

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **April 21<sup>st</sup>, – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** To date, just over 200 adult spring Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Although managers remain hopeful, they are far from extending the sport season with passage so low. With the run mostly comprised of later returning 4 year-old fish, passage was forecasted to peak later than previous years.

On par with last year, sturgeon catch and effort is once again gaining momentum in the Columbia and the gorge is getting most of the attention. Boat anglers averaged good catches over the previous catch and keep opener and shaker action is picking up as well. Portland to Longview boats also showed improvement with better than 1 keeper per boat for the few anglers out there pursuing them. Smelt remains the top bait. The estuary fishery remains slow for sturgeon at this time.

**Captain Jack LaFond (800-270-7962)** reports, "Upriver, Walleye fishing below the John Day Dam has been fair to spotty, but now that the full moon is waning the bite should pick up. Water temps are good, spills at the dam are strong and that helps to concentrate the fish to known current breaks."

Chinook numbers at Willamette Falls are encouraging but not impressive. Springers are crossing in double digits with modest improvement as the total for the year as of April 12th reached 126. Water temperatures remain at 51 degrees as of the latest data on April 14th. Improvement is overdue.

The lower Willamette is running high at this writing. Catches were slow but steady last week for anchor fishers soaking prawn rigs and for trollers dragging plug-cut herring in the Portland Harbor.

Bait fishers are hooking numerous smolts in the Clackamas and fishing for steelhead remains the best bet on the river. Spring Chinook are present in low numbers however, the cool water is keeping them from making a big push into the river. Algae growth has started to be a problem here.

Sandy anglers are taking a few summer steelhead and fewer springers but prospects will improve later in the season. Late winter steelhead are still in the mix but the bulk of the catch are natives. The river was high and roiled over the weekend with conditions showing improvement this week.

Many anglers are geared in anticipation for the weekend trout opener. In preparation, many lakes have been stocked with catchable rainbows.

In the Northern Willamette watershed, Benson Lake, Bethany, Blue Lake, Commonwealth Lake, Dorman Pond, Haldeman Pond, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Mt. Hood Pond, Roslyn Lake, Salmonberry Lake and Trojan Pond will be planted with hatchery trout this week.

Scheduled to be stocked in the Southern Willamette watershed is Alton Baker Pond, Blue River Reservoir, Carmen Reservoir, Clear Lake, the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Fall Creek, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, Upper McKenzie River, Middle Fork Willamette River, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, Timber Linn Lake and Waverly Lake.

**Northwest –** Steelhead catches once again turned on for North Coast anglers over the weekend. The slight rise in river levels drew in good numbers of late winter run fish and the Nestucca and

Wilson produced the best numbers. The Wilson rose just under a foot through the weekend and gave the necessary color to the river to stimulate a bite. Most anglers agree, it was one of the best winter steelhead seasons in a long time.

Chinook were rumored to have been hooked in the lower drifts of the Wilson but no confirmed catches were reported. As area rivers drop, the Trask and Wilson should be fair prospects for a short while longer when the river becomes too clear again.

In Tillamook Bay, sturgeon fishing has slowed but some fish remain in the west channel. Spring Chinook have been hooked in the upper and lower bay for the few boats participating in the fishery. These early fish tend to be the larger 5-year olds often exceeding 20 pounds.

Crabbing remains poor in the local estuaries.

The ocean remains volatile but a short break in the weather may afford some bottomfishing opportunity over the weekend. Afternoon winds from the NW may curtail effort but indicate a more typical weather pattern that produces the necessary upwelling effect for the out-migrating smolts that are now exiting coastal estuaries.

A pod of killer whales was witnessed at the mouth of Tillamook Bay earlier this week.

Alder Lake, Big Creek Reservoirs # 1 and # 2, Buck Lake, Cleawox Lake, Dune Lake, Elbow Lake, Erhart Lake, Georgia Lake, Hebo Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Lost Lake (Lane County), Mercer Lake, Munsel Lake, North Georgia Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Perkins Lake, Siltcoos Lake, Spring Lake, Sutton Lake, Thissel Pond and Vernonia Pond will receive hatchery trout this week.

**Southwest -** Offshore bottom fishing was good over the weekend out of central and South coast ports. Ocean conditions this week are conducive to offshore bottomfishing. Surf perch fishing from ocean beaches is rewarding anglers with decent catches.

South coast spring Chinook are running a little late but offshore boats are marking salmon which should be entering rivers in the coming weeks.

Spring Chinook fishing has been slow in the lower Umpqua, but a few are being taken daily.

The lower Rogue River has been improving for Chinook with about every other boat landing fish last week. Levels increased, peaking on April 15th but the water will continue to drop into the coming weekend and with improving temperatures, prospects are good for springers.

South Ten Mile Lake, USFS Lake, Ben Irving Reservoir, Clearwater #2, Cooper Creek Reservoir, Galesville Reservoir, Hemlock Lake, Herbert's Pond, Lake of the Woods, Lemolo Reservoir, Loon Lake, and Plat I Reservoir will be stocked with trout for the weekend.

Diamond Lake, scheduled to receive 20,000 trout this week, will not be stocked until mid-May when the lake is expected to be free of ice. Rotenone will be used in September to rid the lake of trout-competitive tui chub.

**Eastern -** Although the Umatilla River opened April 16<sup>th</sup> for spring Chinook, no fish have currently passed Three Mile Dam. Steelhead fishing closed on eastern Oregon rivers on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pro guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411)** reports on trout fishing in detail for Central Oregon lakes in the full length version of our report. Bill cites excessive snow will delay the trout opener on many lakes but most reservoirs will enjoy ample water supply this season.

Century Gravel Pit, Fall River, Haystack Reservoir, Shevlin Pond and Sprague Gravel Pit will be planted with rainbow trout.

**Southwest Washington-** Washington anglers are still waiting for fair numbers of fish to show up although the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers are putting out a few Chinook.

The Kalama River is putting out a rare Chinook and summer steelhead when usually the run is well underway by now. The wild winter steelhead handle at Kalama Falls Hatchery however has topped 1,100 fish and catch and release regulations remain in effect for wild steelhead upstream of the hatchery.

