

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **December 9th – December 15th, 2005**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Cooler air and water temperatures last week tapered effort and catch in the Columbia River gorge for sturgeon. Success has dropped dramatically and likely won't rebound until the warmer flows of spring hit. None-the-less, bank and boat anglers are still scoring some keepers but persistence is key. Boat anglers in the Portland to Longview stretch averaged a keeper for every 20 boats.

The Willamette remains cooler than the Columbia and the sturgeon fishing reflects the situation. Even undersized sturgeon are tough to come by at times. Those trying are advised to experiment with a wide variety of baits and scents. The mouth below Kelly Point Park has produced the most bites recently.

Steelhead counts at Willamette Falls, last updated November 28th, indicate a total of 125 winter fish have crossed, an indicator of a sparse population in the lower river. A handful of bank anglers at Meldrum Bar have caught nothing recently.

Clear, dry weather will result in prime water conditions on the Clackamas River. Unfortunately, there are so few winter steelhead with the water looking so good.

Pro guide Jack Glass (503-666-5370) reports the Sandy River shows the most promise as we look forward to the dry, cold week ahead. While the transition from hatchery steelhead to broodstock has altered the run, early fish have been landed. It's not the best bet in Oregon but it is the best choice for winter steelhead in the Metro area.

Mid Columbia/Deschutes River - The water is low and clear in the lower Deschutes. With snow on the bank and a winter chill in the air, angling pressure is light although steelheading remains fair for the few participating.

The John Day Arm and Pool produced excellent catches of steelhead in last weeks creel findings. Better than 1.5 fish/boat was recorded and although catch rates won't hold up that well for long, good opportunity will continue this week for anglers prepared for cool weather and clear water techniques. Fish in the mainstem are reported to be running deeper than 25 feet down.

North Coast - Late returning fall Chinook are still high on the menu in the Tillamook district. Small schools of fresh Chinook made themselves available to anglers from Mills Bridge to tidewater early in the week. A 40 pound bright buck was taken below Sollie Smith Bridge on Monday. The Chinook seem to be most responsive to eggs although only a fraction of the opportunities seem to turn into landed fish this time of year. There are a lot of spawning Chinook present in the tailouts so target fresh fish in the faster, deeper water. Steelhead are being taken occasionally but numbers remain insignificant.

Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5805) reports Nestucca anglers are finding some fairly consistent results for steelhead below Three Rivers. Three Rivers itself is also producing some steelhead. Numbers should increase as the holiday draws near.

Nestucca anglers are asked to cooperate with ODF&W personnel on this press release:

For Immediate Release Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2005

Nestucca River steelhead survey to begin

TILLAMOOK – Nestucca River steelhead anglers may be asked in the coming months about their catch as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists continue their ongoing study of the river's hatchery program.

ODFW will be conducting a "creel" survey of winter steelhead anglers on the Nestucca River from December through April. Two uniformed ODFW employees will be walking the bank to interview anglers and collect information about the fish caught. The goal of the project is to estimate total catch of winter steelhead, and to characterize the composition of the catch.

"This winter marks the second year of returning adult steelhead from the wild broodstock program," said Keith Braun, ODFW district fish biologist in Tillamook. "The creel survey will allow us to estimate the portion of the catch that is from the wild brood, compared with that from the traditional hatchery stock."

Along with information about the number of fish caught, the survey crew will be collecting data from individual fish, such as the fin mark and a scale sample. Anglers also will be asked a few short questions to track angling effort and catch distribution.

"We ask that people will be patient with us and cooperate with our samplers," Braun said. "This will allow us to collect the best information and minimize disruption to the angler's trip."

North Fork Nehalem anglers are catching a few fish as well. Best action remains at the handicap platform but in the dropping flows, the water below the hatchery should begin to produce better results. The Necanicum River should also be a viable option but low flows make bank angling a better option.

Good tides for sturgeon begin late in the weekend on Tillamook Bay. Effort remains light but fish should be present. It may be challenging to find productive water as Dungeness crab will be competing for anglers offerings.

Crabbing remains fair in Tillamook and Netarts Bays although success has dropped off from the previous weeks.

Mid-Coast - The wild coho fishery at Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes are not getting the angler attention expected by ODFW officials prompting a prediction that both locations will remain open through the December 15th cutoff.

