

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 14th – October 20th, 2005**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Columbia River - Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) reports sturgeon fishing near Bonneville continues to put out keepers but larger fish aren't making up a large percentage of the catch. None-the-less, keepers are common and smelt is the preferred bait although shad strips and squid have produced as well. Pressure dramatically drops off during the non-retention days.

Mid Columbia/Deschutes River - Pro guide Eli Rico (425-417-0394) reports the mainstem above McNary Dam remains open until the 22nd of October. Fishing for Chinook remains steady with a better showing of larger Chinook in recent days. Most of the salmon are being taken on plugs and remain suspended so deep divers are not necessary.

The mouth of the Deschutes River is inconsistent for steelhead and the mainstem itself is slower than most expect for this time of the year. Some dark Chinook are taking steelhead gear so be prepared for anything!

North Coast - Pro guide Bob Rees (503-812-9036) reports, "Tillamook was slow for most of the week due to a poor tide series. Usually, the ocean is a good option on these poor tides but a big swell kept the bar restricted to all recreational vessels. Tides are improving however and the action is due to pick up."

Nehalem Bay was poor on Tuesday but produced good results for Chinook on Monday. Professionals are saying it is an every-other-day kind of fishery.

The Nestucca tidewater is producing some fish but the boat ramp hole is not fishing well this year. The Pacific City Bridge is much more popular this year and the crowds will verify this.

The Salmon River is drying up as its run is coming to an end. Fewer crowds mean less competition and anglers are hard pressed to find those options anywhere on the north coast this time of year.

No significant rain in sight which will be disappointing news to driftboaters. When that rain does come, north coast rivers will be an excellent option for Chinook.

Mid-Coast - Many dark, spawning chinook may be seen on the Siletz now. Give them a wide berth, avoid disturbing the redds (Spawning beds) and don't harass them. These salmon are the future of this fishery. It's worth protecting.

Crabbing is good at Yaquina Bay with limits of large Dungeness the rule. Salmon fishing has just about wrapped up for the season here. Recently, Alsea anglers have seen an upturn in action for chinook although the weekend was slow.

South Coast - Action has dropped off on the Siuslaw where low numbers of coho seem to be about equally divided between wild and hatchery fish. Trollers out of Reedsport are finding fair, steady action for Fall chinook.

Steelheading is slow to fair on the Umpqua. The South Umpqua is closed to all angling. Salmon fishing in Winchester Bay is fair as is the crabbing. Trollers in the lower Coos and Coquille River

report chinook fishing as slow to fair.

Rogue River anglers have had a tough time in the Gold Beach area recently with Chinook numbers down and water too warm to encourage the passing coho to take anything. A few half-pounders are being taken upstream with an emphasis on "few." Summer steelheading is best around Grants Pass. The river below Hog Creek remains open for chinook but most of the fish in the river are dark.

Chinook are stacked at the mouth of the Chetco where some dandies have been landed. A good rain will bring these fish into the main river.

Gold Beach remains open for razor clam digging for the first 15 clams taken, regardless of size or condition. A fair minus tidal series starts up next week with clam tides after dark. Many razor regulars enjoy this nighttime spot, equipping themselves with lanterns or head-mounted lamps to spot their quarry after dark.

Willamette Valley/Metro- The Willamette is slow for sturgeon although a couple of keepers have come over the gunwale at Multnomah Channel.

Steelhead fishing remains slow with the water levels and flows high on the North Santiam.

Eagle Creek on the Clackamas has seen periodic flushes of coho as it rises with a rain shower but it's been dropping back to low water very quickly. Floating quality cured salmon eggs without the use of weight has taken a few under these conditions. Fishing on the mainstem Clackamas River is slow.

Roiled water remains a challenge on the Sandy River. A few fish are being landed on salmon eggs, but speculation regarding the corky fishermen and snagging is increasing. If you see anyone taking fish illegally, call the TIP (turn in poachers) hotline at 800-452-7888.