### **Soapbox Update – 5th Annual Kings for Kids**

Local guides are donating their day to guide anglers on Portland, Oregon area spring chinook rivers. All proceeds go to Royal Family Kids' Camp, which is a camp for abused and abandoned kids. The ticket price is \$160.00 and includes a guided King salmon trip, dinner, drinks, t-shirt, and door prizes. Prizes include guided trips, G Loomis Rods, and much more. The event begins at 7:00 a.m. on **May 5th**, 2006 at Clackamette Park. A silent auction and raffle with many donations from local artists and retailers will take place after the fish measuring, Dinner and awards are presented. A trip will also be raffled with Fins, Feathers, and Furs in Alaska to experience some of the best fishing in the world. Get more information from this web page: <http://www.kingsforkids.org/>.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – With spring Chinook fishing closed, effort has switched to sturgeon on the lower Columbia River. Weekend checking indicates the gorge fishery is once again picking up after a long hiatus. One might wonder how long the population will sustain itself with the sea-lions hungry for flesh as the spring Chinook continue a no-show. Although only a few sturgeon anglers were checked in the lower river, success rates indicate very catchable numbers of fish present. Both gorge boat and bank anglers saw good success over the weekend with fair keeper catches coming from both groups. Smelt (preferably this years) was responsible for most of the action. Shakers are also providing anglers some entertainment

Anglers in the Portland to Longview stretch tallied better than a keeper per boat as well. Further downstream, no keepers were checked by the state agency but rumors of some keepers are coming from the water upstream of Tongue Point. Hopefully, sturgeon have a reason to show in the estuary this summer! The season wasn't anything to write home about last year.

Passage at Bonneville Dam continues to be dismal and if numbers don't begin to climb really soon, there are going to be some real modifications to next years season structure. Most biologists feel that with the catch rates we witnessed prior to the season closing, the numbers will show at the dam and everyone will have conducted their fishery within their allowable impacts. Only time will tell however and last year, peak passage happened the first week of May. Cooler water temperatures and marine mammal predation are the current scapegoats.

The next opener targeting steelhead and shad will be May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Captain Jack LaFond (800-270-7962)** reports, "The next 2 weeks should be the best time to catch the toothy critters before the major spawn begins. Trolling spinner rigs/night crawler harnesses behind a bottom walker provides the best success along with drifting and jigging on the calmer days. The lure color doesn't matter as long as it's chartreuse."

**The Guide's Forecast** – Catch rates in the gorge should continue to climb through the spring months. Smelt will be a key ingredient and anglers will focus most of their effort during the retention

days of Thursdays through Saturdays in this area. Cape Horn upstream to Rooster Rock is proving the most productive area as fish begin to stage for fresh turbine-churned smolts and shad ready to migrate through. With the flows being regulated at Bonneville Dam, anglers are encouraged to use extreme caution when anchoring.

The middle river from the mouth of the Willamette to Longview is also producing some catches but there are no great concentrations of fish in any one location of that stretch. The estuary fishery will slowly gain momentum but heavy action won't happen until later into May. Shrimp will work well down there as fresh anchovies are not yet available.

Pray for adult salmon passage to increase.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Those encouraging double-digit daily spring chinook counts dwindled to single digits as the Willamette water temperature dropped once again to the high 40s. Six, then eight, then a single springer counted on Wednesday, April 19th.

Rains last weekend raised water levels once, however. Worse yet, the water temps dropped yet again to a chilly 48 degrees which is likely to stall the upriver migration, slow spring Chinook movement in the lower Willamette and extend the wait between bites.

These conditions are more conducive to sturgeon fishing although interest has been low as anglers concentrate on spring Chinook. Keepers are available to those so inclined Thursdays through Saturdays when retention is allowed.

Early or not, the run is overdue on a year when fewer numbers are expected anyway. This year's run has been forecast to reach a total of 46,500 spring Chinook. It may surprise some that, according to ODFW checkers, over 900 Chinook had been taken between the Falls and the mouth of the Willamette as of April 2nd, so there's still hope for those of us who have yet to score this year.

Springer fishing was dead slow on Tuesday, April 18th in the cold, roiled waters of the Willamette. There's still time for it to happen if the water clears and the temperature rises.

Flows in the Santiam system remain fairly high and swift as the Corps of Engineers releases water to ensure a decent steelhead spawn.

**The Guide's Forecast** – As of the morning of April 19th, water was cloudy with an 18-inch visibility and a height at Oregon City of 14.5 feet. Overnight, the lower river had dropped over six inches, belying forecasts, to 13.85 on the morning of April 20th. If warm weather has the desired effect on water temperatures, it will have a positive effect on spring chinook movement and more importantly, the bite.

Catches were slow but steady last week for anchor fishers soaking prawn rigs and for trollers dragging plug-cut herring. Those techniques will reward anglers in the Sellwood Bridge area with random acts of Chinook kindness. Anchor fishermen and trollers have hit fish from Oregon City to the mouth of the Willamette. Boaters in Multnomah Channel have reported catches from end-to-end with no hot spots emerging although the head of the Channel has produced well at times and is worth attention.

Subscriber Roger K. reports, "Fished Multnomah Channel from 6:30 to 12:30 today(Wed)...two of us... nary a bite. 35 boats counted with about 70 rods in water and observed 3 fish landed. May have missed one or two. Water up some and two degrees colder (48) than Monday. Also, water somewhat cloudy as Upper Willamette runoff from rain finally reached Portland. Think this had

something to do with fish success both Mon and Wed. Fella told us that yesterday saw six or seven caught in same area. Fishing generally slow. I would hope that with clearing water next week or so and some water warming, things should pick up. Pretty bleak right now. About 8 guide boats out and saw only two landed by them. For what it is worth. Don't know much about Sellwood."

**Pro Guide James Stevenson (503-881-5289)** adds this, "Picking up a couple of fish trolling herring in lower Willamette, seems to be about as many sturgeon fishermen as springer. Pressure for springers is low from what I see, I'm sure due to reduced success."

