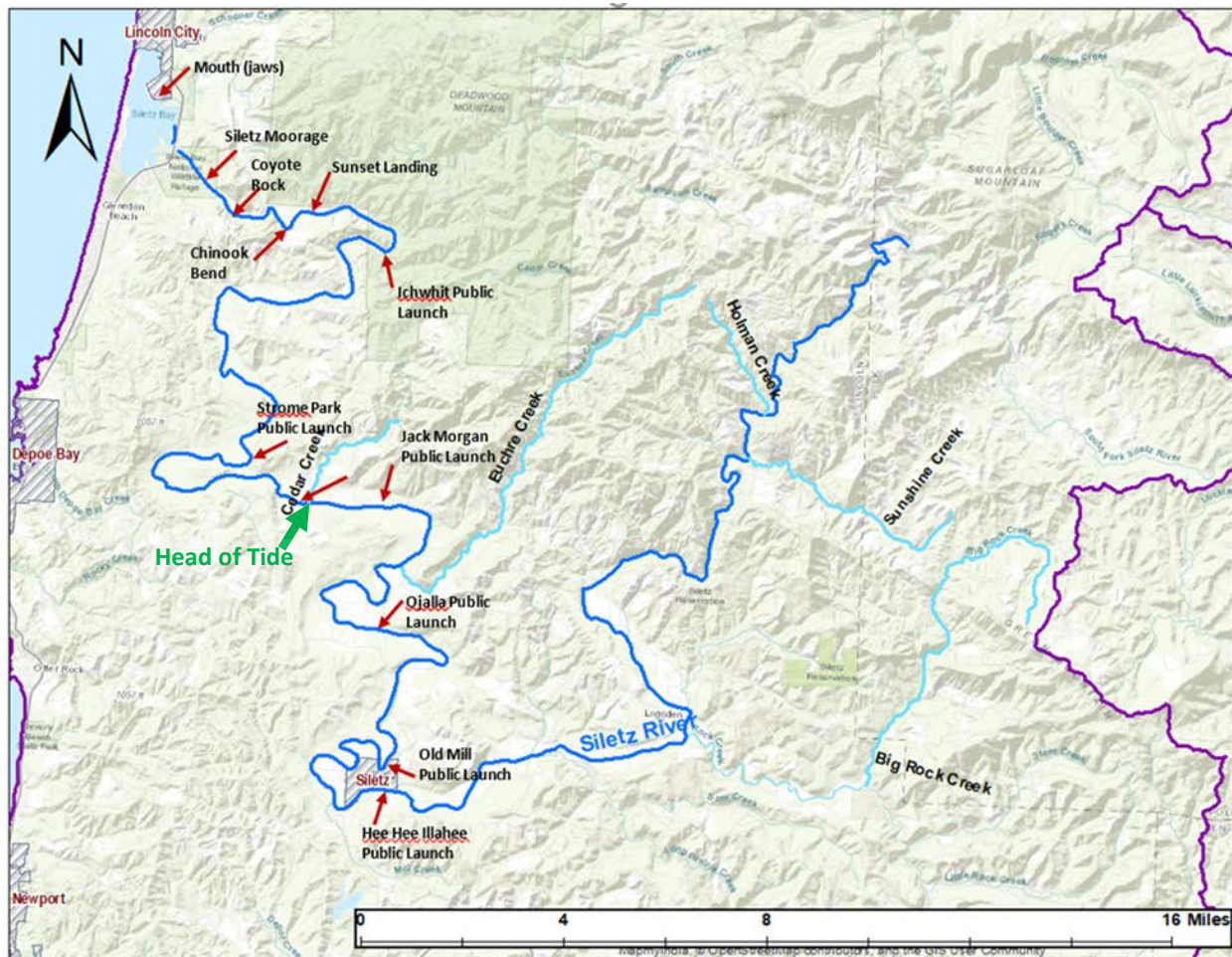


Figure 2. Interview access sites located along the Siletz River from the mouth to the 2020 angling deadline for salmon at Hee Hee Illahee Park.

Tidewater begins at the mouth of the river, also known as the 'jaws', and ends at approximately river mile (RM) 21.5, at the head of tide near Cedar Creek (Figure 2). Boat anglers access this portion of the river primarily from four private marinas, two public boat ramps, and private residential docks. Shore anglers can reach the mouth of the Siletz River from the public beach access on the southern boundary of Lincoln City. During August through early October, the majority of interviews will be focused throughout the tidewater fishery. Our 2019 Siletz crew provided the following summaries that highlight some of the fishery characteristics for the tidewater interview locations last season:

Jaws

The public beach access at end of Southwest 51st St is the main access site for shore anglers in the bay. Angler activity generally coincides with the tide, predominantly incoming tides. Some activity persists at the jaws throughout the entire period of the run. Although shore angler activity can at times be high at times at this location, the overall catch rate tends to be low.

Siletz Moorage

This is the first private moorage & launch in tidewater located at the start of OR 229 in Kernville. In 2019 no angler activity was observed here. Although this site has limited moorage slips, during earlier creel studies, boats launching from here contributed to approximately 25% of angler interviews. Should this location show increased activity in 2020, interviews will be conducted here again.

Coyote Rock RV Park and Marina

Coyote Rock, OR 229 mile post (MP) 2.1, is the second and often busiest private access point in tidewater. Many RV residents moor their boats at one of two docks, and other anglers launch their boats at the ramp and park their trailers at the back of the park. Most angler interceptions were found to be returning to the first dock with the fish cleaning station. It is helpful to keep track of the boats that are moored at the docks as well as the back parking area to help decide which dock you might intercept anglers when they return.