Oxbow Park on the Sandy River is once again hosting the annual Salmon Festival this weekend, October 15th and 16th. The tents are the headquarters for a number of activities of interest to both adults and children. These will include salmon walks, kid's activities, arts and crafts, music, storytelling, cultural exhibits, horse-drawn wagon rides, forest hikes, and a salmon barbecue along with vendors offering many kinds of food and drink. Much of the entertainment and many activities will be undercover if the weather turns wet.

Trout fishing- Rainbow trout were planted this week at Detroit Reservoir, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake.

SW Washington- The Cowlitz River is fair for coho from Blue Creek to Barrier Dam. There are some fresh fish available but darker fish are certainly in the mix.

The Lewis River is also producing good number of coho salmon for both bank and boat anglers. A late shot of summer steelhead has added to the opportunity on both river systems.

Most of the "B" run coho in the Columbia are bound for Washington state hatcheries. These fish seem to be making a stronger than anticipated showing which will bode well for these fisheries.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Pro guide Eli Rico (425-417-0394) reports the only section left open for Chinook on the mainstem is still producing good numbers of Chinook. Eli states he has been averaging 3 to 5 Chinook/day in the Priest Rapids stretch and most of the fish are coming on sardine wrapped plugs. Eli has been using the smaller K-12's and K-14's when

targeting the suspended salmon. He stated the fish will soon congregate closer to the bottom and then the deeper diving gear will be employed. This stretch of river remains open until the 22nd of this month but many of the fish are beginning to turn color as we speak. This will be the last week of good opportunity for these fish.

The mouth of the Deschutes is slowing down as the dam counts do too. The peak of this fishery has come and gone although not many would call it a banner year. The John Day counts are also slowing- this may be an indicator on how the November fishery will perform. Most will hope for better results than last year- sub par by recent years success rates. It may be the same for 2005. Although steelhead are present upriver to Warm Springs, the better concentration will be found below South Junction. Fly rodders have done as well as anyone in this stretch. Steelheading in the Deschutes picked up following the last rain and has been fairly productive since. Trout fishing upstream is fair to good with October caddises and Blue-Winged Olives the predominant patterns.

Downriver, anglers in pursuit of keeper sturgeon are in luck if they target the Columbia River Gorge this time of year. Action has been good for anglers using smelt and the area around Horsetail Falls is testament. **Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411)** reports, "The best fishing I had last was last Thursday for sturgeon in the Gorge. There are lots of sturgeon up there so anglers can expect plenty of action. Two of the three people in my group landed a keeper sturgeon. We were fishing just above Horsetail falls and using a combination of shad strips, smelt and squid." This sort of action should remain steady with the prolonged closure. It seems evident that there aren't a lot of large fish in the creel at this time.

Crabbers are finding good success in the lower Columbia. Buoys 20 and 22 are standbys but adventuresome crabbers can seek virgin waters and clean up on limits this time of year. Fresh bait is preferred but one guide reported trying fresh tuna carcasses and coming up empty.....? I can't quite figure that out.

The Guide's Forecast – The Columbia River Gorge will remain the best bet for keeper sturgeon. Fishery managers may review some additional openings for sport anglers to help ensure this portion of the river meets its projected harvest guideline. As for now, the fishery remains open to sturgeon retention on Thursdays through Saturdays. Catch and release options exist for the rest of the week but few anglers are taking advantage of it. This leaves some spectacular fishing for the few taking advantage of it.

Columbia River salmon and steelhead fisheries are winding down. Chinook are beginning to color, steelhead are making headway for upper river tributaries and the once-in-a-while coho fishery in the lower gorge will likely not be productive with the low returns this year. It may be a year to pack up your gear and head west for coastal chrome.... or crab.....

