

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 36

Northwest Oregon's most complete and accurate fishing forecast

Forecasting for the fishing week of **March 11th – March 17th, 2005**

Fisheries Update: Spring Chinook are on their way so make sure that you have the tools you need to put more fish in the creel! Our technical report #1- Willamette River Spring Chinook Tactics and Locations for the Boat Angler is a real hit and a real help! These reports and several more are available at: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml>.

Spring chinook are falling to trollers in the Willamette and Columbia in modest numbers daily, but as the first are counted at Willamette Falls and Bonneville Dam, we can announce without reservation, the run of 2005 is officially underway ... but it's still early yet.

Sturgeon fishermen are going largely unrewarded for their efforts with the warmer water in the Willamette offering better, if still marginal, prospects. Now that the Columbia has started to warm and there's a rumor that smelt may finally be on their way, there is reason for optimism ... a little, anyway.

Steelheaders continue to chase their quarry as summers join the mix in modest number in the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers. The latter offers slightly better prospect in this drought year. A few springers have started to chow in the Sandy as well.

The North Santiam levels have fallen further, putting it below what would be considered 'normal' in mid-summer.

Coastal steelheading is hit-or-miss with persistence combined with stealth, light line and diminutive baits and lures rewarding anglers with the occasional strike. From that point forward, it's up to the fisherman. When two or three or two strikes making it a good day, it's particularly tough to lose a fish.

South coast rivers remain low, clear and slow. Steelheading has slowed the Umpqua. leaving only the Rogue River producing catches.

Bass and panfishermen are finding some willing adversaries as waters warm sufficiently to rev warm water species' metabolism. Smallmouth are active in the mid-50 degree waters of the upper Willamette.

Boaters are cautioned on most rivers as water levels are causing problems and hazards. Stories are coming in (and we share a few) from having to drag drift boats to outboard lower units being destroyed.

Crabbing is slow in most coastal bays but holding up out of Hammond on the lower Columbia.

Trout have been planted this week at Dexter Reservoir although most of the regular North coast and Willamette Valley lakes and ponds were stocked last week. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is stocking 1,000 rainbow trout at Creswell Pond in Eugene as part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program.

SW Washington - Puget Sound anglers report mixed success on black mouth Chinook salmon fishing. Sturgeon anglers are reporting increased success. The Kalama has fair numbers of steelhead in it but they are exceptionally wary. The Cowlitz River is still a marginal fishery. The Lewis River continues to produce some steelhead although most are native fish The spring Chinook fishing has been slow so far this year. We have smelt! Dippers should have an opportunity to dip in the Cowlitz River on Saturday March 12.

Soapbox Update: Bob Rees is in Washington, D.C. this week, lobbying on behalf of Pacific Northwesterners for funding of environmental projects. In Bob's absence, you'll get a big, steaming pile of TGF co-writer, Michael Teague.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Commercial gill-netters are finally getting a few spring chinook. The last netting Tuesday, March 8th yielded 46 chinook, 33 of which were of hatchery origin on 53 drifts. No steelhead were taken. Nets will be in the river tonight, March 10th, from 6 P.M. through 2 P.M. on Friday March 11th. Expect gill nets in the river every Tuesday and Thursday until their quota fills.

Sturgeon hopefuls turned out in fine number for the G. I. Joe's derby last Saturday, March 5th. Predictably, catches weren't equal to the level of enthusiasm as only four of the 260 teams scored more than a single keeper. With team totals in the 30s and 40s taking top prizes, the poor numbers are evident. Everyone had a great time, though, with smiles and camaraderie enjoyed by all. The big grin on Ken Gambell's face was certainly understandable, as he won a North River drift boat in the raffle following the event. The big fish trophy was awarded for a sturgeon weighing just over 40 pounds which ate a bait of lamprey eel. Most participants hit the Willamette River and Multnomah Channel in hopes of an improved but due to the warmer water in those locations. A good indication came from the ODFW report which indicated light pressure for sturgeon in the Portland-to-Longview stretch over the weekend despite hundreds of boats participating in the competition. See the Willamette report, below, for more sturgeon info. With 289 teams participating this year, up over 100 from 2004, the derby raised over \$20,000 for The Boys & Girls Club of America compared to last years event which brought in about \$12,000.

The ODFW checked no legal sturgeon over last weekend anywhere on the Columbia below Bonneville Dam. Boats fishing Bonneville Pool to 11 legals with only 20 trying for them. As slow as it has been downriver, that's pretty good odds. With water temperatures rising and smelt finally returning, the sturgeon fishing should show some improvement in the coming weeks.