Early hopefuls fishing the Siletz for winter steelhead are finding little reward. The Alsea is also drawing attention and while there are a few fish in the system, coho far outnumber metalheads at this time. Look for the Alsea to reward steelheaders later in the month.

Persistent Siuslaw anglers are still scoring the occasional chinook. The lower river is rewarding crabbers with limits of Dungeness.

South Coast - Plunkers on the mainstem Umpqua and steelheaders fishing the North Fork are seeing better numbers of fish as water conditions and run timing continue to improve here.

The Elk and Sixes have been quite productive for Fall chinook as the run peaks later than most Oregon rivers. Anglers destined by work ethic to fish only weekends should check for late

conditions as water levels change rapidly on these smaller ocean tributaries. Steelhead are due to join in the mix starting mid-December.

Nearly four inches of rain prompted flood warnings on the South coast Friday last week. Clearing conditions will improve water conditions on the Rogue River this week. Anglers hitting it on the drop, plunking the gravel bars on the lower river will find winter steelhead available.

Eastern Oregon - The lower Grande Ronde River realized icy conditions last week and resulted in a drop in angler effort and success. A warming trend will likely turn this fishery back on and catch rates dramatically improve when air temperatures increase in late morning.

The Umatilla River saw catch rates climb to about 4 hours per fish last week below Three Mile Dam. All of the fish sampled were wild and low flows seem to be slowing migration. A warming trend will keep this fishery productive but plan on very few consumptive opportunities.

SW Washington- Most lower Columbia tributaries are tracking winter steelhead returns below last years levels. Merwin Dam on the Lewis River is one exception.

Kalama River anglers are catching a few steelhead from the boat and bank angling fisheries. Car break-ins however are frustrating roadside anglers. Almost 50 fish were recycled on Friday and Monday from the Kalama Fish Hatchery.

A few coho are still being retained by Cowlitz Falls anglers. Bright fish however are hard to find.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Reports of sturgeon fishing in the gorge continue to come in, indicating that fishing has dropped off dramatically in that area. ODF&W recreational creel checks back this up as not even a keeper for every other boat was tallied in last weeks check. Bank angling effort has also dropped and even though inclement weather has had a lot to do with pressure, the fact that many of the keepers have been culled from the fishery is certainly keeping interested anglers away. Further downriver, boat anglers in the Portland to Longview stretch are taking very few fish also. Two keepers and 160 shakers were tallied for 40 boats in that stretch. The east wind has been a factor recently as not many anglers are willing to freeze themselves silly for little chance for a keeper. Smelt continues to be a good producer but as temperatures chill, shrimp may become a better alternative.

Steelheaders saw some great conditions to fish in around the John Day over the weekend. When the weather finally blew out, sunny skies and moderate temperatures made for friendly fishing conditions. ODF&W creel checks showed 1.6 fish caught per boat recently but eye-witness reports gave us the impression that fishing wasn't as good as the checks had indicated. Subscriber and avid angler Ray Brown reports, "Fished John Day River Sunday. We were in the water at 7:45, out at 2:15. Three anglers were fishing. Zero fish, 0 strikes for an all day effort. There were about 12 trailers in the parking lot and no guides. The water temp at the confluence with the Columbia was 47.5 deg F, water temp at the Narrows, 9 miles upriver was 36.8 deg F. with ample visibility.

Fished the area in front of the ramp out 1/2 mile into the Columbia up to the first bend to the left, then ran up to the Narrows, then came back down to fish Philippi Park area." Ray also reports, "We marked fish consistently at 30-40', scattered about in the warmer water below Philippi Park. We trolled Wiggle Warts, Brads Wigglers, Mepps spinners (#6) on flat line, and again with 3 oz lead to try to fish the 25-35' depth. We did not mark any fish shallower than 30'. Up in the Narrows, we tried night crawlers on a very short dropper to see if any catfish were around. Two bumps, no fish. We also flat lined plugs, and plunked plugs for Steelhead.

Nothing. Did not bobber fish at all. We did not see or hear of fish caught. Four were taken out in front of the ramp on Saturday, per one of the fishermen who camped there overnight but this

was not confirmed. There was no wind, air temp about 40 deg. F, overcast with sun breaks, great conditions."