The weather is expected to be extraordinary this weekend. There will be lots of boats out there and not all will know better than to anchor in trolling lanes. Be patient and enjoy the sunshine.

More steelheaders are putting attention on the lower Santiam but it's still a catch and release show for winter natives. It's rare to see a hatchery summer fish, but as numbers improve at Willamette Falls, so will catches here.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – It seems early for algae problems, but it's presence combined with slow to fair results for their efforts have had a few steelhead hopefuls pack it in for favorable water conditions elsewhere. Persistent fishers have taken a few late winter steelhead.

Sandy anglers have picked up a few steelhead recently. but the fish have been mostly natives. The Hatchery facility has been trucking surplus steelhead to Roslyn Lake.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Logically, the algae problem on the Clack will only get worse as the season wears on. The good news is that the same warming water temperatures that encourages the green stuff will also entice additional numbers of spring chinook upstream, hopefully in good enough numbers to make this a worth the extra effort.

Summer steelhead are present in sufficient number on the Sandy River that that they're showing up occasionally in catches now. Water conditions have bounced back from last weekend and anglers may expect to find the river in fine shape and great color for the weekend. While numbers aren't great anywhere, spring chinook are coming into the system.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – Steelheaders enjoyed a productive weekend as river levels once again became friendly for drift-boaters on the Wilson, Trask and Nestucca Rivers. The Wilson almost hit 5 foot with the recent precipitation giving access to all kinds of water for fish and anglers alike. Side-drifters ruled once again on the lower stretches of these river systems but plug pullers found success too. These late running fish often utilize the mainstems of our coastal rivers and large fish are often present. A small mix of summer run fish were also caught on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers.

On the Nestucca, the ODF&W will continue to collect data on the efficiency of the broodstock program. The official release states:

ODFW to survey Nestucca River steelhead

TILLAMOOK -As part of an ongoing study of the hatchery winter steelhead program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be conducting surveys of adult steelhead in the Nestucca River basin during the next few weeks.

Researchers are working to identify the composition of hatchery and wild steelhead populations in

the basin. ODFW personnel will be working in the upper mainstem Nestucca River and the upper Three Rivers basin, capturing adult steelhead using tangle nets. Sampling will be conducted approximately one or two days each week through mid-to-late May.

"This sampling will supplement our existing tributary surveys," said Robert Bradley, ODFW assistant district fish biologist in Tillamook. "A substantial number of steelhead utilize these larger river areas. In order to be able to describe the mix of hatchery and wild fish in the basin, our sampling efforts need to include these areas."

In order to avoid interfering with anglers, ODFW crews will be sampling in areas with little or no overlap with ongoing sport fisheries. The survey area in the upper Nestucca River currently is closed to angling, and does not re-open until the end of May. The upper portion of Three Rivers, while open to angling, receives little angling pressure this time of year.

Local anglers have spring Chinook on the mind and a few are being caught. Fish have been hooked in the upper and lower bay and the most recent tide series gave anglers some real opportunities. We put in a half day effort on 4/19 but came up strikeless for salmon and steelhead. There was however at least one fish lost along the picket fence about 2 hours before low slack.

Sturgeon fishing has slowed somewhat in the upper bay and west channel. The last 3 trips have only yielded shakers for me and it's been a while since I heard of any significant numbers of keepers being taken.

Signs of hope for offshore bottomfishing have been dashed by another system moving onshore later this week. The ground swell coupled with a wind chop will put the ocean fishery on hold for most of the sport fleet this weekend.

Bay crabbing remains poor on both Netarts and Tillamook Bays. A hard days effort may yield a few keepers but you will have to work for them.

Razor clam digging was respectable earlier in the week but a building swell and the backside of the minus tide series will fail diggers this weekend. The next minus tide series begins on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Weekend anglers will be on the backside of the minus tide series making sturgeon fishing a better option than salmon fishing. The softening of the tides may make lower bay herring fishing a better option for anglers. Upper bay spinner trollers will still have a chance at fish but usually their opportunity wanes with the second half of the minus tide series.

The lower Wilson and Trask River may yield some salmon however as river levels remain stable with consistent melting snow and all. Salmon migration should slow somewhat with the dropping flows and fish should become susceptible to backbounced bait and backtrolled plugs. Water levels will be good, although less than ideal by the weekend..

Steelheading is all but over but a few late arriving winter fish and some summer steelhead should be available for anglers this weekend. Although the Wilson broodstock program met its goal for egg take, the more April fish we collect, the better it is for the program. Check with the ODF&W office to check the current needs for the program. Call (503) 842-2741.

Although tides are becoming more conducive to crabbing, success is low so plan on working hard for them. Razor clamming will taper off as well.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Crabbing has picked up here in bays and estuaries. Surf perch fishing off ocean beaches remains good.

The fine sturgeon fishing is a better bet in the lower Umpqua than spring chinook as the latter is only fair at best. Charter boats report marking chinook holding off shore, so it won't be long. ODFW biologists forecast a spring chinook run of 8,000 to 12,000 fish this year. The north and South Forks offer decent fishing for winter steelhead. Offshore charter efforts out of Reedsport this week have produced limits of ling cod. This versatile resource has started to produce good catches of smallmouth bass for those targeting them.

Cold water continues to stall the winter steelhead effort for anglers on the Coos and Coquille systems.