Crabbing continues to be a rewarding endeavor out of Hammond where limits are possible for those investing plenty of time at the task.

The Guide's Forecast – Now that spring chinook have started to show in counts at Bonneville Dam it shouldn't be long until the Columbia starts to offer decent action. Confirming the presence of salmon are the sea lions feasting near Hamilton Island and below Multnomah Channel.

Hopefuls might try around Coon Island or Cathlamet. Helens. Directly across the river from Kelly Point is productive in season, with chinook seeming to favor a downhill troll. Tides are a factor although they won't be of much help until the last week of March.

Columbia water temperatures remain low but are improving. This will boost both the spring chinook and sturgeon fishing prospects.

Reports from the lower Columbia of large schools of smelt came in earlier this week. There may be hope for fresh bait in 2005 after all. See the **SW Washington & Puget Sound** report, below for details on the Cowlitz and chances for dipping this weekend.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Springer fever is widespread with the skinny, cool waters offering little in the way of relief. The time will come but it's been slow in coming. Hopefuls from Willamette Falls to Scappoose Bay have made the attempt, mostly in vain, to tempt tasty chinook with bait or lure.

Fish counts at Willamette Falls as of March 2nd, the latest data available, indicate a half-dozen springers have crossed. Nearly 1,900 winter steelhead have been counted along with the first four summers, although catches of the latter from the North Santiam would indicate that summer steelhead have been crossing for over a month.

According to my Meldrum Bar spy, Ken Johnson of Gladstone, the Willamette River has fallen even further with the lack of rain, creating hazardous conditions for boaters in the lower river. Johnson witnessed one hapless

fellow's boat go from 25 mph to an abrupt stop mid-river as he traversed the river across from the Milwaukie Boat Ramp. Upon inspection of his newer Yamaha outboard he found the entire lower section missing, forcing him to limp back to the ramp on his trolling motor.

Needless to say, the plunkers in the area are finding very few biters in the ever-shallower river below the Clackamas mouth.

Trollers using plug-cut herring have encountered a few salmon around St. Johns in 20 or so feet of water and fewer in Multnomah Channel. Overall, springer fishing remains a pleasant alternative to work or lawn maintenance but not very productive. Yet.

The lower Multnomah Channel heated up a little for sturgeon late last week with the favorable tides. Although the vast majority of fish brought in were shorts, a few keepers were taken. The sturgeon seemed to be hungry for smelt, showing a marked preference. The next minus tidal series will occur the last week of March.

Pressure on sturgeon was high during G. I. Joes derby last Saturday as most of the participants jammed the lower river and Multnomah Channel as Columbia water temperatures remain chilly. It may have been the best plan, but it with the lackluster fishing, it was a tough day. The big fish of the day, caught on eel, came from just below Willamette Falls.

Water levels have dropped even further in the North Santiam over the last week to without relief in the form of snow pack or rain and with Detroit reservoir at the headwaters. The level and flow is currently lower than what would be considered to be normal in the middle of summer. Look for springers in the deep holes here, but do so in mid-April.

The Guide's Forecast – Willamette springer fishermen will do best trolling plug-cut herring 42 to 48 inches behind a flasher with four ounces of lead. Count on spending some time on the river in pursuit. Try popular area below Sellwood Bridge is probably as good a bet as any. The stretch immediately below the mouth of the Clackamas is getting shallow.

With the upcoming week offering little help in the way of tidal movement, concentrate efforts for sturgeon below Sellwood Bridge and the lower Multnomah Channel. The derby results reflect the best baits to use: smelt is most effective, followed by eel, then herring.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – few steelhead have been landed on the Clackamas. This story will continue without much change until and unless there's some relief in the form of precipitation.

The Sandy has a mix of wild and hatchery steelhead in the river. Those who have honed their low-water skills are likely to hit a few with persistence. Pressure has been surprisingly high given the marginal conditions. The best shot for scoring is a first light with chances fading as the sunlight hits the low, clear water.

The Guide's Forecast – While steelhead fishing is slow in the low, clear water of the Clackamas, a few summer steelhead are in the mix. Rain is desperately needed to fire up this Willamette tributary.

Prospects are a little better for steelheaders hitting the Sandy River. Use the same low water techniques and fish the same type of water described in the North Coast section. Expect numbers of summers and spring chinook to increase as the season progresses.