Crabbing will get better in the estuary but for those willing to seek new water or crab quality bait in the stand-by spots, the results should justify your trip down there. We are coming into a more significant tide series however but a crabbing/clamming combination trip is not out of the question for the weekend. You will need a lantern for the evening crab tide however.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The Willamette is slow for sturgeon although a couple of keepers have come over the gunwales at Multnomah Channel. The lower Willamette is subject to the same three-day retention rules as the Columbia.

Steelhead fishing remains slow with the water levels and flows high on the North Santiam.

The Guide's Forecast – The Columbia will remain a better option for keeper sturgeon 'til

there's sufficient rainfall to put fresh water in the lower Willamette and give it some color. For those who do try it prior to that occurrence, hit Multnomah Channel and stay on the move to find larger fish.

Fly-fishing the McKenzie this time of year can be rewarding even though the results have only been fair recently. It's a beautiful river in the Fall. Try duns and October caddises for the best results.

The North Santiam will remain high and offer no fish to bag 'til spring, although it gets some attention for winter steelhead. This is strictly a catch-and-release fishery for wild steelhead, however, as no winter hatchery fish enter this system.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Eagle Creek on the Clackamas has seen periodic flushes of coho as it rises with a rain shower but it's been dropping back to low water very quickly. Floating quality cured salmon eggs without benefit of weight has taken a few under these conditions. Fishing on the mainstem Clackamas River is slow.

Roiled water remains a challenge on the Sandy River with a slide far upstream causing the entire river to run muddy. Coho can still be enticed under these conditions, however, and a few fish are being landed on salmon eggs. The speculation regarding many of the corky fishermen and snagging is increasing. Legitimate anglers witnessing such activity may call the TIP (Turn In Poachers) hotline at 800-452-7888.

North Coast District Fishing Report – The good news is that the Tillamook fishing is still slow! The better news is, it's been so slow for so long that it is very due to get better! Most guides are averaging 1 to 3 fish/day in the upper and lower bay. The weak tide series has made fishing challenging throughout most of the bay. The most consistent bite has been taking place along the north jetty (inside the bay) on the last half of outgoing tide. As soon as the tide slows from its peak ebb, there has been a consistent bite for anglers working the bottom of the bay with plug cut herring. The ocean was even open for a brief period on 10/12 in the morning but there were only a few fish taken. The Ghost Hole has been consistently producing at first light for herring trollers. Last weekend was extremely slow throughout the bay but the bite began to pick up by Tuesday. Some guides have been doing well on the incoming tide at the Oyster House in the upper bay. A more extreme tide washed in more seaweed by Wednesday however and action was harder to come by. Bigger tides will be the trend through the weekend so be sure to read the forecast section so you know where to be.

The tidewater stretches of the Tillamook and Trask have been producing some results for anchored plug fishers. This may continue to be the case over the weekend. Bobber anglers have had a tough time of it but the crew of Bill Hof and Jim Bennet won the Salmon Hog Invitational last weekend with 4 fish for 3 anglers (2 days) by bobber fishing the tidewater sections of the Trask and Tillamook. The upcoming tides may infuse tidewater sections with fresh fish once again.

Nehalem Bay has been inconsistent but one day the guides will do really well and the next day, the fishing will fall on its face. Most of the action is coming from the jaws by those trolling herring. Anglers fishing upstream are having a tougher go of it as has been the case for most of the season.

The Nestucca remains hit or miss as well and many anglers are believing that the famed boat ramp hole has fallen victim to failed water treatment issues. This stretch of river just isn't producing like it used to. Many anglers have crowded the Pacific City Bridge area where more consistent catches barely justify the fact you have to bring your own rock to stand on. One

angler reported good success from Three Rivers to Cloverdale late last week. The best part....he had it all to himself! It just goes to show you, you don't need a large rain freshet to produce good catches of Chinook above tidewater. The Wilson tidewater was also productive for a single day for the few that fished it last Friday.

