

## Oregon steelheading

When the troll season winds down in the fall, this anglers thoughts turn to steelhead. Living in close proximity to the sacramento river has made it very convenient over the years to access fish within 20 minutes of my home. Although the fishing has been very good over the past 4 years prior to 2004, the returns last year were very low. With aniticipated good amounts of rainfall this spring, hopefully we will see more fish this fall. The short coastal rivers & creeks of the oregon coast are alternatives for me & i usally like to make a couple of trips there each spring. Timing is everything here, & if you can hit it just right between storms when the water drops & clears quickly, the fishing can be spectacular. Favorite techniques here include plunking with salmon roe if the fish are keged up in the holes, or drifting roe in the runs, tailouts, & holes if the fish are scattered. Oregon has had a dry rain season so far & my trip this year, found low water with the fish scattered from just above tidewater all the way up to where the creeks ascend in to the coast range. The season ends on march 31<sup>st</sup>. That means it is time to think about getting ready for the first derby of the year, the shasta lake trout & salmon event. Don't miss this one, it is a lot of fun, & with our great friends in the city of lakehead, it is a wonderful event. Tight lines to you, see you at lake shasta!

Photo: oregon steelhead caught & released march 2005.