The Guide's Forecast – The sturgeon season on the Columbia remains open but should only continue to decline as cooler water sets in and the likelihood of another poor smelt return. Keepers that were in the Columbia are likely migrating out into the ocean and towards other coastal estuaries where food supplies of shrimp and crab are more ample. Look for this fishery to continue to decline for keepers in the next several months but shaker action should be enough to justify some angler effort in coming weeks. The Willamette can be a go-to spot this time of year but water temperatures are actually cooler in the Willamette than the Columbia which is a rare phenomenon for this time of year. For an interesting read on the history and performance of the Columbia River sturgeon fishery, along with the management, biology and forecasts of Columbia River smelt, go to: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/reports/05_reports/06_wss_jsrpdf to get the official Joint State report on these species.

I predicted last week that we would see a gradual downturn in the John Day fishery but this weeks creel check may have proved me wrong. However, there was mixed reports coming from this area and the likelihood of excellent results like what was witnessed last week becomes less and less in the upcoming weeks. Steelhead fishing should remain a viable option this week both in the John Day River itself and in the Columbia mainstem.

Both river systems may experience extreme cold winds however making for some challenging conditions to spend much time in. The colder water may drive fish deeper in the mainstem but temperatures may also have an adverse effect on the aggressiveness of the fish. Anglers are encouraged to troll slower to entice strikes but that in turn may take some heavier lead to keep your plugs in the face of the fish. Darker plugs also tend to work better at deeper depths so experimenting with colors and depths may be essential to find success.

The lower Columbia River crab season for commercials is still undecided but they could begin to soak their pots around the 12th of this month if officials decide to open the season on the 15th. This could squash the already challenging crabbing for recreational folks on the lower river. Recent reports indicate the crabbing is getting more challenging by the week. Crabbers should keep in mind that in order to experience higher success rates in a mediocre fishery, they will have to get away from their competition to do it. Try and keep your pots crabbing in water between 18 and 38 feet and use fresh bait when you can get it. Seals don't seem to be a big problem- especially if you get away from other gear that draws in the pinnipeds.

Clatsop area beaches should offer some great razor clamming opportunities by early next week. Late afternoon tides could yield easy limits if the surf cooperates with diggers!

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The Willamette remains cooler than the Columbia and the sturgeon fishing reflects the situation. Even undersized sturgeon are tough to come by at times. Those trying are advised to experiment with a wide variety of baits and scents. The mouth below Kelly Point Park has produced the most bites recently.

Steelhead counts at Willamette Falls through December 5th indicate a total of 137 winter fish have crossed, an indicator of a sparse population in the lower river. The few bank anglers who even bother to try at Meldrum Bar have caught nothing recently.

North Santiam fishing is pretty much wrapped up for the 2005 season.

The Guide's Forecast – It will be a sunny, frigid and windy week ahead. The resultant wind-chill factor will require extra preparation for outdoor activities. Travel with care.

Until the temperature of the lower Willamette exceeds that of the Columbia, sturgeon fishing will languish. Since rain would serve to accelerate this warming trend and none is in the forecast, it'll be a while before the lower Willamette once again becomes a viable fishery. When the rains do arrive, it's likely to muddy the water for a while as well, a situation favored by sturgeon. The combination will also be welcomed by anglers who are weary of the current drought in weather and action.

In fairness, counting of winter steelhead was been suspended for several days in November as it is currently while work is being done on the fish ladder. We would assume that fish aren't crossing while repairs are in progress. Steelhead counts in previous seasons indicate the current numbers aren't lagging too badly regardless. On December 8th, 2004 192 steelies had crossed at the Falls. In 2003 it was 252. As the season progresses, counts will improve but additional precipitation sure wouldn't hurt. The readings indicate the water is 41 degrees at Willamette Falls with visibility of one foot.

Wild winter steelhead will start showing in on the North Santiam in fishable number by mid-January with a reliable catch and release fishery here in February. No hatchery stocks are available here until the summer run begins.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Clear, dry weather have resulted in prime water conditions on the Clackamas River. Pity there are so few winter steelhead in the system with the water looking so good. Actually, the steelhead counted at the Falls are not the same as the Clackamas steelhead, the latter of which are bound for the hatchery upstream. There might be some hatchery winter steelhead available. Maybe. But the chances will be much better into January and February.

The Sandy River shows the most promise as we look forward to the dry, cold week ahead. While the transition from hatchery steelhead to broodstock has altered the run timing which now coincides with that of wild steelies, a few early fish have already been landed. It's not the best bet in Oregon but it is the best choice for winter steelhead in the Metro area.