The Fall chinook run on the Salmon river is on an earlier schedule than other North coast streams. Consequently, it's winding down now, a fact substantiated by the fewer numbers of anglers on the bank. There are still fish available for those who'd like a break from the guerilla fishing scene elsewhere.

There are lots of sea-run cutthroat in the Nestucca now, much to the delight of spinner-flingers and fly-rodders. This is a catch-and-release only fishery but nearly a sure thing. You can always buy fish on the way home.

Crabbing has been fair but pressure remains high as anglers want to score both a salmon and crab coup for their day on the bay. Crab harbor trap setters are most consistent but south channel and Lyster's corner crabbers are faring well too. Fresh bait will out-produce almost anything and salmon carcasses are hard to beat!

The Guide's Forecast – The weekend will offer many different options to anglers but the ocean will not be one of them. The swell is forecasted to be over the top (literally) so don't plan on any "big blue" excursions. With the swell that the National Weather Service is forecasting, it may not be safe to fish along the jetties INSIDE the bay!

A good morning flood tide may create some good opportunity for middle and upper Tillamook Bay spinner trollers and anglers holding at the Oyster House using plugs. By the weekend, anglers will witness tides as extreme as 8 foot floods to wash fish into the upper bay where recently, the area was claimed a "biological desert". With big tides come seaweed however so spinner fishing may be one of the best options. With the middle of October looming, a stronger showing of Wilson and Kilchis fish may be in order, making the lower bay a good option as well. The Ghost Hole and Bay City have been producing nicely for this early in the season and it should get even better. Recently, the chartreuse/green dot spinners have been producing well but red/white and red/brass have also been up to par. It will be critical to keep that spinner seaweed free in order to attract fish however. Look for the riffled water as smooth surfaces often indicate the presence of fouling eelgrass or seaweed. Kwikfish at the Oyster House will be particularly hard to maintain and the sculpin have been voracious too causing guides to have to freshen up sardine fillets on a regular basis.

The big tide series could also inject fresh fish into the tidewater sections of the Wilson and Trask Rivers. Bobber anglers may post good results- particularly in the lower Wilson where boaters will have a tough time accessing fishable water with a.m. low tides and a nasty sandbar at the mouth of the river. Moored boats in tidewater will have the best opportunities.

The Nestucca and Nehalem systems should also see a fresh influx of fish and not just because of the good tide series we are about to enter. The fish are just plain DUE to show in good numbers this time of year!

Central & South Coast Reports – Many dark and spawning chinook may be seen on the Siletz now. Give them wide berth, avoid disturbing the redds (spawning beds) and don't harass them. This ritual guarantees the future of the fishery and is well worth protecting.

Crabbing is good at Yaquina Bay with limits of large Dungeness the rule. Salmon fishing has just

about wrapped up for the season here. Alsea anglers have seen an upturn in action for chinook on the troll upriver following little action over the weekend. Limits of crab are being taken here as well.

Action has dropped off on the Siuslaw where low numbers of coho seem to be about equally divided between wild and those of hatchery origin. Occasionally, a smallish chinook has been landed. It remains to be seen if another period of rainfall will rejuvenate this fishery. Let's hope it happens soon.

Trollers out of Reedsport dragging plug-cut herring are finding fair, steady action for Fall chinook. Winchester Bay is providing good catches of Dungeness but many are still soft here. Steelheading is holding up slow to fair on the Umpqua with more steelhead in the system daily but it's been challenging to draw a strike. The South Umpqua is closed to all angling.

Boaters trolling herring in the lower Coos and Coquille River report chinook fishing as slow to fair. The Coos has some coho and offers excellent crabbing. Bluebacks are entering both these rivers now. These sporty, eager sea-run cuts will readily take a spinner or fly but hang in dark, bubbly water rather than riffles or seame. They may be found lurking under overhanging bushes and brush as well and will chase a lure a surprising distance from these haunts. It's legal to keep a couple a day here.

