

**Northwest Oregon and Washington's most complete and accurate fishing forecast**

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 16<sup>th</sup> – September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Columbia River -** The signature Buoy 10 fishery is on its way out. Catches in the estuary out of Astoria are sporadic with coho making up the bulk of the catch. Hardware such as spinners are taking the majority of fish and red continues to be the color of choice. Normally, this time of the season can be quite productive for river coho anglers. The bust of the second "B" run of coho into the river this year will not afford sport or commercial fishermen much opportunity this fall. These coho are typically bound for Washington State hatcheries. Crabbing remains fair at best in the lower Columbia but should improve as the month progresses.

Ocean anglers out of the Columbia gained additional opportunity this week as fishery managers decided to re-open the ocean sport salmon season to chinook retention starting Saturday, Sept. 17, from Tillamook Head north to Leadbetter Point in Washington. Although good news to salmon fishers, ocean effort has waned as the availability of the more numerous hatchery coho dwindles. Also, additional halibut opportunities were granted to anglers fishing from Cape Falcon to Leadbetter Point. The quota for the 7-day per week season is only 6,000 pounds but it may last a while considering the lack of effort. Anglers are reminded that when halibut fishing, the only other species allowed for retention are tuna, salmon and black cod. Other groundfish species need to be released. Tuna anglers offshore have scored well recently. Angler Ron Piazza reported a catch of 14 quality sized tuna about 30 miles offshore but anglers that fished among the commercial boats at the 125 longitude line landed as many as 25.

Upriver, anglers targeting Chinook salmon have enjoyed excellent results. Catch rates are hovering around 6 Chinook for every 10 boats river-wide with the bulk of those catches happening at the mouths of the Cowlitz, Kalama and Sandy Rivers. Chrome wobblers are always the ticket in this fishery with a 3 to 4 foot dropper line and 5 foot leader to your hardware. Learning the travel lanes of these fish will always be the key to your success in this fishery. Although dam counts seemed to have peaked, recent catch rates downstream of Bonneville indicate the possibility for a second peak passage date in the very near future. A joint state hearing was held on 9/14 keeping the mainstem fishery open through midnight on Saturday, 9/17. After that, retention of Chinook may only take place in the ocean, north of Tillamook Head (2 fish limit) or the Buoy 10 fishery (1 fish limit) and above Bonneville Dam.

**Mid Columbia/Deschutes River -** Steelhead and salmon anglers at the mouth of the Deschutes seem to be doing better than those exploring the lower Deschutes itself. Salmon anglers are doing best right at the mouth while those targeting steelhead seem to find better results right under the I-84 bridge. On the Deschutes River itself, warm temperatures seem to be producing excess aquatic weeds hampering success in that stretch. For trout fishermen, fly anglers are concentrating efforts with caddis dries early and late in the day and experiencing good results. Nymphs are fairly effective during the day.

**North Coast -** The Tillamook Bay fishery is shaping up indicating the possibility for a change in the trend of 2005 fisheries. Good catches were reported early last week and Saturday catches were excellent as well. Herring trollers did well at the jaws and upper bay spinner trollers also took fair numbers of fish.

Nehalem anglers weren't having as good of luck as on Tillamook but they don't have the seaweed problem that seems so prevalent on Tillamook this time of year. There was a crowd of people at the

jaws over the weekend but only a few fish were taken.

North Coast rivers are too low to float and no rain in sight. Rain would not only stimulate a great Chinook bite but blow obnoxious seaweed from the bay allowing anglers to fish unimpeded.

**Mid-Coast -** The Siletz River continues to produce chinook daily, though sometimes only a handful. The tidal series over the weekend will increase the salmon's activity level and interest in bait or lure. Coyote Rock has posted nearly 50 pictures at their establishment, many over the last week.

Alsea has produced a few nice chinook recently although river levels are low.

Depoe Bay continues to provide the majority of halibut providing fisherfolk with limits during the weekly Friday through Sunday all-depth fishery. Bottom fishing remains excellent for rockfish with most boats reporting limits.

The Siuslaw River continues to reward anglers with chrome Fall chinook below Cushman.

**South Coast -** Trollers are doing well out of Winchester Bay for chinook on hoochies behind flashers at 40 to 50 feet, in over 180 to 280 feet of water.

Chinook fishers in the middle Rogue are finally seeing some action with the increased flow. Drift cured salmon eggs in this stretch for best results. In the lower river, salmon continue to be caught by trollers below the bridge.

Dan Ambrose, a local South coast angler, took the top prize in the recent Slammin' Salmon Derby out of Brookings with the biggest fish ever scaled in the brief three-year history of this event. He took home \$5000 for a 42.2 pounder. Last year, a relatively modest 35-pound fish won top honors.