North Coast District Fishing Report – The Nehalem River offers some catch-and-release action for wild steelhead to anglers willing working the deep holes long and hard to hook a few.

The Wilson is at 3.4 with recent forecast of rain showers a false hope. , The occasional steelhead has been hooked using long, light leaders and tiny lures. Steelheading did improve slightly with the better tides, particularly for anglers willing to put in the time fishing the right holding water under these conditions. Think summer.

As predicted last week, sturgeon anglers fishing Tillamook Bay on the outgoing during the minus tides scored a few keepers. Marie Will of Tillamook Bait (503-842-5031) said she took a picture of a 58-incher on Friday, March 4th and that she heard of four other keepers landed. The next strong tidal exchange will start in late March. Pick up a tide book from Marie and ask her for the latest dish on the fish!

Surf perch fishing has held up well with long-rodders scoring good numbers of these tasty live-bearers. Pinkfins (also called red tails) from the ocean surf are much better fare on the table than any of those which prefer bay and estuary habitat. Those really long surf rods aren't required unless the surf is kicking up. I've (Michael writing) switched from a 12-foot surf rod to the same nine-footer used for bobber fishing Fall chinook. It's effective and more fun to use. While some use light spinning gear, comparable lead weights are seldom sufficient to hold bottom and overloading is a truly bad idea - it's easy to cave in the road trying to throw too much weight.

Nestucca steelheading has been an unrewarding pursuit for most. Drift boaters will have to drag their craft over shallow or exposed gravel and rock in many places. As is the case with most North coastal streams this time of year, most steelhead present are natives. If you can find one and coax it into taking bait or lure, it will likely have to be released. Many, however, just enjoy the sport.

Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808) gave it a try and reports to TGF, "The Nestucca has taken a bit of a down turn over the last several days. We have been seeing a few, but catches have remained low. One to three a day, is a great day. It seemed that a bunch of fish shot through to the upper river, so this might be a good option. On the lower end, use light summer time gear and be as stealthy as you can be in the boat, and you may or may not find a fish. Also, expect some company, especially on the week-ends."

Pro guide Kevin Newell sends this in: We drifted the Wilson River on Wed. March 9 from Mills Bridge to Sollie Smith. Low and ultra clear water as usual. There are fresh fish in the river, not huge numbers but fish are available. While we drifted we saw fish holding in the pools that were 10 feet in depth or deeper. From Donaldson's down there were fish holding in the usual spots that were deep enough to provide some overhead concealment.

We hooked five fish and landed three. Bobber and jig fishing accounted for all fish caught. We gave drift fishing an honest effort using size 4 hooks pea sized corkies and 8 lb. fluorocarbon leaders and very small pieces of roe with no success.

We hooked one 11 pound broodstock steelhead just behind The Guide Shop. All of the other fish that were landed and also several missed opportunities came below Donaldson's Launch.

The Guide's Forecast – On a positive note, steelhead location is predictable in these low water conditions. Anglers who concentrate efforts in deeper areas, cutouts below natural structure and at the head of pools will be presenting baits or lures to steelhead if they're present. At that point it's up to the fish.

Of all the North coast streams, the Wilson seems to be the most consistent. It will take persistence to track down fish, but anglers fishing the low light early and late in the day will improve the odds. Drift small baits, jig and bobber combos or pink worms in areas where there's some current where broken water offers some security to the fish. Those spotted in calmer water are not as likely to strike bait or lure. Keep leaders light and use a stealthy approach. These techniques will work (eventually) on all of

steams and rivers where metalheads are present.

Kevin believes that the Wilson will continue to provide anglers with a good opportunity to catch steelhead, especially if we get some rain. Light 8 lb. fluorocarbon leaders, small 1/8 oz. jigs in darker colors and very small baits with long leaders should work well.

Steelheaders might find a few fish on the Nehalem below the Salmonberry.

The Trask will have fish, but count on a catch-and-release experience as these are sure to be natives.

On the Nestucca, stay low (below Three Rivers) to find fish - and water.

In the realm of coastal alternatives, consider Cape Meares which been productive for surf fishers recently according to Marie at Tillamook Bait who mentioned that in addition to nice perch, one fellow caught a cabezon weighing 11 1/2 pounds over the weekend. For those not familiar with this specie, it's as uglier than a boot but as tasty as any rockfish, with green flesh which turns snowy white when cooked. Pass the tarter sauce.