Rogue River anglers have has a tough time in the Gold Beach area recently with chinook numbers down and water too warm to encourage the passing coho to take anything. Trollers in the Bay are mostly burning furl and taking long boat rides as hookups are a rarity. A few half-pounders are being taken upstream with emphasis on "few." Summer steelheading is best around Grant's Pass. The river below Hog Creek remains open for chinook but most of the fish in the river are dark.

With the upper Rogue being a flies-only fishery, it's worth mentioning again that this restriction is regarding terminal tackle only. Any type of rod and reel may be used and a float is OK but no weight or weighted flies. Stay clear of the redds and be aware it's illegal to target chinook in the upper river.

Chinook are stacked at the mouth of the Chetco where some dandies have been landed but with the ocean fishery closed as of Wednesday, October 12th, the river will be the only option for salmon hopefuls. Decent rainfall will bring these fish into the main river although chinook will move in with the stronger high tides in the coming week.

Gold Beach remains open for razor clam digging for the first 15 clams taken, regardless of size or condition. A fair minus tidal series starts up next week with clam tides after dark. Many razor regulars enjoy this nighttime spot, equipping themselves with lanterns or head-mounted lamps to spot their quarry after dark.

Your voice is important at meetings open to the public. Decisions will be made about halibut and bottom fishing regulations and bag limits. According to a bulletin dated Thursday, October 13th, some regulations have already been set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The 2006 harvest caps for state-managed species - like greenling, cabezon, and other near shore rockfish - will be set by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in December. Get heard. Here's where and when:

All meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held:

* Monday, Oct. 17, at ODFW headquarters, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem.

- * Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Embarcadero, 1000 SE Bay Blvd., Newport
- * Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the Best Western, 1143 Chetco Ave., Brookings

Central and Eastern Oregon – Trout fishing is fair to good on Fall River and Crooked River. It's reported as only fair on the Metolius, but that's historically a tough one to crack. There are some beautiful trout here, though.

Northwest Bass & Panfish – No real update this week.

Northwest Trout - Hagg Lake is always drawn down to increase capacity for winter rains. Consequently, the water level is extremely low currently. That said, trout fishing has improved dramatically and larger fish are taking bait and lure.

Rainbow trout were planted this week at Detroit Reservoir, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake. Over the winter months, the ODFW frequently stocks valley lakes and ponds with larger trout and broodstock steelhead. These can be a kick for kids and adults on light tackle. You'll read it here in advance of these plantings.

Washington Fishing Report:

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula:

NEWS RELEASE

October 11, 2005

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Barb Maynes, ONP, (360) 565-3005

Razor clam dig starts Saturday on coast

MONTESANO - Clam diggers today got the green light to proceed with the first razor clam dig of the fall season, starting Saturday, Oct. 15, on evening tides at all five of Washington's ocean beaches.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approved the digs at Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis and Mocrocks beaches after a series of marine toxin tests confirmed that the clams there are safe to eat. The National Park Service approved the digs at Kalaloch Beach, which is located within Olympic National Park, to coincide with those at the other coastal beaches.

All five beaches will be open Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Oct. 15-17. A fourth evening of digging is also scheduled Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Twin Harbors and Mocrocks, where last year's harvest fell short of the number of clams available.

No digging will be allowed before noon on any of those days.

"Our experience last year showed that we have enough clams on those two beaches to provide some additional days of digging," said Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. "Although fewer clams will be available for harvest coastwide than last year, we still expect a season of good digging."

Olympic National Park superintendent Bill Laitner recommended taking safety precautions during night digs, especially at Kalaloch. "Kalaloch is considerably more remote than the other clamming

beaches, and visitors should be prepared for primitive conditions. With no streetlights or lighted buildings in the area, flashlights or lanterns are a necessity."

Under WDFW rules, harvesters may take no more than 15 razor clams and must keep the first 15 taken, regardless of size or condition. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container. A license is required for anyone age 15 or older. Any 2005 annual shellfish/seaweed license is still valid. Another option is a "razor-clam-only" license available in annual and 3-day versions. Descriptions of the various licensing options are available on the WDFW website at <http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>.