Pro Guide Jack Glass (503 666 5370) reports, "Sandy river is in excellent shape perfect for winter steelhead fishing, fish have been caught for the last week and a half. This is a great start for winter season, the best I've seen in several years. Most fish have been wilds with some hatchery fish mixed in. Most action is from Oxbow down to I-84 bridge and both bank fisherman and boaters are getting them."

North Coast District Fishing Report – Fresh Chinook are still on tap for motivated anglers working the Tillamook district. There seems to be more Chinook available than steelhead at this point. I drifted the lower Wilson going from Mills Bridge to Sollie Smith on 12/6. We fished both salmon and steelhead water pulling plugs the whole day- well, not the whole day as I started at 10:00 a.m. The frost had cleared somewhat but that ever-so-pleasant east wind kept reminding my why I like winter steelhead fishing so much- NOT! We never drew a strike until we got below Donaldson's launch despite fishing relatively unmolested water and great conditions for holding fish. We finally got our first (and only) bite at upper Donaldson's on a K-16 X-treme Kwikfish with sardine wrap. We had a hold of this fish for just a few headshakes and then it came off. We only saw a couple of other fish taken at the Chrome Patch (below lower Donaldson's) on bobbers and eggs. Fishing below Sollie Smith Bridge seems a bit more consistent as the few guides working that stretch have been scoring mixed results. **Pro guide Dave Johnson (503-201-4292)** reported landing a chrome 40 pound buck below Sollie Smith early in the week. Cold, inclement weather has kept many anglers home but hard working anglers are making it happen.

The Nestucca River is the other bright spot in the county as **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5805)** reports. Jesse states, "The Nestucca is in good shape. There are still some fresh kings available but is very near the end. We are seeing some good numbers of winter steelhead on the lower river and Three Rivers as well. Pulling plugs on the lower river is a good bet, and what I am partial to is side drifting and drift fishing is also good. Look for fish on the lower river and on the move. Eggs and/or shrimp will produce bites. As we get closer to the end of the month look for a great push of steelhead right around Christmas or just before."

A report from the North Fork Nehalem hatchery indicates a few steelhead have returned, boding well for the winter run here. Pressure is light although anglers report banking some fish. The winter steelhead run is starting up on the Necanicum. Fishing here will continue to improve through December if water conditions remain conducive.

Sturgeon activity is next to none on the bay, despite the fact that they should be present. Crabbing remains fair but has dropped off from previous weeks. Ocean crabbing may open up, pending on the commercial opener which should be decided by early next week.

The Guide's Forecast – The rivers are low and clear and if the weather forecast comes through as expected, rivers should remain that way. This will give Chinook chasers a challenge to find a bright fish. Best prospects remain downstream of Sollie Smith Bridge on the Wilson and below Three Rivers on the Nestucca. Keep in mind that many of the late returning fish are females and often times, even a bright female may cut pale in color. Bright bucks should be in great shape for the table. The Kilchis may also have fresh Chinook available but target these fish below the highway 101 bridge. Steelhead are certainly around and improving tides may bring in fresh fish. The few anglers versed in tidewater techniques for steelhead stand a good chance in finding some decent numbers. For river anglers, fish the lower stretches and count on bobber and jigs to produce the best results. Steelhead should congregate in Chinook looking water and will fall to jigs when air temperatures warm in the late morning. Pink is a stand-by for winter fish and should be fished targeting suspended steelhead in holes deeper than 4 feet. Vary your fishing depth but start slow drifts at about 3 foot and work your way to 7 or 8 foot. Deeper slots with broken surfaced water will also hold fish but keep in mind you are targeting hatchery fish. These are fish that are much more social than wild steelhead so they will be in higher concentrations in the choice holes. Once you find biting fish, DON'T leave fish to find others. Pods of steelhead will be small and not very prevalent in the coastal streams.

Anglers wishing to try their hand at sturgeon fishing may find reward in Tillamook Bay. Tides are favorable for an afternoon outing beginning on Sunday and who wouldn't want to start until the late morning anyway? Sand shrimp should take keepers in the south channel and middle channel in the beginning part of next week. The minus tide series that starts on 12/12 may also offer up some bay clamming. As mentioned before, mud shrimp will be hard to come by but sand shrimp will be a good alternative. Keep in mind that competing interests will be after those delicate sand shrimp so bring lots of bait if you plan on making a tide of it.