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** The Sandy remains slightly off-color but visibility is improving. There have been coho sighted near Cedar Creek and one or two hooked but it's early yet. Cooler weather will reverse the glacial characteristics of this Columbia tributary.

The Clackamas remains low, clear and non-productive. On the bright side, there's plenty of room for improvement!

North Santiam anglers are challenged to find fish with summer steelhead numbers down this year. Establishing a holding pattern on any particular day will increase one's odds of scoring, but at best, it is slow.

**Trout fishing-** Here's a bonus for coastal stillwater trout fishers! Trout in the "trophy" (16-inch) class have been stocked by the hundreds this week at Cape Mears Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Sunset Lake and Town Lake, all of which are located in the Northwest Zone. In the Deschutes watershed, the South Fork Crooked River was planted with 8" to 10 " rainbows this week.

### **Southwest Washington:**

**From Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509.697.7125)** Fishing in the Gorge above Bonneville was still a little spotty last week, but URB action picked up with the Bonneville dam counts. They also started picking up the first Coho of the year this last week.

**Kalama River -** Bank anglers in the Camp Kalama area are catching some fall chinook.

**Cowlitz River** - No report on angling success. During the past week, Tacoma Power employees recovered 192 fall chinook adults, eight jacks, 49 spring chinook adults, one jack, 118 summer-run steelhead, 17 cutthroat trout, 57 coho salmon adults and one coho jack adult during four days of separator operations at Tacoma Power's Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery.

**Klickitat River** - Bank anglers are catching some fall chinook. Fish were rolling early in the morning. Water was low and clear

**Drano Lake** - Boat anglers are catching some steelhead.

**Bonneville Pool** - Fall chinook catches are increasing, particularly at the mouths of the Klickitat and White Salmon in the early morning.

**Yakima River** - Angler effort remains very light. No chinook or coho harvested.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - Effort continues to be very light during the current catch and release only fishery. Only 9 boats were counted from Bonneville Dam downstream last Saturday.

**Jeff Knotts at J.B's GUIDE SERVICE 509-366-4052** tells TGF that Salmon are finally coming over McNary in strong numbers to make a viable fishery for us in the Columbia Basin. Salmon are starting to be caught in areas around the Tri-Cities at the mouth of the Snake, Yakima and on upriver-as far as the wooden power lines in the lower Hanford reach.

**Hanford Reach** - Fishing was still slow. Pole hours for adult chinook were one fish for every 34 hours. The season is still early.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Recent reports from the lower Columbia indicate that the fishery is on its way out. Guides working the area have noted that the Chinook catch makes up about 1 in 8 retainable fish. The bulk of the catch is by far coho but they are running large in size. Warmer waters are keeping coho from blowing upriver but the reduced run size is clear as this coho fishery has the potential to stay productive through the third week in September. The best fishing continues to occur above the bridge on the Washington side and hardware such as spinners rule the roost. Red and white blades continue to produce the best results but anglers fishing shallower can rely on metallic blades (such as brass) and tipped with red color to do equally well or better in sunny conditions. Peak periods in the warmer waters are when the ocean influences temperatures. The second half of incoming tide and the first half of outgoing are the most productive of the day. The least productive time of the entire day will be the last 3 hours of outgoing tide. Low slack and the first half of incoming can produce some fish but don't expect consistent results. Young's Bay coho numbers are also down this year when traditionally, they could contribute significantly to the Buoy 10 catch. For this reason, don't expect great results when fishing the Oregon side. Bait may be more difficult to come by this time of year as bait dealers put up with a smaller market. We advise you to call ahead to check bait status. Free Willy Bait and Tackle's number is (503) 861-1201. Frozen bait will work just fine if you are partial to bait but heed our advise on the use of spinners!

Ocean anglers got a bunch of good news this week as retention for Chinook re-opened this week. Official press release goes like this:

For Immediate Release      Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005

Chinook retention re-opens starting Saturday north of Tillamook Head

CLACKAMAS – State and federal fishery managers today decided to re-open the ocean sport salmon season to chinook retention starting Saturday, Sept. 17, from Tillamook Head north to Leadbetter

Point in Washington.

Today's action was taken because chinook catches last week in the ocean north of Cape Falcon were lower than projected and managers wanted to maximize angling opportunity. Biologists had estimated that the 43,250 chinook quota would be taken by recreational anglers north of Cape Falcon by Sept. 9.

"Poor weather and decreasing catch rates combined to produce catches that were lower than expected and allowed us to re-open the fishery for chinook," said Curt Melcher, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The season remains open seven days per week and is scheduled to close Sept. 30. The daily bag limit is two salmon, and all retained coho must have a healed adipose fin-clip. The minimum size for coho is 16 inches and the minimum size for chinook is 24 inches.