The lower Rogue River has continued to show improvement for Chinook. The springer fishing is finally worth recommending here, and while boaters have the advantage, bank fishers are catching a few as well. Chinook have been kegged up in the estuary where sea lions were taking full advantage of the easy meals, but as water conditions have become conducive, the fish have started moving upriver. A handful have been counted at Gold Ray Dam, but the numbers remain too low in the upper river to target them. Gold Beach, where scores are being caught daily, is the best place to target salmon. Alternatively, with over 8,500 winter steelhead having crossed Gold Ray, the upper river offers a good chance at late-season steelhead limits. Every technique has been effective for steelheaders here. Pulling plugs, drifting bait or tossing lures are all effective. Fishing is slow in the Grants Pass stretch.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is due - some say overdue - to approve a limited recreational ocean salmon season from Port Orford south into California. The proposed limited fishery from mid-May through the Fourth of July is designed to protect the endangered Klamath run and is welcomed by sports fishers to the alternative - no recreational offshore salmon fishing this year. Regardless of the outcome, a full or partial closure will effect the bottom fishing season which is likely to close mid-season as salmon anglers seek other game.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – The Warm Springs to Trout Creek section of the Deschutes along with South Junction and the area adjacent to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation will open on Saturday, April 22nd. The river is very high and swift due to recent rains and snowmelt, offering little for opening weekend. As of April 20th, the Deschutes flow at Pelton Dam near Madras was 7,350 cfs where about 4,700 cfs is normal for this time of year. Prospects are better in the middle Deschutes where the water level came down slightly on Wednesday, April 20th. There's a decent March Brown hatch here.

Crooked River is blown out and likely to remain so through the weekend or longer.

Warmer weather will bring on the Blue-Winged Olive hatch at Fall River. In absence of bugs, throw nymphs. Fishing has been fair to good here but be aware the river is closed below the Falls.

According to the ODFW, Wickiup is free of ice and the boat ramps are useable now. Crescent and Odell remain snowed in and will not be accessible this weekend.

**Northwest Trout** - Although Oregon lakes are open year-around for trout fishing in most locations, this weekend is the historical Trout Opener, a ritual for many as parent teaches offspring the finer points of angling. Stocking is commensurate with that tradition. High lakes open April 22nd, but many of those will be inaccessible until snow or ice melts and roads open. Streams which allow trout fishing open May 27th.

**Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754- 6411)** writes, " ... this is open weekend for many of the trout waters in Oregon and here what I have found out.

"The Deschutes River between Warm Springs and Maupin is always a popular opener. This year the river is expected to be around 2000 cfs higher than normal thru the middle of the May. Some of the fly shops are postponing their guide trips until the Deschutes drops. For anglers heading to the Deschutes, I recommend using the biggest, ugliest, and heaviest black nymph you have in your fly box. Fish it right on the bottom. A dropper fly always helps if you do not mind a few tangles, a good dropper fly for me in high water conditions on the Deschutes has been a red San Juan worm. The McKenzie is also a little high but certainly in much better fishing shape than the Deschutes is right now. Also Leaburg Lake is always an easy place to catch a limit of trout if you want to fish with the kids. The best bank fishing is on the highway side the lake has the water is deeper here. There is a boat ramp on the south side, you just have to drive over the dam to get to it.

"Snow and ice is still a problem for many of the Cascade lakes like Davis, East, Paulina, Lava and Crane Prairie. Snow will also limit parking at Wickiup and Odell lakes. With this much snow the lakes that you can get to will be cold and the fishing will be slow for the next few weeks until they get a chance to warm up. My recommendation is to head to the coastal lakes south of Florence. There are lakes of all sizes and shapes and the only problem you might have is getting a little wet. The coastal lakes are not as glamorous as the Cascade Lakes but they are well stocked and the fishing should be good for hatchery trout and brood stock trout."

**Pro guide Rick Arnold (541-480-1570)** adds this from Lake Billy Chinook, "With continued winter weather, the bull trout is the only game in town. We did well during the film work and caught 7 over 10 Lb. up to 13.5 Lb. week before last. On a guide trip last week, we caught 5 bulls with the top 3 going 7,8 and 9 Lb. I have a trip tomorrow so should have an update on my site right after."

In the Northern Willamette watershed, Benson Lake, Bethany, Blue Lake, Commonwealth Lake, Dorman Pond, Haldeman Pond, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Mt. Hood Pond, Roslyn Lake, Salmonberry Lake and Trojan Pond will be planted with hatchery trout this week.

Scheduled to be stocked in the Southern Willamette watershed is Alton Baker Pond, Blue River Reservoir, Carmen Reservoir, Clear Lake, the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Fall Creek, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, Upper McKenzie River, Middle Fork Willamette River, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, Timber Linn Lake and Waverly Lake.

Northwest Zone waters receiving rainbow trout this week include Alder Lake, Big Creek Reservoirs # 1 and # 2, Buck Lake, Cleawox Lake, Dune Lake, Elbow Lake, Erhart Lake, Georgia Lake, Hebo Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Lost Lake (Lane County), Mercer Lake, Munsel Lake, North Georgia Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Perkins Lake, Siltcoos Lake, Spring Lake, Sutton Lake, Thissel Pond and Vernonia Pond.

### **Youth Fishing Events:**

April 29th - ODFW will add 1,850 trout to the 2,000 trout regularly stocked there at Trojan Pond. The event is part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program, now in its third year. ODFW employees and volunteers will provide fishing equipment and angling instruction from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 6th - ODFW is adding 750 legal and 50 trophy rainbow trout to Vernonia Pond in addition to

regular ODFW stocking. The event is part of the Youth Angling Enhancement Program and coincides with Vernonia's Annual Riverfest. Representatives from ODFW and volunteers from Northwest Steelheaders will provide fishing equipment and angling instruction from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**SW Washington** - With fishing for **spring chinook salmon** closed for conservation purposes on the lower Columbia mainstem, more anglers are beginning to shift their attention to the tributaries. And their timing could be good, said Joe Hymer, WDFW fish biologist. During the second week of April, 109 adult springers returned to the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery as catch rates continued to improve on portions of the Cowlitz, Lewis, and Kalama rivers. "We've had a good early showing at the hatchery and the numbers should keep ramping up in the weeks ahead," Hymer said.

Some of the best spring chinook fishing was reported in the lower Cowlitz below the mouth of the Toutle River. Heavy rain during the second weekend in April muddied those waters, but fishing should pick up once the rivers clear, Hymer said. Summer and late winter **steelhead** are also returning to the Cowlitz and Kalama rivers, providing the opportunity for a mixed bag.

Fishing for hatchery steelhead reopened April 16 in the East Fork of the Lewis River from the mouth to the upper boat ramp at Lewisville Park and in the Washougal River from the mouth to the Mount Norway Bridge at Vernon Road. Selective gear rules - no bait, single barbless hooks - are in effect through May 31.