To help ease the pressure on coastal dealers, WDFW will sell licenses at the Willapa Bay Field Station, 26700 Sandridge Road, Ocean Park, on the Long Beach Peninsula. The field station, also known as the "Nahcotta Lab," will sell licenses Friday, Oct. 14 (noon. to 6 p.m.), Saturday, Oct. 15 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.), Sunday, Oct.16 (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.), and Monday, Oct. 17 (10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m).

For best results, Ayres recommends that clam enthusiasts start digging at least one hour before low tide. Low tides during the opening this month are:

*Saturday, Oct. 15, 5:56 p.m., +0.3 feet, all beaches

*Sunday, Oct. 16, 6:26 p.m., -0.5 feet, all beaches

*Monday, Oct. 17, 7:13 p.m., -1.0 feet, all beaches

*Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:58 p.m., -1.2 feet, Twin Harbors and Mocrocks only

Locations of the five beaches that will open to razor-clam digging Saturday are:

***Long Beach**, from the Columbia River north jetty to Leadbetter Point on the Long Beach Peninsula.

***Twin Harbors**, from the south jetty at the mouth of Grays Harbor south to the mouth of Willapa Bay.

***Copalis Beach**, which extends from the Grays Harbor north jetty to the Copalis River and includes the Ocean Shores, Oyhut, Ocean City and Copalis areas.

***Mocrocks Beach**, from the Copalis River to the Moclips River.

***Kalaloch Beach**, from South Beach Campground to Brown's Point (just south of Beach Trail 3) in Olympic National Park. Visitors to the park are advised to consult area bulletin boards for park safety and other information.

Digging is prohibited in the three one-quarter-mile-wide razor clam reserves, which are marked by 10-foot metal poles with signs. The reserves are located just south of the Ocean City access road on Copalis Beach, on the county line approach to Twin Harbors Beach, and 2.8 miles north of the Oysterville access road on Long Beach.

Southwest Washington:

The Cowlitz River is fair for coho from Blue Creek to Barrier Dam. There are some fresh fish available but darker fish are certainly in the mix.

The Lewis River is also producing good number of coho salmon for both bank and boat anglers. A late shot of summer steelhead has added to the opportunity on both river systems.

Most of the "B" run coho in the Columbia are bound for Washington state hatcheries. These fish seem to be making a stronger than anticipated showing which will bode well for these fisheries.

Salmon/Steelhead -

Cowlitz River - Boat anglers from the I-5 Bridge downstream are catching coho and fall chinook.

Through Oct. 5, a total of 4,500 coho had returned to the salmon hatchery and 450 sea-run cutthroats to the trout hatchery. By comparison, 12,000 adult coho and 4,700 sea run cutthroats had returned to those facilities during the same period in 2004.

Kalama River - Anglers are catching a mix of fall chinook, coho, and steelhead.

Lewis River - Bank anglers are catching mainly coho while boat anglers are catching fall chinook.

Drano Lake - Boat anglers are catching some fall chinook.

Klickitat River - On the lower river, boat anglers averaged nearly a coho per rod while bank were catching some fall chinook in addition to coho.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Effort has shifted towards sturgeon. Bank effort and catch is light.

Bonneville Pool - Boat anglers are catching some coho. About 35 boats were counted off the mouth of the Klickitat yesterday morning.

Hanford Reach - Boat anglers averaged nearly ½ adult chinook per rod. Over 100 boat trailers were counted at Vernita each day last weekend.

Ringold bank anglers averaged a steelhead kept per every 12 rods. Some fall chinook were also being caught.

Chinook seem to be in much better shape than last year due to cooler water temperatures. River flows have been fluctuating widely.