Additional information on ocean salmon fishing regulations may be obtained in the 2005 Oregon Ocean Salmon and Halibut Sport Fishing Regulations. The green pamphlet is available at license agents and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife offices. Information also is posted to the ODFW Web site at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/>.

And as if this wasn't good enough news, ODF&W sprang this on us too:

Pacific halibut reopens off Columbia River

NEWPORT - Fishing for Pacific halibut will reopen Sept. 15, seven days a week for sport anglers off the Columbia River, and will go through the end of the month or until the quota is achieved.

Fisheries managers transferred 6,000 pounds of remaining quota from the central coast sub-area allocation on Tuesday, which allowed the Columbia River sub-area to reopen. The Columbia River sub-area is from Cape Falcon to the south to Leadbetter Point, Wash., to the north.

The annual limit for Pacific halibut remains at six. There is no minimum length for Pacific halibut but sport anglers do not have to keep the first fish they catch.

Sport anglers are reminded that possession of groundfish is not allowed north of Humbug Mountain when a Pacific halibut is aboard their vessel. The one exception is sablefish (black cod), which may be retained with halibut. Other non-groundfish species, such as tuna and salmon during authorized seasons, may be possessed with halibut.

The fishery along the central coast is open seven days a week inside 40 fathoms and open at all depths on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until quota is reached or Oct. 31, whichever occurs first.

The fishery remains open seven days a week south of Humbug Mountain at all depths.

In the case of both of these fisheries, the opportunity extension may be moot for most as many anglers prepare themselves for the onslaught of coastal fall Chinook on their favorite streams. None-the-less, these opportunities are great for those willing to take advantage of them. Ocean conditions can be very friendly this time of year and the motivated angler can grand slam some quality fish this time of year. Can you picture tuna, halibut and a limit of Chinook all on the same day? It's all possible right now!

And speaking of tuna.....they're here.....again! Warmer waters have once again materialized as they often do this time of year and good numbers of quality sized tuna were reported about 30 miles

offshore out of Astoria. One angler reported catching 14 albacore between 18 and 25 pounds but remarked anglers fishing the 125 Longitude line were getting double that! The fish do run larger this time of year as just a few additional weeks of productive feeding can really pack the pounds on these silver bullets.

Don't go thinking you can drop your crab pots off in the ocean. It remains closed until December (at least) but river crabbing in the lower Columbia is open. Unfortunately, the river crabbing remains fair at best and the only good thing about is that there isn't much competition for the keepers. That will change as fall progresses.

Upriver, the salmon fishing is great despite itself. You know what that means.....closure! I was on the conference call yesterday as the departments tried to find a way to keep the fishery open. They stuck their neck out a bit further and decided they had to close it at days end on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Fishery managers were hoping to see another spike in dam counts that would have paralleled a spike in catch rates over the last few days. Like last year, this spike would have carried the fishery into the future instead of what many will interpret as an early closure. Well, as of 9/15, that spike had still not arrived. When I asked what the difference was between this year and last, the ODF&W indicated that an increase in angler effort helped the Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam fishery attain its impacts sooner this year than last. None-the-less, a spike of passage may afford anglers in this stretch additional opportunity but when re-working the models, that scenario does not seem likely. We are headed for a Chinook closure for the remainder of the year in this stretch. On the success sides of things, anglers are reflecting the upswing in success rates. One angler reported to me that in recent days, his boat has been seeing limits or near limits of 25 to 30 pounds! He stated that he had been getting lucky on some of his last trips in the sense that most of his bites are turning into fish landed- a rare feature in wobbler fishing. In his words, "The last 3 days have been great!" The best fishing is taking place from the mouth of the Cowlitz to the mouth of the Sandy and the many hoglines in between. Most anglers are targeting water from 30 to 45 feet deep with dropper lines at 3 feet and leaders at 5 feet. Chrome Alvins or Brads wobblers are producing the best results.

Trolled plugs are taking some fish at the mouth of the Deschutes River but moss is impeding success for some of those anglers this time of year. Best results for salmon were reported right in the affluence of the Deschutes while steelheaders reported doing best right under the I-84 Bridge in the same area.