Besides recovering spring chinook, Tacoma Power employees at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery also corralled 247 adult steelhead during the second week of April. They released 63 spring chinook and 112 steelhead into the upper Cowlitz River at the Day Use Park on Lake Scanewa. Seven steelhead were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

Will the mainstem Columbia River reopen to spring chinook fishing below Bonneville this season? "It's possible, but it all depends on the dam counts," Hymer said. As of April 16, only 205 adult springers had been counted above the dam, compared to 851 last year - the previous record low for that date. "Everyone's just hoping that this is also the latest run on record and that the fish will start moving above the dam."

Hymer noted that fishing for hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead is still scheduled to reopen May 16 from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Interstate 5 Bridge. **Shad** fishing from Bonneville Dam downstream will also reopen May 16.

Given the low counts at Bonneville Dam, spring chinook fishing farther upriver has been understandably slow but should improve, depending on fish moving upstream of the dam. The upper end of Bonneville Pool to McNary Dam is scheduled to remain open for hatchery spring chinook and hatchery steelhead through the end of April.

**Sturgeon** fishing below Bonneville, however, has started to pick up - particularly in the Columbia Gorge - as river flows and temperature continues to increase, Hymer said. On the lower Columbia from the mouth to the Wauna powerlines, sturgeon anglers are reminded the fishery switches to catch-and-release only May 1-12 and then reopens May 13 with a minimum 45-inch size limit. Sturgeon fishing in The Dalles Pool switched to catch-and-release April 8 when anglers reached their 100-fish quota for that area, but there are still fish left to be caught in the Bonneville and John Day pools, Hymer said.

Anglers should be aware that sturgeon fishing will close May 1 in three spawning sanctuaries on the Columbia River designed to protect female sturgeon during the spawning period. The three sanctuaries, which will be off-limits to all bank and boat sturgeon fishing through July 31, are located:

Below Bonneville Dam, downriver approximately 5 miles to Navigation Marker 85 on the Washington

side of the river. Below John Day Dam, downriver 2.4 miles to the west end of the grain silo at Rufus, Ore. Below McNary Dam, downriver 1.5 miles to the Highway 82 Bridge.

**Bass** also like the warmer water, and boat anglers have been catching three per rod - and one **walleye** for every two rods - in the John Day Pool. Boat anglers have also been catching some walleye in the Bonneville Pool.

Looking forward to the lowland lakes opener April 29? Those eager to start fishing for **trout** should know that hatchery crews have recently planted several year-round waters that are open right now. Mayfield Lake received 5,975 catchable-size rainbows April 7 and Swofford Pond got 4,025. Lacamas Lake in Camas was planted with 4,500 rainbows and 14,162 brown trout, averaging over half a pound apiece.

**North Central Washington** – The April 29 fishing season opener should provide good **trout** catches at several north central region waters, particularly in Okanogan County. Bob Jateff, WDFW district fish biologist of Omak, picks seven lakes to provide top fishing opportunities. Blue Lake on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, a selective gear rule water with a one-fish daily catch limit, has rainbows to 18 inches and browns to 16 inches. Fish Lake, also on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, has rainbows 11-12 inches with carryovers up to 15 inches. Leader Lake in the Omak/Okanogan area has rainbows up to 13 inches. Big Twin Lake in the Winthrop area, a selective gear rule water with a one-fish daily catch limit, has rainbows up to 18 inches. Conconully Lakes in the Omak/Okanogan area have rainbows 11-12 inches, with carryovers up to 15 inches, and some one-and-a-half-pound triploid rainbows. Pearrygin Lake in the Winthrop area has rainbows up to 11 inches. Aeneas Lake in the Tonasket area, a fly-fishing-only water with a one-fish daily limit, has both rainbows and browns up to 18 inches. Also expected to produce well is Douglas County's Jameson Lake near Mansfield. Jateff reports that Jameson has 11- to 12-inch rainbows and with carryovers up to 15 inches.

WDFW Fish Biologist Jeff Korth of Moses Lake says the major trout waters in the Columbia Basin that open on April 29 and traditionally provide good opportunities, "are all in the late stages of being over-run with spiny-rayed fishes like perch, sunfish, bass, bullheads, and sculpins." Blue, Park, and Warden lakes have all had poor survival of fingerling trout, he noted. "However, the growth of those fingerlings that do survive will be very good and the resulting yearling trout should range from 12 to 15 inches on opening day," he said. Korth said all three are also receiving additional stockings of hatchery-reared yearling trout measuring 9-10 inches this spring. Most of the smaller lakes that open April 29 are in fairly good shape and should have good fisheries this spring, he added. "Many of the March 1 and April 1 opening waters are still fishing well, especially the Hampton Lakes and the selective gear rule waters with one-fish daily catch limits, like Dusty, Lenore, Lenice, Nunnally, and Dry Falls," he said. Korth reminds anglers that starting May 1, selective gear rule waters will include a requirement to use knotless nets; see the new fishing rules pamphlet for all the details.

**South Central Washington** - Almost all south central region **trout** lakes are open year-round, but additional catchable-size rainbows and triploids are stocked in them now, along with the April 29-opening waters, so it's a good time to fish them. Anglers can check WDFW's catchable trout weekly updates for the most recent plants at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/>. WDFW Fish Biologist Jim Cummins notes that higher elevation lakes, such as Dog, Clear, and Leech in Yakima County, and Lost Lake in Kittitas County, are not expected to be accessible for fishing and planting until May due to heavy mountain snowpack, unless the weather turns unseasonably warm. Those lakes will be planted with triploids when the roads are free of snow. Dog and Clear Lakes will also be planted with catchable rainbow trout.