Some limited rockfishing opportunities still exist from the shore but anglers need to check the regulations to make sure of the limits and species they are allowed to pursue.

Central & South Coast Reports – Coyote Rock is a landmark on the Siletz River and popular stop to immortalize fishing conquests and certify bragging rights. So far this December, no pictures - that's right, zero - have been posted here, a reliable barometer of the winter steelhead fishing prospects. It'll get started soon, but seek metalheads elsewhere for a few weeks.

The Alsea has produced modest catches of winter steelies and will continue to improve through December.

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754- 6411) reports, " ... fished the Alsea River yesterday. Steelhead fishing is still slow, as we only landed one hatchery fish. There are still several big native coho hanging out below Five Rivers as once we hooked several. The river is going to be dropping through the weekend so anglers will want to fish from Fall Creek down - I'll be fishing below Five Rivers. In talking to fish migration people I would expect fair fishing until just before Christmas then with a little rain we should have good to excellent fishing- river conditions permitting. If the hatchery steelhead to do not show then, it's vacation time to Hawaii or to the Columbia for some sturgeon fishing."

The wild coho fishery at Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes is not getting the angler attention expected by ODFW officials prompting a prediction that both locations will remain open through the December 15th cutoff. A rebound in populations of this once-protected species has allowed anglers to harvest them from these locations. Trolling spinners or plugs where tributaries enter will draw strikes.

Persistent Siuslaw anglers are still scoring the occasional chinook. The lower river is rewarding crabbers with limits of Dungeness.

Plunkers on the mainstem Umpqua and steelheaders fishing the North Fork are seeing improving catches of winters as water conditions and run timing continue to improve here. Winchester Bay is providing fair crabbing as anglers look forward to sturgeon and striped bass fishing to take off here.

Steelheaders on the Coos and Coquille rivers are taking fair numbers of winter steelhead since that last rainfall passed through.

The Elk and Sixes have been quite productive for Fall chinook with the run peaking later here than most Oregon rivers. Anglers destined by work ethic to fish only weekends should check last-minute conditions as water levels change rapidly on these smaller ocean tributaries. Steelhead are due to join in the mix soon.

Nearly four inches of rain prompted flood warnings on the South coast on Friday last week. Clear weather is improving water conditions on the Rogue River. Anglers hitting it on the drop and plunking the gravel bars on the lower river will find winter steelhead available. This one's due to turn on. Summer steelhead are still hitting well in the upper Rogue but with fresh winters entering daily, most anglers will want to concentrate efforts from Agness downstream.

Chetco anglers are seeing good numbers of winter steelhead now with one taken Monday, December 4th, which tipped the scales at 20 pounds.

Regulations affecting offshore bottom fishermen have changed for 2006. In part, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a six-fish ocean bag limit plus two ling cod per day. The limit went from ten to eight to five then closed completely in 2005 to protect black (and meet Federal Quotas on) rockfish, the most commonly-taken of the bottomfish species. The six-fish limit is predicted to reduce catches by 10% with the goal of keeping the fishery open for a full year. If successful, 2006 will provide bottom-fishers with the first year 'round season in three years.

In another move sure to be popular with fans of halibut fishing, transporting a three-fish weekly bag limit will be legal next year. In 2005, anglers were allowed one fish per day during the three day fishery, but could legally transport only two fish. This meant that fishers traveling some distance and staying overnight to take advantage of all three allowable fishing days could not transport their catch. This is a logical change to a screwy regulation..

Originally scheduled for June of this year, the complete restoration of the 133-year-old Yaquina Head Lighthouse began Thursday, December 8th. Funds of \$1 million were provided by Congress for this project which is projected to be completed in spring. During the process, the public will not be allowed access.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Anglers equipped with arctic-worthy winter gear may want to try the Deschutes River where the chances of encountering a steelhead has improved over the poor results reported over the previous couple of weeks. Those braving the bone-chilling conditions are likely to have the river to themselves.

Blue-Winged Olives and midges are taking fish on the Crooked and Fall rivers now, with the best fishing mid-day. Metolius fly fishers are catching nice-sized rainbows in addition to large bull trout. Tiny flies are tempting 'bows with larger nymphs attracting bulls.