Sturgeon -

Lower Columbia from the Wauna power lines to Bonneville Dam - Near Bonneville Dam, bank anglers averaged nearly 0.4 legals kept per rod while boat anglers averaged one per every 5 rods. Boat anglers in the Camas/Washougal area were also catching some legals.

Trout -

Goose Lake - Since late September, planted with nearly 1,700 cutthroats averaging over 1.5 pounds each.

Eastern Washington: From **Pro Guide Pat Long of Snake River Guide Service (1-509-751-0410)**- The Snake and Clearwater rivers both have steelhead spread throughout their length and fishing is good in all of the popular areas. The big B-run fish are moving in well at this time and we are getting some fish in the 18 to 20 lb. range with some regularity, these fish will continue to move into the Clearwater throughout the winter months. The Salmon river and the Grande Ronde areas are reporting some decent fishing as well and these areas should start picking up in the next couple of weeks.

Water temps are in the high 40s on the Clearwater (at 2900 cfs this morning) and in the high 50s on the Snake with some water fluctuation from releases at Hells Canyon Dam.

South Central Washington:

Yakima River - Angler effort really picked up this past week as did harvest. An estimated 289 adult chinook and 5 jacks were harvested last week. Catch rates have improved with 1 chinook harvested for every 11 angler hours.

Hanford Reach – From Pro Guide Jeff Knotts at J.B.s Guide Service (509-366-4052) -

The salmon bite in the Ringold to wooden power line area seems to be producing the greatest catch ratios, however due to fuel costs it is the closest to the Tri-Cities and is getting pounded hardest. Depend on your preference, Kwiks, eggs or herring are all catching fish. Fish your favorite off cannon balls ,divers or down riggers. My advice is to use what you're the best at fishing with and go with that.

I fished the White Bluffs to Coyote Rapids area and literally scored salmon on all three different baits and styles of fishing this week. Most of the guides and locals who fish the Reach will start the day in the bigger holes to see if any fish may have piled up during the previous afternoon and evening. If the hole kicks out some fish ,they just stay with the bite until it stops. Then you will see most everyone go in search of fish. Some like shallower runs, while other prefer a different deep hole.

The great thing about the Reach is it truly is a challenging place to chase salmon, but with so many different options and so much river to fish, a fisherman who pays a little attention and has some salmon skills all ready in their bag can come and score a couple of these Hanford Reach salmon.

Steelhead fishing is open to the wooden power lines and other than the first week it was open, I haven't heard much about anyone really tearing them up. But with water cooling and more Snake River fish passing through. Fishing the night bite above McNary, Ice harbor or Lower monumental dams with lighted plugs may be just the ticket.

Participation was way up this week. The catch was one adult chinook for every 17 pole hours, an increase from last week. Low water conditions this weekend made it hard fishing for most anglers. Fish still in good shape for the first week of October, with the average between 15 to 25 pounds.

Reader Email

C'mon ... everybody can't be out fishing. We love to hear from our readers. Shoot us an Email. Tell us how you did, send us a picture or, if you ask a question, we'll do our best to answer in detail.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@SailCat.com

Random Links

Fish really is brain food, study shows:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/10/10/aging.brains.fish.ap/index.html>

The sport of angling can be dangerous, use caution (BBX News):

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/north_east/4315748.stm?html

Tuna story from the Oregonian bodes well for Pacific Northwest anglers:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/sports/1128941991226040.xml&coll=7>

Poachers leave bomb behind on Wilson River:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051012/OUTDOORS/510120336/1034>

Weekly Quote – "Twice I had the feeling, which I have talked about to other anglers and they have had it too, of a sudden anticipation of catching a fish so strong that it amounts to certainty. I suppose it is partly the harmony of effective presentation when everything else is auspicious, so that a take seems in that moment to be the only feasible conclusion. But it's not quit as simple as that, it's ore like a shaft of intuition. In must, logically, be an illusion; possible, to, you tend to remember it when it works and forget it when it doesn't. But, for all that, it's a curious experience." - J R Hartley

GOOD LUCK