Cummins also notes that Lower Yakima River **smallmouth bass** fishing will peak in May. "Tagging studies several years ago confirmed that adult smallmouth bass enter the Yakima River in early

spring and stay in the Yakima until late June or early July when they migrate back into the Columbia River," he explained. "Fishing for them is generally excellent in April and May. Quarter-ounce tube jigs or 'gitzits' in a smoke with red flake color, bounced on the bottom of the river in rocky areas with deep slow water that is close to fast water like an eddy, should catch good-sized, hard-fighting smallmouths. The fish run about one-and-a-half to four pounds each. When the bass are most active and in highest concentrations, surface lures like a jointed Rapala will also catch them." Cummins noted that smallmouth bass regulations on the Yakima will change on May 1. Currently, from the mouth of the Yakima at Highway 240 Bridge to Granger Highway 223 Bridge, there is no daily limit, no minimum size, and only bass less than 12 inches or greater than 17 inches may be retained, with no more than one over 17 inches. Beginning May 1 the rule changes to no daily limit, no minimum size, and only three bass over 15 inches may be retained. This change standardizes the rule for bass over 15 inches with the Columbia River rules. But more importantly, the new rule should increase harvest on the extremely dense smallmouth bass population by allowing more smaller fish to be kept. "We want more bass harvested," explained Cummins, "because predation by bass on rearing and out-migrating juvenile fall chinook salmon is a major contributor to the decline of fall chinook."

As water temperatures increase, Columbia River bass fishing is heating up, too, Cummins notes. The Yakima River Delta, Finley Area, Patterson and Plymouth are good areas to fish for both **largemouth** and smallmouth bass, although smallmouth are most often caught, he said. Good bass catches have already been reported for both the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. **Channel catfish** fishing also peaks in the Yakima in May and June. Most rivers and streams remain closed until June 1 to protect spawning steelhead and downstream migrating salmon and steelhead smolts.

Paul Hoffarth, WDFW fish biologist, reports **sturgeon** fishing in the John Day Pool of the Columbia River (from John Day Dam to McNary Dam), is improving, with several legal-size sturgeon caught in April. Hoffarth reminds sturgeon anglers that Washington and Oregon fishery managers approved new spawning sanctuaries below McNary and John Day dams to protect large, breeding sturgeon. Sturgeon fishing will be prohibited from May 1 through July 31 from McNary Dam downstream to the Highway 82 Bridge and from John Day Dam to the west end of the grain silo at Rufus, Ore.

Triploid rainbow trout are being planted in Columbia Park Pond, a juvenile and disability-licensed only lake in Benton County, and in Railroad Pond, a selective gear fishery, in Franklin County. The Tri-Cities "Fishing Kids" event, scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at Columbia Park Pond in Kennewick, provides beginning fishing instruction for children ages 5 through 14 years of age. For \$5 each, kids receive a t-shirt, Zebco rod and reel, and other fishing goodies. Registration forms are available from the Kennewick Recreation Department online at <http://www.ci.kennewick.wa.us>.

**Puget Sound** – Anglers can take advantage of **trout**-stocked lakes beginning April 29, when the lowland lake fishing season kicks off. Thousands of legal-sized trout have been stocked in many of the region's lakes. Complete information on stocking schedules for rainbow, cutthroat and triploid trout is available on the WDFW website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/index.htm>).

Anglers should focus on fishing higher in the water column for the first few weeks of the season because the stocked trout tend to remain in the top 3 to 5 feet of water after being placed in a lake, said Jon Anderson, WDFW resident trout manager. "After a few weeks, drop the hook deeper where the fish are feeding," he said.

Out on the saltwater, the **blackmouth** catch has slowed and the season is wrapping up. Only the selective fishery in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) remains open, and those two areas close April 30. By most accounts, the pilot selective fishery, which opened last October, was a success, said Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager for WDFW. Preliminary numbers through March 31 indicate that anglers made more than 10,000 trips, and kept about 950 hatchery chinook, which can be identified

by their missing adipose fin. The mark rate for hatchery chinook was about 59 percent.

"Creel surveys indicate the fishery had a low impact on wild fish," Thiesfeld said. "Angler compliance with the rules was very good and our sampling crew did an excellent job monitoring the fishery. These elements are absolutely essential for a successful selective fishery."

As the fishery's closure nears, catch counts have tapered off. Only four chinook were checked in by 55 anglers over a five-day period at the boat ramp in Everett. No other blackmouth were counted at ramps throughout the region during recent catch counts.

During the selective fishery, anglers have a daily limit of two salmon, but wild chinook must be released. Unlike hatchery fish, wild chinook have an intact adipose fin. The 8-1 and 8-2 selective fishery is scheduled to begin again in October and run through April 2007, said Thiesfeld.

**Halibut** fishing opened April 9 throughout the region. Mutiny and Admiralty bays, as well as Eastern and Partridge banks are the best bets for flatfish early in the season. Halibut fishing is open five days a week, Thursday through Monday, with a daily limit of one halibut and no minimum size limit.

Anglers also can drop a line for other bottomfish, such as **lingcod**, **rockfish** and **cabezon**, beginning May 1. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, which must be a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 40 inches. For rockfish, there is no minimum size and fishers must keep the first legal rockfish caught. Anglers fishing for cabezon have a daily limit of two fish, and there is no minimum size limit. Before heading out to try and hook these fish, anglers should check the *2005/2006 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

Or, instead of dropping a line, drop a pot. **Shrimp** season opens throughout the region May 6. Details are available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/>.

In the rivers, catch-and-release fishing for **steelhead** is winding down. Anglers are still hooking some fish in both the Skagit and Sauk rivers, which close to steelhead fishing April 30. Anglers planning to get out on the river for the final days for steelhead fishing should check the *2005/2006 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) and WDFW's Emergency Rule Changes, which are posted on the same website.

**Olympic Peninsula** – While hatchery workers were racing to plant millions of trout in time for the lowland lakes opener, anglers have been reeling in halibut, lingcod and spring chinook salmon from waters throughout the region. Razor clam diggers, meanwhile, have been waiting for final word on the season's last razor clam dig, tentatively scheduled to begin April 28.

Eager to catch some rainbow **trout**? Anglers can choose from among hundreds of lakes throughout the state opening to trout fishing April 29. Most are stocked with 8-to12-inch rainbows, but many also are planted with cutthroat, brown trout and triploid trout weighing up to 1.5 pounds apiece.