Nobody is sturgeon fishing as a mandatory catch and release regulation is underway on the entire Columbia River.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Although the Buoy 10 fishery will still be open for Chinook (1/person) and fin-clipped coho, don't look to it as the "go-to" fishery this week. By the weekend, we will be falling off of a nice tide series and the high tide slips later into the day. If anglers insist on participating in this fishery, one of the better options may be to plan on heading to a predicted calm ocean. It may be the best bet for an early morning bite targeting salmon shallow by trolling herring near the surface and dropping them deeper as the day progresses. Tillamook Head may still be yielding good catches of Chinook this time of year. It may be a long run but with a calm ocean and the possibility for a 2 fish bag, it could be worth your time. "The Cove" (North side of Tillamook Head off of Seaside) has been one of the most consistent producers of Chinook all season! As the tide shifts and the second half of incoming presents itself in the lower Columbia, anglers may wish to target coho on the Washington side above the bridge. BRING SPINNERS as spinner trolling seems to be the most productive way to entice strikes in these warm waters. As mentioned before, the bite will slow as we approach the second half of outgoing tide.

High seas anglers may wish to take advantage of calm seas this weekend as well with tuna and

halibut likely targets. The tuna have moved within range again as 30 miles offshore is a doable distance with many prepared boats. Tuna anglers will be seeking water temperatures 62 degrees and above. Keep an eye out for the commercial fleet as well- they know where the fish are!

Salmon anglers targeting Chinook in the middle section only have until Saturday evening to get their fill of this fishery. Most anglers are wired as to where they want to spend their anchor time- targeting travel lanes in the deeper troughs near the edges of the shipping channel. Wobblers will be the big producer for these fish but anglers may want to try spinners in the larger size 7 and 8 blades for a change. The outgoing tide plays a crucial role in success for the anchor angler and many do not utilize the trolling technique to target these Chinook even though it works just a few miles downstream. Desperate anglers may want to explore this option as the season draws to a close. An extension looks unlikely at this point.

Just another few weeks until sturgeon season opens again to a 3 day/week retention in the Wauna to Bonneville stretch. Nothing to report at this time but be prepared for some good opportunity as the waters cool down in a few short weeks.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – The Willamette River remains low, clear and warm creating a situation where the waters are relatively free of anadromous fish life and with sturgeon fishing closed, it offers little interest to anglers seeking any species other than those in the warmwater category.

Evenings have been best for trout fishing on the Mckenzie River which is reported as slow to fair for rainbows.

North Santiam anglers are challenged to find fish with summer steelhead numbers down this year.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Sturgeon reopens three days a week in the lower Willamette and Multnomah Channel on the 1st of October. If we've had some rain prior to that date it should be a decent opener. Otherwise, fuhgeddaboutit.

Establishing a holding pattern on any particular day will increase one's odds of scoring on the North Santiam, but at best it's slow. Concentrate efforts above Mill City for the best odds of a close encounter of the metalhead kind. The water level and flow was increased last week with the intent of making more gravel area available to spawning salmon. In actuality, the higher flow flooded out the many existing spawning beds. We can only hope the Powers That Be learned from this unfortunate incident so as not to repeat it in the future.

McKenzie fly casters will find terrestrial patterns most effective now as the October caddises won't start appearing until the fourth week in September.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The Sandy remains off-color with about 10 inches visibility but color is improving. There have been coho sighted near Cedar Creek and one or two caught but it's early yet for this fishery. Cooler weather will reverse the glacial characteristics. There are more late-season summer steelhead available than coho at this point.

The Clackamas remains low, clear and non-productive. On the bright side, there's plenty of room for improvement. Those coho rolling at the mouth now will move upstream with the next decent rain. Spinner flingers rejoice.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – Tillamook fishing is off to a great start this season. It's

about time we got some good fishing reports in this state. Maybe all the Columbia fish decided that the Oregon coast was the place to be. Good reports are coming in from up and down the coast. On Tillamook Bay, Chinook are being caught both in the bay and the ocean. Reports as late as 9/15 indicated a good bite in the ocean with between 4 and 8 opportunities for every guide boat. Spinners did take a few fish in the upper bay this day but the bulk of the catch and effort was in the lower bay and ocean- especially with the ocean being as friendly as it has been. Warning to boaters however- there have been reports of numerous sneaker waves on the south side of the south jetty. Apparently these sneaker waves haven't claimed any boats yet but if this sort of wave action continues, it seems inevitable. BE CAUTIOUS when fishing this area. Other productive areas to target these Chinook are well off of the tips of the jetties and right in the entrance itself as long as the bar is safe. Herring have been the most productive in the lower bay and ocean and although quality frozen bait seems to be available, they are on the small side. The bite on 9/15 was reported consistent until about 11:00 a.m. It may pay to diversify after the bite slows by varying depths that your baits are running or adding extra features to your offering like a colored hoochie or spinner ahead of your bait.

On the Nehalem, the bite has not been as good as Tillamook although the weeds seem to be less of an issue in this estuary. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** targeted Chinook on the Nehalem on Saturday, 9/10 and came up with one fish and one other opportunity. Chris stated that most of the action he saw, came from the jaws. He started off at Wheeler (at daybreak) and worked his way down to the mouth and then back up to the town of Nehalem. Wheeler and Nehalem were DEAD but he saw about 8 fish hooked at the jaws on this day.