SW Washington - Most lower Columbia tributaries are tracking winter steelhead returns below last years levels. Merwin Dam on the Lewis River is one exception.

Kalama River anglers are catching a few steelhead from the boat and bank angling fisheries. Car break-ins however are frustrating roadside anglers. Almost 50 fish were recycled on Friday and Monday from the Kalama Fish Hatchery.

A few coho are still being retained by Cowlitz Falls anglers. Bright fish, however, are hard to find.

Eastern Washington – Steelhead anglers in the eastern part of the state are still recording decent numbers of steelhead for area systems. Walla Walla River anglers averaged 5.1 hours/fish last week with 10 anglers sampled, landing 4 wild steelhead and 3 hatchery fish. Conditions on the Walla Walla remain low and clear. Two anglers on the Touchet River tallied 2 wild fish for only 3 hours of fishing. The Tucannon River yielded 4 steelhead for 5 anglers with a catch rate of 9.1 hours/fish. All fish sampled on the Tucannon were of hatchery origin. Anglers on the Ice Harbor to Lower Monumental stretch enjoyed visibility to 4 foot. 129 anglers caught 8 wild fish and 15 hatchery fish over the last sample period. The Lower Monumental to Little Goose stretch gave up 25 steelhead of which 21 were of hatchery origin. That averages to 8 hours per fish caught. The Little Goose to Lower Granite Pool recorded 26 anglers with 3 wild fish and 5 hatchery fish of which only 4 were retained.

Puget Sound – Creel checks in South Puget Sound indicate the best fishing took place on 12/3 when 6 Pt. Defiance boats took 3 Chinook. Pt. Defiance also gave up a single Chinook on 12/4 for the 7 anglers that landed their craft there.

The Armeni Ramp gave up 3 Chinook for 16 boats on 12/4 while the Shilshole Ramp tallied 2 Blackmouth for 3 boats on the same day.

North Puget Sound anglers landed 3 Chinook in 2 days creel checks at the Camano Island Public Ramp for 8 boats.

Olympic Peninsula – The tribal netting schedule is not available for peninsula area streams. It is online at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/tribal/index.htm>

The Bogachiel/Quillayute River systems tallied excellent results for area steelheaders with 109 anglers interviewed taking 63 hatchery fish and releasing 19. Two wild fish were also released in the 12/1 to 12/4 interview period.

The lower Hoh River from Oxbow Campground to Barlow's showed 57 anglers keeping 18 steelhead and releasing 5 fish during the 12/1 to 12/4 interview period. Three upper Hoh anglers reported no catch.

Northwest Trout - No stocking again this week. Hey, it's winter.

Reader Email

Regular contributor Kap'n Ken Johnson sends this report, of sorts, "Weather Report December 8th, 2005:

"Beautiful Weather for the next several days!

"Fishing! HHHmmmmMMMmmmmmm.....

"At my own guise of saving valuable reading time for other more "interesting" uplifting fishing and "Catching" news here in TGF, I just thought I would report on the weather and a little bit on the fishing at Meldrum Bar! Fishing is fantastic, just as the weather is, and that is why I'm going for a motorcycle ride today and hopefully for more in the following days. Catching "sucks" at Meldrum Bar with maybe 2-5 fisherfolks braving the cool end of Fall weather we're having right now.

The Steelies, however, are NOT THERE. In the last several days ZERO Steelhead have been counted at Willamette Falls...Hence, Poor "Catching," as the "Fishing" is still marvelous! So, go if you want to...The "Catchers" will be there and will let us all know when the fish are in...Also, watch the fish counts reported usually one day late on the Willamette River @ http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish_counts/Willam.htm#counts and when you see Steelhead numbers start to rise in the 20's + + +, then the season begins..."

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@SailCat.com

Random Links

"Monster squid gets second chance at life after big catch" Statesman Journal article from Henry Miller:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051208/OUTDOORS/512080359>

Where to buy 2005 licenses and tags for Oregon:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/public/posagents/posagents_a_e.htm

Washington licenses, tags and gift certificates are available for purchase online here:

https://www.greatlodge.com/cgi-bin/licenses/customer_search.cgi?st=WA&btype=Licensing&r=0.18229_424490577395

Weekly Quote – "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." - A. Einstein

GOOD LUCK!