"Past experience is the best guide to choosing a lake to fish," said Ron Warren, regional WDFW fish manager. "Conditions usually don't change that much and we try to keep our stocking plans fairly consistent from year to year."

For those new to lake fishing - or just want to refresh their memory - Warren recommends consulting two reports, both available on the WDFW website. The first, *Washington Fishing Prospects* (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/prospects/index.htm>), describes lakes throughout the state and the kind of fish that can be caught there. The second, *2006 Catchable Trout Plants* (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg6/index.htm>), outlines when and where WDFW is planting more than 21 million trout this year.

Young people, age 14 and younger, have an opportunity to get their lines in the water before the general opener at the **Lacey Family Fish-In**, scheduled April 23 at Long's Pond. The event is free, but kids who pay \$5 get to keep a new rod and reel and a T-shirt. Registration is required; call 360-491-0857. The pond, open only to juvenile anglers, will be closed to all fishing until the day of the event.

Meanwhile, **halibut anglers** have been pulling in dozens of big flatfish since the season began April 9 in all areas of Puget Sound except Hood Canal. Most of the fishing effort has focused around the waters off Port Angeles, where creel checks indicate a catch rate of about one fish for every 5.5 rods. How does that compare to 2005, when the fishery got under way five days later?

"So far, the catch rates are about the same as last year," said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW Puget Sound fisheries manager. "Anglers fishing in Marine Area 6 on opening day had a bit better catch rate and it appears more people turned out than last year, so it's likely that more halibut have been caught."

Marine areas 6-11 and 13 in Puget Sound are open to halibut fishing five days per week, Thursday through Monday, through June 18. On May 1, two coastal areas - Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) and Marine Area 2 (Westport) - will also open for halibut on different fishing schedules. The Ilwaco area will be open seven days per week until the quota is reached, while the Westport fishery will be on a Sunday-through-Thursday schedule. Marine areas 3 (La Push) and 4 (Neah Bay) will open May 9, with halibut fishing restricted to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The coastal **lingcod** fishery is already in full swing. Two-fish limits have been common for anglers fishing aboard charters south of Cape Alava, and Marine Area 4 (Neah Bay) opened for lingcod fishing April 16. Rough weather kept most boats off the water that day, but the action has picked up considerably since then, said Scott Barbour, WDFW fish biologist. "We're seeing a lot of nice fish, generally running 6 to 15 pounds," he said.

That can also be said of several Olympic Peninsula rivers, where **winter steelhead** and **spring chinook salmon** have been competing for anglers' attention. The steelhead season ends April 30 on the Sol Duc, Bogachiel, Quillayute and Calawah rivers but the spring chinook run should keep building on the Soc Duc and the Quillayute through mid-June, said Mike Gross, another WDFW fish biologist. Anglers are required to release all unmarked chinook and coho, but can keep two fin-clipped adult chinook and up to six fish, counting jacks. "We're looking at a good run this year, with good numbers of hatchery spring chinook," Gross said.

Hoping to dig **razor clams** one last time this spring? Final word on the dig tentatively scheduled to begin April 28 will be announced by April 25 after marine toxin tests have determined whether the clams are safe to eat. If results are favorable, more than 20,000 people are expected to descend on coastal beaches for the opening - the last scheduled during the spring season.

Four beaches - Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks and Copalis - are tentatively scheduled to open for digging April 28-30 on morning tides. A fourth day of digging is also scheduled May 1 at Twin Harbors and Mocrocks. Each day's dig on those beaches must be completed by noon.

Kalaloch Beach will not reopen to razor clam digging this season, due to concerns about the low abundance of clams on the beach in recent months, said Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. WDFW and Olympic National Park are investigating the apparent low abundance of razor clams on that beach.

Ayres reminds prospective diggers that they will need a valid 2006-07 license to participate in the planned dig, since previous annual licenses expired March 31. And he strongly advises diggers to have that license in hand before they leave home.

"Those who wait could face long lines at licensing outlets on the coast, he said. "Nobody wants to be

standing in line to buy a license at low tide."

Coming up soon: Shrimp fishing opens May 6 in most areas of Puget Sound. See the WDFW website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=apr0406a>) for information about fishing schedules for specific marine areas.

**Eastern Washington** - Many excellent **trout** fishing waters open April 29 in this region and fish biologists believe it will be a great opener if the weather cooperates. Chris Donley, WDFW central district fish biologist, expects the top producing waters to include Badger, Williams, and West Medical lakes in southwest Spokane County and Fishtrap Lake on the Lincoln-Spokane county line. "Badger was rehabilitated in fall 2002 and fishing this season for rainbows and cutthroats averaging 10 to 12 inches with some up to 20 inches should be good," Donley said. "There have been some illegal introductions of black crappie and largemouth bass in Badger and I'd like to know if anglers see any other species."

Badger received 40,000 rainbow spring fry, 30,000 cutthroat spring fry, 5,000 rainbow catchables, 1,214 triploids and 200 rainbow broodstock. Williams Lake was rehabbed in fall 2003, so this will be its peak year of production, according to Donley. "It should be a great fishery with 11- to 20-inch trout. If anglers see other kinds of fish, let me know," he said. Williams received 75,000 rainbow spring fry, 45,000 cutthroat spring fry, 10,000 rainbow catchables, 2,167 triploids, 400 rainbow broodstock. "This is the sixth season for West Medical since our last rehab and the trout fry plants have been missing in the catch the last couple years," Donley said. "I think that cormorants may be starting to have an impact, although I'd like to hear if anyone sees anything other than trout there. The fishing won't hold up through the full season, but this will still be an excellent opening day for West Medical." West Medical received 145,000 rainbow spring fry, 11,000 rainbow catchables, and 2,100 triploids. "This will be the peak production year for Fishtrap, which we rehabbed fall 2003," Donley said. "There are bullheads back in the lake, but fishing should be great for 11- to 16-inch rainbows and fry plants now 10 to 12 inches." Fishtrap received 95,000 rainbow spring fry, 10,000 rainbow catchables, 1,615 triploids, 400 rainbow broodstock.