News from the Nestucca is not all that good. Although a bit early, a good tide series should spark some interest over the weekend. A minus tide is exactly what bobber and bait anglers seek in the lower tidewater section of the Nestucca. So far, the catch has been poor.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Friendly seas are forecasted making Tillamook Bay and ocean a likely hot spot this weekend. With the closing of the mainstem Columbia, anglers may not take too much interest until Sunday. Although most of the effort will be out of Garibaldi, spinner trollers in the upper bay will have favorable conditions to target Chinook. The minus tide will concentrate fish into the deeper slots making them easy targets to experienced spinner trollers. The red/white blades are common stand-bys but be sure to switch to the metallic colors when the sun starts hitting the water. For herring trollers, you may want to target Lyster's Corner on the last part of outgoing tide but be aware that you may be foregoing some great opportunity just a short distance away in the ocean. The bite can be very good at first light. Keep those herring fishing deep for much of the day but some Chinook may be targeted on the top half of the water column- especially early in the morning. There are a LOT of anchovies in Tillamook Bay right now but that should not have a profound effect on your success. Coho are still being reported in the bay although not many people are targeting them. A slight rise in river levels may have sent a few of the hatchery fish upstream on the Trask River but the number returning is not likely to be high. Hopefully, the cooler influx of water stimulated a successful spring Chinook spawn in the Tillamook. Be aware that there are spring Chinook redds on inland and coastal systems right now so watch where you step and anchor if you are fishing in these areas.

On the Nestucca, anglers will want to target their efforts at the Boat Ramp Hole and Guard Rail. The minus tide series should bring a change to the action down here. Spinner pitchers and boats anchored with Kwikfish should also see some success starting this weekend. Boats working herring at the mouth may also have ample opportunity on the first part of outgoing tide (which will be late in the day) and most of the incoming tide. The bar there has no jetty so use caution when fishing this area. Fish will cross in the 3 foot of water (especially in the early a.m.) so be prepared to fish here in all types of conditions. The bay can be extremely shallow en route to the mouth so use caution when navigating as well.

The Salmon River fishery should also take off for bobber anglers (both bank and boat) this weekend. One of the most popular places to target these fish will be just upstream of the Hwy. 101 Bridge.

**Central Coast Reports** – The Siletz River continues to produce chinook, though some days only a handful. It's been slow over the last few days but the tidal series this weekend will increase the salmon's activity level and interest. Coyote Rock has posted nearly 50 pictures at their establishment in September and many over the last week. Trollers will have to wend their way through hoglines of anchor fishermen if they try to compete on the outgoing tides. Often the passageway through the hog lines is often only a single boat-width. Tip: try bobber 'n' sand shrimp, eggs or a combo especially around pilings.

All-depth halibut fishing has yielded consistent limits out of Depoe Bay and Newport. The annual limit for Pacific halibut remains at six. There is no minimum length but sport anglers do not have to keep the first fish they catch. Tuna were take 30 miles offshore on Saturday but fog prevented those long trips on Sunday. The next couple of week will be offer decent prospects for albacore if the weather and seas allow.

Anglers are again warned to be certain those unclipped, offshore salmon are actually chinook, "We took in around 25 illegal coho this weekend," OSP's Sgt. Bill Vanderberg stated. "There are a lot of large coho out there right now and they are fooling people. It's important that people check the gum line. If there's any doubt whether it's a chinook, throw it back."

Enforcement officials are also finding and fining for undersized or female crab. Be certain to measure behind rather than at the spines for the required 5 3/4-inch width. Crabbing in the ocean closed on Aug. 14.

The Alsea has produced a few nice chinook recently although river levels are low. One resident with the opportunity to fish it regularly has boated five using bobber and eggs over the last week. Like most Fall chinook fisheries, this one runs hot and cold. For instance, it was very slow on Sunday the 11th, fair on Monday. Expect plenty of company. See **Reader Email** for another Alsea report.

The Siuslaw River continues to reward anglers with chrome Fall chinook below Cushman.

**South Coast Reports** – Winchester Bay has been kicking out chinook limits offshore earlier this week to trollers using divers and hoochies behind flashers 40 feet deep over 180-280 feet of water out from the whistler. Action has slowed in the past few days. The mainstem of the Umpqua River offers good smallmouth fishing although late-season weeds are becoming more of a problem.

Coos Bay and the lower river has heated up and is producing some nice chinook this week.