The spring chinook smolt fin-clipping party at Whiskey Creek Volunteer Salmon Hatchery South of Netarts will take place on Saturday, April 9th from 9 A.M. 'til early afternoon. Coffee, doughnuts, tea and hot chocolate will be available at 8 in the morning with the traditional barbecue at noon. No experience is necessary and as a bonus for volunteers, a raffle will be held for fishing gear in the course of the day.

Crabbing on Nehalem, Tillamook and Netarts Bays is poor. Don't let that discourage fans of crab and fun from making a trip to Garibaldi this weekend. It's time once again for the Garibaldi Crab Races where locals and flatlanders come together for lots of laughs, cheap beer and decent clam chowder. For the entry fee of five bucks (\$15 for a family of 3 or more, children under 6 free), folks can find out if painting racing stripes on their sea spiders will actually make them run faster or just observe the antics of the crab racers. Just go; it's a hoot. Check it out this Saturday, March 12th from 10 AM to 5 PM or Sunday from 11 to 5 at the Old Mill Marina. Call the Chamber of Commerce (503-322-0301) for information.

Central & South Coast Reports – Siletz anglers continue wondering where the hatchery winter steelhead went. When the rare steelhead has been landed here, it invariably possesses too many fins for keepage. Yes, that's a real word. It must be ... after all, you saw it on the Internet.

Steelheading on the Siletz, Alsea and Siuslaw is slow.

A few striped bass have been taken in the lower Coquille River. Baits of shrimp or and smaller fish which will fit in their mouth is effective as are plugs when they're on the feed. Fishing first and last light is most effective.

Surf perch fishing is good on the South coast beaches. They're in early this year.

The Umpqua which was a bright spot on the South coast has finally slowed this week. It's probable that the winter run has competed with only whatever fish remaining intent on completing their spawn.

While rivers here continue to suffer from the fact that rain has yet to fall since February, life (and fishing) goes on. Steelheading actually picked up slightly on the Rogue over the last week with the middle river showing a little color. It'll take off if the trend continues and water temps get into the 50s. Summer techniques are catching fish around Agness. The lower river offers little to anglers and the first spring chinook of the year has yet to be taken.

Crabbing out of Newport and Waldport is very slow with mostly females showing in the nets and pots. It's

reported as fair out of Charleston and Bandon. Clams are prime in bays at this time of year and no closures (except for razors) is reported as of this writing the afternoon of Thursday, March 10th.

Central and Eastern Oregon – No update this week.

SW Washington & Puget Sound - With smelt a virtual no-show this year, Washington State reduced the pursuit from two days a week to Saturdays only on February 23rd and considered a closing it entirely later this month. There seemed to be little hope for this season. The smelt however, finally showed in the Cowlitz on the evening of Tuesday, March 8th.

If the thousands of seagulls gorging on them don't eat all of the smelt there may be hope for dipping this Saturday, March 12th from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. If, that is, one can elbow through the other anxious enthusiasts who are certain to be present early and en masse. The Grays, Kalama and Lewis rivers remain closed to smelt dipping.

If the smelt fishing is a bust, it might be good to know that springers have started entering the Cowlitz. If Buzz Ramsey can do it accidentally while testing a lure (an 18-pounder on March 7th), surely you can do so on purpose.

From **Pro Guide Kevin Newell** We have smelt! Dippers should have an opportunity to dip in the Cowlitz River on Saturday March 12. The smelt arrived on Tuesday March 8. Currently smelt dipping on the Cowlitz River is only allowed on Saturdays from 6 am to 10 pm. Dipping is closed in the Grays, Kalama, and Lewis rivers. WDFW may possibly revise the open days times and limits depending on how large the run turns out to be.

The spring Chinook fishing has been slow so far this year. Over the past several years I have noticed an upswing in the spring Chinook fishing after the smelt arrive. This has always led me to believe that the early spring Chinook follow the smelt up the river. Hopefully I'm right and the springer fishing will pick up soon!

The Lewis River continues to produce some steelhead although most are native fish. Rumors of spring Chinook being caught on the Lewis are circulating locally but have not been confirmed.

The Cowlitz River is still a marginal fishery. A few fish are being landed by the anglers putting in their time and covers a lot of water.

I fished the Kalama River early in the week. The Kalama has fair numbers of steelhead in it but they are exceptionally wary. Some fresh steelhead have arrived in the river over the last week. Most of these fish are natives or large broodstock. No spring Chinook have been caught so far in the Kalama, but it should happen soon.

Sturgeon anglers are reporting increased success due to smelt entering the river and also due to the increase in water temperature.