"Fish Lake in Spokane County will also be good for brook and brown trout and a unique opportunity to harvest tiger trout, a brook-brown hybrid," Donley said. "Brook trout should average 8 to 16 inches, a limited number of browns will be 15 to 20 inches, and tiger trout will be 7 to 20 inches." Fish Lake received 10,000 tiger trout fall fry, 20,000 brook spring fry, and 575 brook broodstock. Medical Lake, which is under selective gear rules, has "too many trout competitors and too little suitable forage" to produce as well as other lakes, but it does have some 20-inch rainbows, Donley says. Clear Lake is a mixed species fishery that should provide fair to good fishing on the opener for rainbows up to 18 inches, 10- to 25-inch brown trout, and some rainbow broodstock.

Other central district waters that opened earlier this spring, but continue to provide good catches, include Spokane County's Amber Lake, where rainbows are averaging 12 to 20 inches and selective gear rules are in effect, and Lincoln County's Coffeepot Lake, where rainbows are averaging 12 inches and selective gear rules are also in effect. Donley reminds anglers that on May 1 these and other selective gear rule fisheries will require knotless nets; see the new fishing rules pamphlet for more details.

In the north end of the region, WDFW Fish Biologist Curt Vail of Colville expects two lakes in particular to be stand-outs on the April 29 opener. Rocky Lake in Stevens County and Ellen Lake in Ferry County were both rehabilitated in 2004 so Vail says this should be their first best season. Rocky received 4,500 rainbow fry in spring 2005 and Ellen received 20,000 rainbow fry in spring 2005. Although no sampling had been made at this time, Vail expected those fish to be at least 12 inches and numerous, with good survival. Waitts Lake in Stevens County should also be very good; it received 24,000 net-pen rainbow fry last fall. Vail expects Starvation Lake, also in Stevens County,

to be better than last year. His recent sampling there showed last spring's fry plants (17,900) were 11.4 inches. Marshall Lake in Pend Oreille County, which received 35,000 cutthroat fry last fall, should be good. Cedar Lake in Stevens County, which received 18,000 rainbow fry last spring, always produces big rainbows.

Trout lake fishing in the south end of the region opened last month, but hatchery crews continue to stock many waters with catchable-size rainbows. Glen Mendel, WDFW fish biologist in Dayton, reminds anglers that as of May 1 no more than two of the daily catch of five trout can be over 13 inches. The rule change is to prevent waste of smaller trout, since some anglers have been "sorting" fish to take home only the bigger ones, and to spread out the harvest of bigger fish among more anglers. Check the new rules pamphlet for details.

April 28 is the registration deadline for the "Fishing Kids" event on May 6 at Spokane County's Clear Lake. This annual event for kids 5-14 years of age provides beginning fishing instruction, t-shirt, Zebco rod and reel, and other fishing goodies for just \$5 per kid. Registrants must sign-up for half-hour fishing instruction timeslots from 8:00 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at WDFW's eastern regional office at 2315 N. Discovery Place in Spokane Valley and Spokane County 4-H at WSU Extension, 222 W. Havana St. in Spokane. Call the 4-H office at 509-477-2638 for more details.

### **Reader Email**

Kaptn Ken Johnson reports from the lower Willamette this week, "OK...I spoke a bit too soon. About a day, maybe two, after I said there wasn't a single Dogwood in bloom, all three of my trees, although very young, exploded in Dogwood Blooms. That means the fishing is much much greater....Right!? Well, better, yes. Today (Wed. 4/19) I watched as "Blacktop Randy" casually strolled over to his rod as it jiggled just a bit. It looked like his 12 oz. pyramid sinker was just lazily rolling downriver with the high current. NooOOooo...I kept saying, "I don't think it's rolling downriver Randy..." A couple of the other guys who were originally thinking his weight had broke loose were changing their tune from weight bouncing to Hhhmmmmmm...Maybe there is something to this...Randy finally picked up his rod and noticed the line was loose and crossing his neighbors line. He pulled up on it crossed it back to where it should have been and POW....Well, a really gentle POW. "Must be a stick or something.....No.....this isn't a stick! But it's not a Salmon either..." There's a lot of debris in the river now, because of the high water levels. Randy's using Sand Shrimp tied behind a Green Spin-n-Glo and keeping it about a foot off the bottom. Because it was Sand Shrimp, I told him that Carp are quite attracted to that kind of stuff. He seriously thought about that for a second then realized his "stick" was starting to pull line off his reel. He said "No carp pulls line like that!" Well, we knew that, but... If you know the area I'm talking about he got the fish over to "The Pond." Because the water is high, the fish was determined to get snagged in all the brush and tree debris all around that place. He had about 5-6 good runs as we all (It takes a committee sometimes to figure out the best way to catch these things...) told Randy to let the fish tire himself out and then just drag it in through the only opening around without a bunch of snags. He did. After a couple more good runs, eventually, with a little help from his friends, Randy brought a bright silver 16.2 pound Nooker to the bank where it was netted. It was a keeper. Of course, no camera this time...I was just passing through and stopped in to see what was happening. No rod either. So, I went home and mowed my lawn...It's supposed to be HOT, maybe 80 degrees this weekend, and clear but the water will most likely be high. The fish counts at the falls are down from the "High" counts last week at this time. The water temperature is down 2-3 degrees too. Makes for a beautiful day of fishing, though, wouldn't you agree? See you out there!"

Going fishing? Got an opinion on something? Outraged by the ocean salmon situation, seal populations or smelt no-show? Shoot us and Email!

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: [SailCat@SailCat.com](mailto:SailCat@SailCat.com)

### **Random Links**

How to make a shrimp gun:

<http://www.limestonemedia.com/fishing/how-to-make-ghost-shrimp-pump.html>

Kayaker wrestles with sailfish:

<http://katu.com/stories/82755.html>

**Weekly Quote** – "Hooking fish is the paradoxical method by which anglers rap on the watery door of the animals we seek." - Jan Zita Grover

**GOOD LUCK!**