Chinook fishers in the middle Rogue are finally seeing a little improvement in the action with the increased flow, which event was predicted here last week. Chinook are scattered now from the bay through Grants Pass. Action with Fall chinook is slow overall with the Grants Pass area offering far better steelheading than salmon fishing. It's illegal to target salmon above Gold Ray Dam now with spawning underway. Drift cured salmon eggs in this stretch for best result. In the lower river, salmon continue to be caught by trollers below the bridge, but action with these fish has slowed.

Dan Ambrose, a local South coast angler, took the top prize in the recent Slammin' Salmon Derby out of Brookings with the biggest fish ever scaled in the brief three-year history of this event. He took home \$5000 for a 42.2 pounder. Last year, a relatively modest 35-pound fish won top honors.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Steelhead fishing as fishing has been good on the Deschutes from Sherars Bridge area down to the mouth. The Columbia is cooling now and good numbers are moving through the Dalles Dam an heading into the Deschutes. Plug-pullers at the mouth have had some good days at first light but the bite has died in the daylight hours. Chinook are on their way. This weeks reports on the fly fishing scene look eerily similar to last weeks in that early mornings and late evenings remain the most productive times to fish caddis dries. Nymphing during the day, while less productive, will still bring steady action.

The Metolius River has been productive for fly fishers flinging caddis or stonefly nymphs. There's some action in the evenings with caddis dries.

**Northwest Bass & Panfish** - The lower Willamette (below the Falls) is producing some fine smallmouth fishing on drop-shotted soft plastics. Some of the fish being hooked are decent sized. The upper river is providing anglers with both smallmouth and largemouth action. Look for smallies around breaks in the current, bigmouth in quiet water and sloughs. Lakes and farm ponds will turn on with cooler weather.

**Northwest Trout** – Here's a bonus for coastal stillwater trout fishers! Trout in the "trophy" (16-inch) class have been stocked by the hundreds this week at Cape Mears Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Sunset Lake and Town Lake, all of which are located in the Northwest Zone. In the Deschutes watershed, the South Fork Crooked River was planted with 8" to 10 " rainbows this week.

**Washington Fishing Report:**

**South Sound/Olympic Peninsula:**

**Coastal Fishing Report**

<b>Tokeland Boat Launch - Willapa Bay</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Boats</b>	<b>Anglers</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Coho</b>
September 7, 2005	61	136	37	14
September 9, 2005	8	18	10	3
September 10, 2005	45	99	72	16

<b>South Bend - Willapa Bay</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Boats</b>	<b>Anglers</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Coho</b>
September 8, 2005	16	34	12	7
September 10, 2005	8	21	12	2
September 11, 2005	43	100	70	12

**Southwest Washington:**

**From Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509.697.7125)** Fishing in the Gorge above Bonneville was still a little spotty last week, but URB action picked up with the Bonneville dam counts. They also started picking up the first Coho of the year this last week.

The action is coming on BlueFox spinners, M-2 SP Flatfish, Fatfish plugs and herring trolled of downriggers. Action will continue in the Gorge the next 5-6 weeks, for Fall Chinook, Coho and Summer Steelhead.

Vic Grimm with a 20# URB



Bill Stade from Richland Wa. w/ 34# URB



**Salmon/Steelhead -**

**Cowlitz River** - No report on angling success. During the past week, Tacoma Power employees recovered 192 fall chinook adults, eight jacks, 49 spring chinook adults, one jack, 118 summer-run steelhead, 17 cutthroat trout, 57 coho salmon adults and one coho jack adult during four days of separator operations at Tacoma Power's Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery.

Tacoma Power employees released 47 spring chinook adults, 49 coho salmon adults and one jack into the Cispus River at the 2810 Road site above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek during the week.

During the week Tacoma Power employees recycled 71 steelhead adults and three cutthroat trout downstream to the Interstate-5 boat launch, and they recycled 85 steelhead and seven cutthroat trout downstream to the Olequa boat launch.

During the week sixteen fall chinook adults were released into Mayfield Lake at Ike Kinswa State Park boat launch. In addition, seven cutthroat trout were released at the Bremer Bridge on the Tilton River.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are currently at 3,510 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Monday, September 12. Flows are expected to remain steady. Water visibility at Mayfield Dam is over 11 feet.

**Kalama River** - Bank anglers in the Camp Kalama area are catching some fall chinook.

**Drano Lake** - Boat anglers are catching some steelhead.

**Klickitat River** - Bank anglers are catching some fall chinook. Fish were rolling early in the morning. Water was low and clear.

**Yakima River** - Angler effort remains very light. No chinook or coho harvested.

**Buoy 10** - Chinook catches continue to decline with one angler in 12 harvesting a fish. Anglers averaged a coho kept per every 5.5 rods. Approximately 250 boats were counted last Saturday (Sept. 10).

