

# REEL ADVENTURES

Washington's Pacific Coast sport fishing

**W**ASHINGTON'S most famous sea captain—the late Phil Harris of *Deadliest Catch*—may have made his name in the Bering Sea, but he was no doubt inspired by his state's astounding 3,036 miles of saltwater shoreline, stretching from the mouth of the Columbia River to the bays and inlets of the San Juan Islands. Tens of thousands of chinook and coho salmon, halibut, rockfish, and lingcod school just off shore. Such marine wealth has attracted people for millennia, forming communities that have fishing in their blood.

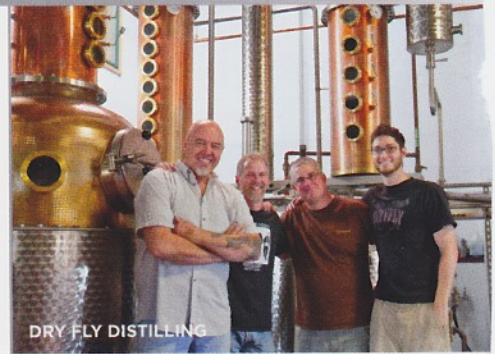
Just north of Cape Disappointment State Park, **Ilwaco** ([www.portofilwaco.com](http://www.portofilwaco.com)) offers anglers plenty of salty optimism. Here you'll find ready access to steady runs of salmon from July to September and the Columbia River's stately sturgeon. The boats of **Sea Breeze Charters** ([www.seabreezecharters.net](http://www.seabreezecharters.net)) scan the waters of both the Columbia and the Pacific for runs of coho and chinook.

Ninety miles to the north, **Westport** is well positioned for a day of halibut hunting as well as catching river-bound salmon. Shove off with more than half a dozen charters ([www.westportwa.com](http://www.westportwa.com)) in search of rockfish, lingcod, and halibut specimens that can weigh up to 100 pounds.

**La Push**, located near the northern edge of the Olympic Peninsula, is home to the Quileute tribe. Inhabitants of the Northwest since the last Ice Age, the Quileute have tapped the area's rich salmon fisheries for thousands of years. In summer pay homage to their heritage with a salmon bake during Quileute Days ([www.quileutenation.org](http://www.quileutenation.org)) or sign aboard **Top Notch Ocean Charters** ([www.forks-web.com/jim/salt.htm](http://www.forks-web.com/jim/salt.htm)), which offers seasonal excursions for everything from king salmon to trophy albacore tuna. —PETER BELAND



LA PUSH



DRY FLY DISTILLING

## High Spirits

Take a sip of Northwest potables.

**MICRODISTILLERIES** are all the rage around the Evergreen State, thanks to a recent change in state law to allow craft distillers to sell on-site and serve half-ounce samples—under one condition: Makers must source at least 50 percent of their ingredients from within the state. The results are worth toasting. —JOANNA NESBIT

- **Dry Fly Distilling**, a Spokane spirit-maker, has collected half a dozen awards for its vodkas, whiskey, and gin. Daily distillery tours highlight the mash-to-barrel process and offer sips of Dry Fly's sought-after recipes. [www.dryflydistilling.com](http://www.dryflydistilling.com)
- **The Ellensburg Distillery** gives North Central Washington its first locally produced single-malt whiskey, Gold Buckle Club, as well as El Chalan Peruvian-style brandy, produced from Washington wines. [www.theellensburgdistillery.com](http://www.theellensburgdistillery.com)
- **It's Five O'Clock Somewhere** operates in a former pear warehouse in Cashmere. Here, owner Colin Levi dabbles in brandies, whiskeys, and fruit-based liqueurs, using local apples, pears, and plums. [www.5oclocksomewheredistillery.com](http://www.5oclocksomewheredistillery.com)
- **Bainbridge Organic Distillers**, a father-son operation on Bainbridge Island, is the state's only organic distillery. Try the Battle Point Whiskey for an intriguing maritime flavor that evokes the rain-washed Olympic Peninsula. [www.bainbridgedistillers.com](http://www.bainbridgedistillers.com)
- **Sound Spirits**, a Seattle distillery, combines Washington barley and pristine Cascade snowmelt to make distinctly sweet sipping vodkas. Drop by on evenings and weekends for tastings of its Ebb and Flow vodka and soon-to-be-released gin. [www.drinksoundspirits.com](http://www.drinksoundspirits.com)