Puget Sound anglers report mixed success on black mouth Chinook salmon fishing. Some report good fishing and others have had little success. The blackmouth fishing in Hood Canal during the first day of the Geoduck Restaurant Salmon Derby, 56 anglers came back to the dock with 29 Chinook salmon!

Photo from **Mike Jamboretz**.



Photo of **Rich Little** and his steelhead.



The Guide's Forecast - Smelt or no smelt, the spring Chinook fishing should pick up around the middle of the month in the lower Columbia River. The tides this coming week aren't great but the decent outgoing tide in the morning will benefit anglers anchoring with sardine wrapped Kwikfish. The top of the Clifton Channel across from Cathlamet Wa, is a popular fishing location early in the season.

Sturgeon fishing in the lower Cowlitz River should improve now that the smelt have arrived. This area doesn't produce large numbers of fish like the Columbia but it does hold some nice keeper sized fish for anglers willing to put in their time in the lower river around Longview. Smelt is the bait of choice here, and the fresher the better.

Puget Sound's blackmouth fishing looks to be on the upswing so it should hopefully get better. Anglers need to cover a lot of water to find fish. To increase your success, focus on finding schools of bait.

The Cowlitz River should start producing more steelhead as we move into the second half of March. Arriving soon, should be what the biologists refer to as the "second run" steelhead.

The Lewis River will start producing spring Chinook soon but we are still a few weeks away from decent numbers of fish being in the river.

Lingcod season begins March 12 in Marine areas 1-3. The March 12 opener is a week earlier than planned. "The lingcod fishing should be good this year," said Greg Bargmann, WDFW marine fish manager. "We had a lot of small fish last year, and they've had another year to grow."

The marine weather forecast for the lingcod opener is calling for 6' wind waves with a 9' swell and 25-30 KT winds. I doubt many will make it out for the opener but the forecast looks good for later in the week; 2' wind waves with a 7' swell. So for those with larger ocean going vessels, this may be a possibility once the water calms down.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Perhaps this information is better suited to the Soap Box, but since it's of interest to those who fish for warmwater species, it'll go here for now. House Bill 2779 proposes (among many other things, which is common) to make an additional Harvest Tag mandatory for these species. A fee of \$10 is proposed. The debate amongst bass & panfishermen has started, but those with an opinion one way or the other should voice it to the legislators. Read the Bill here: [*http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/2003/0/HB2779P4238.HTM](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BT/2003/0/HB2779P4238.HTM)

Warm weather has largemouth bass thinking pre-spawn. The water is still on the col side but every day with above-average air temperatures is improving the fishes metabolism. They'll be on the beds when it hits 62 degrees.

The Western Bass Club "Fish-In" was held on Saturday, March 5th on Silver Lake in Washington State. Catches were god with several three and four pounders taken and the bif fish of the day 8 1/4.



This picture above was shamelessly stolen from the WBC website, so be sure to visit. You'll find the address in the **Random Links** section!

With the upper Willamette approaching the mid-50-degree range, smallmouth bass are active and feeding. A recent trip provided action on a regular basis with the opportunity to release a few over three pounds. Boaters launching in the area of the Willamette where the Yamhill River meets it are urged to use caution as the river is at summer level lows.

Walleye fishing is improving weekly. The ODFW checkers found 59 boats fishing John Day with 23 kept. Walleye fishing is slow at The Dalles.

Northwest Trout - It was slow for most anglers at the Hagg Lake trout derby on Saturday, March 5th. With 18,000 trout (almost a third of the total annual quota) stocked prior to this event and depth conducive to holdovers, most expected more action. Fun was had by all, however (it **is** fishing, after all) with 1,000 trout tagged for a \$10 prize. The largest trout was a three-pounder which measured almost 20 inches and one young fellow took home \$50 in the non-trout category for a striped perch which weighed just over a quarter-pound. Not bad for a free event. Fishing at Hagg, however, was even slower on Sunday following the event.

Trout have been planted this week at Dexter Reservoir although most of the regular North coast and Willamette Valley lakes and ponds were stocked last week.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is stocking 1,000 rainbow trout at Creswell Pond in Eugene as part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program. Youngsters interested in angling and learning more about catching fish can do so at Garden Lake Park this Saturday, March 12th from 9 AM to Noon.

Reader Email

Subscriber Tony T. wrote this week to ask, "I have a couple of questions on wrapping Kwikfish with sardine fillets. First of all do you remove the belly hook from the lure? I have read that this is the better way to fish with them. Secondly, is the fillet suppose to reach the length of the belly of the lure or is it just toward the front of the lure? Are herring fillets just as effective if wrapped the same way? Thanks for your help."