Buoy 10 catch to date is about 9,000 Chinook. The final catch is expected to be about 10,000 fish, compared to the pre-season expectation of 12,400 Chinook.

<b>2005 Buoy 10 Catch and Effort</b>				
<b>WDFW/ODFW Field Sampling Data</b>				
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Angler trips</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Coho</b>
Week 32	Aug 1-7	857	28	0
Week 33	Aug 8-14	1,460	172	6
Week 34	Aug 15-21	3,726	293	83
Week 35	Aug 22-28	4,201	1,278	569
Week 36	Aug 29- Sep 4	3,408	441	676
Week 37	Sep 5-11	2,067	183	598
* Week 38	Sep 12-18	221	6	52
<b>* Week not completed</b>				

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - We sampled 2,108 salmonid anglers (including 770 boats) with 508 adult chinook kept and 15 released. Boat anglers averaged an adult chinook kept

per every 3.8 rods based on completed trips while bank anglers averaged one per every 9.5 rods based on mainly incomplete trips.

Catch and effort in the gorge has increased. Catches from Vancouver downstream dropped off during the weekend, possibly due to the small tides (3 feet change from high to low). Overall, nearly 1,200 boats were counted last Saturday.

The Technical Advisory Committee updated the upriver Chinook run size to include 286,000 Upriver Brights (URBs) and 100,000 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) fish. Preseason expectations were 354,600 URBs and 115,800 BPH returning to the Columbia River mouth.

Through September 11, an estimated 60,584 angler trips on the lower Columbia have produced a catch of 14,076 adult fall chinook. A Joint State hearing has been scheduled for today at 3:00 pm. Discussion will include upriver Chinook stock status and the on-going lower Columbia River recreational fishery.

**Bonneville Pool** - Fall chinook catches are increasing, particularly at the mouths of the Klickitat and White Salmon in the early morning.

**Hanford Reach** - Fishing was still slow. Pole hours for adult chinook were one fish for every 34 hours. The season is still early.

**Sturgeon -**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - Effort continues to be very light during the current catch and release only fishery. Only 9 boats were counted from Bonneville Dam downstream last Saturday.

**Trout -**

**Mineral Lake** - Planted with 2,500 half-pound rainbows last Tuesday (Sept. 6).

**SALMON -**

The Mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line is open under permanent regulations.

**Effective September 9, the Columbia River area daily bag limit was modified to two salmon with NO CHINOOK retention.**

Effective 12:01 am Sunday September 18, 2005 the Mainstem Columbia River from the Tongue Pt/Rocky Pt line upstream to Bonneville Dam will be closed for the retention of Chinook salmon. The retention of hatchery Coho and hatchery steelhead is allowed. The daily limit is 6 salmon of which no more than 2 may be adults.

The Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco is open under permanent regulations. Retention of both adipose fin-clipped and non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, coho and hatchery steelhead is allowed. The daily limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults.

The Mainstem Columbia River from Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam is open under permanent regulations for the retention of both adipose fin clipped and non adipose fin clipped Chinook salmon, release sockeye. Steelhead fishing is closed. Refer to the permanent regulation pamphlet for future Steelhead seasons.

The Mainstem Columbia River from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam is open under permanent regulations for the retention of both adipose fin clipped and non adipose fin clipped Chinook salmon. Closed to the retention of coho, and sockeye. Steelhead fishing is closed.

Effective September 3, 2005 the retention of wild coho salmon (which are not marked with a clipped adipose fin) is prohibited in the Big White Salmon River and the Wind River. This regulation change is in response to Wild Lower Columbia Coho in these rivers now listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

### **STURGEON** -

**NEW STURGEON RULE:** Only one single-barbless hook is allowed when angling for sturgeon.

### **Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from the mouth upstream to the Wauna powerlines -**

- All areas are closed to sturgeon retention for remainder of the year.
- Catch and release fisheries remain in place.

### **Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam -**

- Closed to retention through September 30, 2005, catch and release fisheries remain in place.

### **Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries between Bonneville and McNary dams -**

- All areas are closed to sturgeon retention for remainder of the year.
- Catch and release fisheries remain in place.

### **Eastern Washington:**

**Jeff Knotts at J.B's GUIDE SERVICE 509-366-4052** tells TGF that Salmon are finally coming over McNary in strong numbers to make a viable fishery for us in the Columbia Basin. Salmon are starting to be caught in areas around the Tri-Cities at the mouth of the Snake, Yakima and on upriver-as far as the wooden power lines in the lower Hanford reach.

### **Reader Email**

Woo hoo! We love reports, especially with pictures. This week a couple of regulars sent us both.