Chinook Bend RV Park and Marina

Chinook Bend, OR 229 MP 3.1, is the third private moorage and launch in tidewater. In 2019 many guides were observed launching their boats at this location compared to Coyote Rock. Most angler intercepts were conducted at the first of two docks near the boat launch.

Sunset Landing

Sunset Landing, OR 229 MP 5, is the fourth and final private moorage in tidewater. This is a very small facility with one dock providing limited moorage, and a small boat launch. There was very little boat or shore angler activity at this location in 2019.

Ichwhit (Bear) County Park

Located on OR 229 at MP 6.1, Ichwhit is the first public launch and very busy access location for boat anglers in tidewater. There are also two main trails which provide access for shore fishing opportunities.

Strome County Park

Strome Park, OR 229 MP 14, is the second public boat launch in the upper half of the tidewater fishery. Activity at Strome generally consists of experienced private boaters and guides that fish a series of deep holding pools located primarily upstream of the launch site. Strome Park is a unique location that, depending on flow conditions, can exhibit high catch rates. Angler activity at this site is typically highest in mid-October, but will climb as soon as fall rains arrive. Spot checks early in the season will help gauge

activity at Strome Park. Most shore anglers observed in 2019 were fishing at the boat launch or directly upstream.

The freshwater fishery on the mainstem Siletz River is from the head of tide at Cedar Creek (River Mile [RM] 21.5) upstream to Hee Hee Illahee Park in the town of Siletz (RM-41), the 2020 angling deadline for Chinook salmon (Figure 2). This “Riverine” area is characterized by numerous shore angler access trails and four county boat launches. Once rains allow salmon movement out of tidewater and into the riverine area, interviews will increase here. Anglers will continue fishing in tidewater throughout the season; for the rest of the season, conduct interviews in proportion to the level of activity in each section of the river.

Cedar Creek and Tin Shed Hole

The first access point in the Riverine fishery for shore anglers at the head of tide near Cedar Cr, OR 229 ~MP 15. There are trails leading to the Siletz both below the confluence of Cedar Cr, and at a popular fishing spot, Tin Shed Hole, just upstream of Cedar Cr. The presence of vehicles parked on either side of the bridge over Cedar Cr is a good indication of shore angler activity. You can walk the trails to conduct interviews as well as intercept individuals returning to their vehicles. Salmon moving upstream during high tides tend to hold in the deep pools just below Cedar Cr until flows allow passage further upstream. This is a very popular shore angling location throughout the season.

Jack Morgan County Park

Morgan Park, OR 229 at MP 17.5, is typically the busiest boat access site in the riverine fishery. Sled boats access the riverine area both upstream and downstream of the launch. In 2019, many boats were observed taking out at this location after floating down from Ojalla boat slide; however, no shore anglers were observed. During certain portions of the season, boats often take out at this location after dark. Boats with jet engines are prohibited above Morgan Park.

Ojalla County Park

Ojalla Park, OR 229 MP21, is the second public access which provides a slide for launching and retrieving drift boats, and a great access site for shore fisherman. In 2019 this was a popular site for drift boats to launch and float downstream, but very few boats pulled out at this location. Shore anglers hike down from the bridge during low flows to access some deep holding pools.

Old Mill County Park

Old Mill Park, located on NE Mill Park Drive (see Appendix A), is the third public access which provides a small launch for boats, and access for shore anglers just downstream of the ramp. In 2019 boats which launching upstream at Hee Hee Illahee Park were observed taking out at this location. Gas engine use is discouraged but legal in this area, and some drift boats are motorized.

Hee Hee Illahee Park

The angler deadline for salmon in 2020 is at the Hee Hee Illahee Park launch in the town of Siletz. This is a very popular boat launching site after the first good rain. Anglers refer

to this section of the Siletz as the town loop drift, as drift boats launching here do not need a shuttle for their vehicle; the take out is at Old Mill Park a short quarter mile walk from Illahee. Interviews are rare at this location.

SURVEY PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

Survey Schedule

The standard work week will be Tuesday through Saturday, 8.5 hour days with a mandatory mid-day lunch break of ½ hour, leaving 8 hours per day for field activities. Plan to pack a lunch as there are very few options for purchasing food on the Siletz River. The drive between your official station at the Salmon River Hatchery and the Siletz River takes about 30 minutes on average, depending upon traffic and road work. With an hour of each day committed to your commute to and from the work site, you will need to be organized and efficient with your time spent at the hatchery. Your crew lead will work with you to help establish daily logistics.

Your official work schedule is flexible, which means you may be asked to work a different day of a week. This could include taking a normally scheduled work day off due to bad weather or working a Sunday or Monday to cover a free fishing day or holiday when more anglers are anticipated to be on the river. Your crew lead will work with you to plan as far ahead as possible for changes to your schedule.

At the start of this season, your daily shift will begin at 09:00 and end at 17:30. This shift may be adjusted later or earlier depending on the patterns of angler activity and amount of daylight during the course of the season. If you sense that you are missing a significant number of interviews due to timing, please let your crew lead know so that they can make necessary adjustments.

Staffing

You and your survey partner will work the same daily schedule and maintain identical schedules throughout the week. During your initial weeks of training, you will work in tandem, moving between interview access sites, working together to provide a unified message about our creel survey and current fishing regulations while interacting with the angling community and general public (see Appendix B). This teamwork during training will help you build your skills for conducting interviews, sampling harvested fish, collecting scale and DNA samples, and entering data electronically, while also helping you maintain COVID-19 protocols for social distancing.

Interview Procedures and Protocols

- **Our priority is to conduct a user-friendly creel and produce precise, non-biased estimates of harvest.**
- Conduct your encounters with anglers and the general public in a polite and respectful manner. Make a concerted effort to establish a positive rapport with the angling community from your very first day on the river. An early investment in developing a good working relationship will pay dividends throughout the season, helping you collect quality information and samples efficiently.