Michael Teague replied, "Thanks for writing. Wrapping a Kwikfish is easy and while most folks use elastic thread, it's even easier with the Bait Wraps that Bob Rees sells through many tackle outlets or at the TGF website. While it's not necessary to remove the center hook from a Kwikfish for wrapping, many do so. The lure manufacturer's instruction show the method with the hook in place:
*http://www.steelhead-salmon-fishing.com/tr_bait_wrap.htm

"You can download a movie of the process here: *<http://www.piscatorialpursuits.com/videosteach.htm>

"Some anglers not only remove the middle hook or use a single, but also change out the rear hook for a single Siwash, especially when there are wild fish in the mix as it'll be easy to release them truly unharmed. Anglers blessed with a number of Kwikfish in good colors will wrap several in advance, placing the whole thing on ice for rapid lure changes and fresh scent. The fillet should be centered around the belly screw-eye which is the balance point of the lure. Be sure it is tied on with the skin next to the lure. Test the lure in the water to be certain it's balanced and runs true. Turn the center screw eye to fine-tune the lure.

"When a salmon hits the lure. give him (or better yet, her) plenty of time before you set the hook. Think, "Wait ... wait wait," allowing the rod to 'bury' or flatten out, pointing at the fish. Only then should you set the hook. It's tough, but worth it ... too early a hookset will result in a lost fish.

"Sardine is used for the most part, but anchovy and herring have worked for some. I've even heard of folks trying smelt when the baitfish was abundant.

"If you have any other questions, please write again. Otherwise, we'll look forward to hearing from you with those fishing reports!"

Subscriber and regular contributor Kap'n Ken Johnson wrote earlier this week to say, "The middle of the Willamette by Meldrum Bar is about 15'-18' deep at the center of the river. You guys who have boats but don't know the water very well, especially in the Willamette, please BE **VERY VERY** CAREFUL! There are a lot of props & out drives sitting at the bottom of this river. Lot's of rocks, out-croppings and Dead Heads that are very hard to see. We watched a guy cut fairly close to the West side of the Willamette River across from the Milwaukie Boat Ramp, last week. He was a good 75' inside of the WRONG SIDE of the RED channel markers. I would say he was going about 20-25 mph, just before he wasn't moving at all. I stood there and yelled at him just like a fool, because there was no way he was ever going to hear me across the river like that. I knew exactly what was going to happen 30 seconds before it did. BAM! Took about 3-4 seconds to come to a full tilt stop. It appeared the driver didn't get hurt. HE stood up scratching his head and tilted the motor up to see what wasn't there. The entire lower portion of his 50hp Yamaha 4-Stroke was GONE! G.O.N.E.. Luckily he had a 8hp Kicker...so off he went, dragging his tail between his legs the entire trip back to the trailer. At least he had "Kicker." I almost cried. Been there....Done that! Now, where's that suntan lotion...."

And today, March 10th, in an update, Kap'n Ken sent the following, "This is the up to the minute report coming "live" from "The Blacktop" with professional "Lonely" fisherman, "Randy." Use any or all of the exciting photo's, if you like. Try to maintain your professional image, however, and please mask your excitement. Usually, this time of year, there are at least 10 poles right here in this same spot. It will "generally" get busier in April. Busier, that is, if we get some rain and get it fast. Not like California, who stole out water this year...But rain nonetheless!!!"



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Random Links -

Established in 1938, the Western Bass Club is serious about catching (and releasing) fish without being **too** serious: [*http://www.westernbassclub.com/](http://www.westernbassclub.com/)

Columbia commercial gillnetting schedule: [*http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/crc/crcindex.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/crc/crcindex.htm)

The annual Kings for Kids event benefiting abused and abandoned children is scheduled for April 22nd this year. A ticket includes a guided trip, dinner drinks and a T-Shirt! More here: [*http://www.ifish.net/kingsforkidss.html](http://www.ifish.net/kingsforkidss.html)

Kings for Kids online registration here: [*http://www.bccfamily.org/registration/online_registration.cfm](http://www.bccfamily.org/registration/online_registration.cfm)

Weekly Quote - "A sportsman is one who, in his own mind, is quite satisfied he has attained the peak of his sporting opportunities and has, at the same time, given due consideration to his friends." - Frank Sawyer

GOOD LUCK!