**Scott Kappes**, sometimes outdoor TV host and all time good guy sent this to TGF: "Here's a recent photo of Lynn Griffith and his daughter Cindy with an ocean caught 40 pound Chinook. It was caught outside of the Columbia River mouth on Herring."



Subscriber and regular contributor **Marc Davis** is usually practicing his magic on the Sandy river, puttin' the hurt on steelies. Since that's not an option at this time, he shows his wizardry on the coast. Marc wrote: "This a nice pair of Chinook that were landed out of Taylor's Landing on the Alsea River. They bit on Blue Fox Spinners (size six with orange body) and trailing a "Sardine Purse" spiked with sardine scent."



My (Michael's) good buddy **Jeff Corff** wrote from the Far East (Moses Leake, WA) with this: "well with the first good rain the fires are out and the campgrounds are opening back up. So I ventured to one of my more favorite high lakes jubilee lake is a small lake but gets planted heavily I got bites on my old rusty ford fenders not ten feet from shore as I was heading to a farther point on the lake. so I went barbless and decided to only keep the bigger fish or any that bleed. I fished all day using a small piece of a night crawler tipped with a kernel of white corn. I had a fish every 5 minutes! the water was very warm but no matter what depth I fished, I still got bites. the lake ranges from 14 FT to 36 ft in depth. MOST FISH WERE ALONG THE 17 FT DEPTH.

"Even though it hailed, rained and lightning thought out the day, I enjoyed the action. I finally kept my last fish at 5 PM. That's over 8 hours of good fishing. I finally had to stop my hands were getting frozen, AND I WAS OUT OF SMOKES.

"PS STEEL HEAD HAVE BEEN BUMPING THE FISH HATCHERY GATES NOW FOR ABOUT A WEEK. ACTION WAS FAST THE FIRST WEEK BUT HAS SLOWED DOWN a lot NOW."



Steven W wrote to Bob with an anchor-fishing questions: "I've been a subscriber for a couple of years. Only anchor fish out of Jantzen Beach where my boat is moored, but enjoy learning more from your excellent website. Simple greenhorn question: What is the appropriate time tide-wise to anchor fish for salmon/steelhead ? Obviously when there is slack tide (just before high tide ?) I can't get action on the lure, but, when do most people like to get located and how long to stay for anchor fishing purposes in relation to the tide tables ? (I do know that wobblers work during slow current and spinners fast current and Kwikfish anywhere in between). I know how to adjust the tide charts for the location, I just don't know when the best times to be out there is based on the tide tables. Is it from high tide to low tide for current purposes ? A couple of rules of thumb on what tide stage is best to anchor fish would be extremely helpful to me."

**Pro guide Bob Rees** replied, "First of all, thanks for being a subscriber! We appreciate feedback such as yours.

"Your common sense serves you well. Unless you are an expert anchor fisherman that knows EXACTLY where you want to be set up to fish the outgoing tide, it doesn't make much sense to anchor prior to the outflow of the tide. The first part of the outgoing can be a productive time however so I do encourage anglers to set up as soon as the tide begins to flow enough to work your lures. There will be periods of inactivity during the outgoing tide but stick it out from the beginning as the end of the tide can be some of the best fishing. There is no sense in anchoring up prior to the outflow of the tide.

"Good luck!"

Tanner K wrote to TGF this week to say, "The fishing below Bonneville Dam was pretty good this weekend. My son, my nephew and I fished it on Saturday (9-10-05). Just about every boat up there had at least one fish. A couple of boats had several on. My 14 year old son put a nice 20 lb hen in the fishbox and lost another one. I hooked up with an oversized sturgeon that ended up busting me off. The water was reading 66 degrees on my depth finder. I did try backbouncing eggs for a while but I think the water still needs to cool down for an egg bite to turn on.

"Thanks for all the great reports,"

Thank you, Tanner, and all who share their experiences, photos or allow us to answer fishing-related

questions here in hopes it will help others.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)

Doug Rees: [drees@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:drees@TheGuidesForecast.com)

Michael Teague: [OregonFishing@charter.net.com](mailto:OregonFishing@charter.net.com)

### **Random Links**

Channel 2 News runs story on boat safety with **pro guide Dave Johnson**:

\*<http://www.katu.com/outdoor/story.asp?ID=79251>

Real-time reports from the Buoys offshore and other coastal wind and wave information:

\*[http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\\_page.php?station=46050](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46050)

**Weekly Quote** – "Not everything about fishing is noble and reasonable and sane . . . . Fishing is not an escape from life, but often a deeper immersion into it, all of it. the good and the awful, the joyous and the miserable, the comic, the embarrassing, the tragic, and the sorrowful." - Harry Middleton in [Rivers of Memory](#)

**GOOD LUCK!**